

## EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH (CDEJ)

*Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.*

**Type of committee:** Steering Committee

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021**

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME
<p><b>Pillar:</b> Democracy  <b>Programme:</b> Democratic Participation  <b>Sub-programme:</b> Youth for Democracy</p>
MAIN TASKS
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) will oversee the Council of Europe's programme in the field of youth and advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence. Taking due account of relevant cross-cutting perspectives, the overall aim is to stimulate co-operation between the governments of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention with a view to developing and implementing youth policies based on Council of Europe standards, thereby facilitating young people's access to their rights. The CDEJ acts as the governmental partner in the co-management structures of the youth sector (the non-governmental partner being the Advisory Council on Youth - CCJ); the CDEJ and the CCJ co-operate within the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) in order to establish the priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector. With this purpose, the CDEJ is instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) promote the values of the Council of Europe;</li> <li>(ii) elaborate youth policy standards and instruments where necessary;</li> <li>(iii) advise governments on their youth policy;</li> <li>(iv) promote Council of Europe youth policies by supporting member States in the implementation of key recommendations of the Committee of Ministers in the youth field, in particular: Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood; Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work; Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights; Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER Recommendation);</li> <li>(v) stimulate youth research in Europe and support co-operation between youth researchers;</li> <li>(vi) promote the capacity building of public authorities in the implementation of Council of Europe standards in the youth field;</li> <li>(vii) promote the Council of Europe's standards by granting its "Quality Label for Youth Centres";</li> <li>(viii) contribute to the Council of Europe's cross-cutting activities which concern youth;</li> <li>(ix) designate, for two years, the CDEJ members who shall be invited to represent it on the Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ), the co-management body in charge of establishing the youth sector's programme of activities;</li> <li>(x) contribute to the preparation of Council of Europe Conferences of Ministers responsible for youth and ensure, as appropriate, the follow-up of any decision taken by the Committee of Ministers subsequent to the Conferences;</li> <li>(xi) implement the youth-related elements of the thematic and country-specific Council of Europe action plans;</li> <li>(xii) take the pertinent aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights into consideration in its thematic work;</li> <li>(xiii) follow the implementation of the non-binding instruments that it has prepared as well as conventions the Committee of Ministers has instructed/asked it to supervise;</li> <li>(xiv) contribute to co-operation and support activities of national initiatives in this field;</li> <li>(xv) without prejudice to the mandates of intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe that already follow the work of monitoring mechanisms, follow the activities of the relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms;</li> <li>(xvi) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;</li> <li>(xvii) take due account of a gender perspective, building cohesive societies, and promoting and protecting rights of persons with disabilities in the performance of its tasks;</li> </ul>

- (xviii) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,<sup>1</sup> in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- (xix) contribute to the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 3: Good health and well-being; Goal 4: Quality Education ; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth; Goal 10: Reduce inequality; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

#### SPECIFIC TASKS

- (i) Assist member States on specific measures on youth policy issues upon request.
- (ii) Exchange information and good practices on youth policy development at the national level.
- (iii) Give advice on the implementation of European youth policy (peer support).
- (iv) Prepare policy standards in relevant youth-related fields, including on protecting youth civil society organisations.
- (v) Implement the project “Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres”.
- (vi) If applicable, during the European University on Youth Policies (Summer University) examine a specific topical youth policy issue and improve the capacity of CDEJ and CCJ members so they can actively participate in the Council of Europe’s youth structures and programmes.
- (vii) Implement the partnership agreements with the European Youth Card Agency (EYCA) and with the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) to improve the quality of services provided to young people in member States.
- (viii) Review progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), as evidenced by monitoring mechanisms and promoted through standard-setting and exchange of experiences and good practices.

#### COMPOSITION

##### Members:

Governments of the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank with expertise in the field of youth policies.

The Council of Europe will bear the travelling and subsistence expenses of one representative from each State Party to the European Cultural Convention (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

##### Participants:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- North-South Centre;
- Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE);
- other committees or bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Japan, Mexico, United States of America.

##### Observers:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- Ibero-American Youth Organisation;
- Commonwealth Youth Programme Secretariat;
- League of Arab States;
- African Union;
- European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA);
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA);
- European Youth Forum.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2019)132.

The “Pool of European Youth Researchers” (PEYR), co-operating with the Council of Europe Youth Department and the European Commission in the framework of their partnership in the field of youth, will be invited to send a representative, without the right to vote. The expenses of this representative are borne by the Council of Europe in derogation from Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

#### WORKING METHODS

##### Plenary meetings:

51 members, 2 meetings in 2020, 3 days.

51 members, 2 meetings in 2021, 3 days.

Held in parallel to the meetings of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).

##### Bureau meetings:

Up to eight members, including the Chair and Vice-chair.

Two meetings of two days each per year, held in parallel to the meetings of the Bureau of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.

#### BUDGETARY INFORMATION\*

	Meetings per year	Number of days	Members	Plenary €K	Bureau €K	Working groups	Secretariat (A, B)
2020	2	3	51	96.6	7.8		1 A; 1 B
2021	2	3	51	96.6	7.8		1 A; 1 B

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of the 2020 standard costs.