

Terms of reference of the 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\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Steering committee

Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027¹

Programme: Anchoring democratic values in European societies

Sub-programme: Youth

Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDEJ advises the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence. 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. 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.

In particular, the CDEJ is instructed to:

- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration² in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
- ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's 2023 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "An Invitation to Recommit to the Values and Standards of the Council of Europe";
- iii. promote the values and standards of the Council of Europe, youth policies and youth standards, including its Youth sector strategy 2030, within the Organisation and beyond; contribute to the implementation of the priorities for the youth sector for 2024-2027, with a special focus on priority n°5 aimed at developing and improving youth policy based on Council of Europe standards;
- iv. elaborate youth policy standards and instruments where necessary;
- v. 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: Resolution CM/Res(2020)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030; 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), Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes; and Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma youth participation;
- vi. stimulate youth research in Europe and support co-operation between youth researchers;
- vii. advise governments on their youth policy through assistance measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of public authorities to implement Council of Europe standards in the youth field;
- viii. promote the Council of Europe's standards by granting its "Quality Label for Youth Centres";
- ix. contribute to the Council of Europe's cross-cutting activities which concern and impact youth;
- x. designate, for two years, the CDEJ members who shall be invited to represent it on the Programming Committee on Youth (CPI), the co-management body in charge of establishing the youth sector's programme of activities;
- xi. 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;
- xii. implement the youth-related elements of the thematic and country-specific Council of Europe action plans;
- 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;
- xiv. contribute to co-operation and support activities of national initiatives in this field;
- xv. provide input to the Committee of Ministers in view of the regular, high-level dialogue with member States and partners on delivering on the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy;
- xvi. raise-awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
- xvii. 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;
- xviii. take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller³ issues;
- xix. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;

¹ These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2024-2025. For the second biennial period 2026-2027, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2026-2027.

² [Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values](#).

³ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers

- xx. 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,⁴ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- xxi. contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, 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.

Main deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDEJ is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Category ▼	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Contribution of opinions, proposals and recommendations to the CMJ's work (cf. CMJ terms of reference for concrete deliverables)	C	1	31/12 of each year
2. Summary of the latest youth policy developments at national level and of the review of implementation of Committee of Minister recommendations concerning youth at the national level	C	1	31/12 of each year
3. Draft annual intergovernmental programme of assistance to member States on youth policy, ranging from assistance measures to the implementation and possible enlargement of the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres	C	1	31/12 of each year
4. Progress report on the implementation of the annual intergovernmental programme of assistance to member States on youth policy, ranging from assistance measures to the implementation and possible enlargement of the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres	C	1	31/12 of each year
Key A: deliverable under preparation (2022-2023 terms of reference or Committee of Ministers' decision) or deliverable foreseen in the terms of reference provisionally approved for 2024-2025 and reviewed where relevant in the framework of the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027 B: review of implementation/re-examination foreseen by the recommendation/protocol/convention C: newly proposed deliverable			

Composition

• Members

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties. The participation of non-member States referred to by Decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1429/2.5 and Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 is restricted to meetings and activities convened pursuant to Art. 6 of the European Cultural Convention.

Governments of the 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 travel 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;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- North-South Centre;
- Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU);
- Committees or other 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 (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Japan, Mexico, United States of America.

⁴ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers ([CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1168/10.2](#)) and list of Conventions in document [CM\(2023\)132](#).

- 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 (YFJ).

Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

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 will be borne by the Council of Europe in derogation from Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2025	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2026	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2027	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2

Budgetary information *

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	2	3	49	92.8	7.4	-	1 A; 1 B
2025	2	3	49	92.8	7.4	-	1 A; 1 B
2026	2	3	49	↔	↔	-	↔
2027	2	3	49	↔	↔	-	↔

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