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Abstract

Draft priorities 2022-23 of the Council of Europe youth sector¹ («*Youth for Democracy*» sub-programme)

Final version - as formally adopted by the CMJ

¹ Subject to the Committee of Ministers' final approval, as well as its decision on a possible transition to a quadrennial programme and budget from 2022-2025.

Appendix I

“Youth for Democracy” 2022-23: Secretariat’s proposal

Priority 1: Revitalising pluralistic democracy

Expected result 1

“Youth organisations and member States have increased their capacity to develop youth policy and youth work for the democratic participation of young people.”

The sustainability of the Council of Europe’s core values relies also on the creativity, competences, social commitment, and contribution of young people as well as on their confidence in the future. Youth policies and youth work practice must support young people to realise their full potential as autonomous members of society, enabling them to develop life plans and exercise their democratic citizenship. Special attention will be paid to young people’s participation in political processes. Throughout this priority, the participation of young people with disabilities and inclusive youth work will be promoted.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *First thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*²
- *Committee of Ministers’ declaration, adopted at its 129th Session (Helsinki, May 2019): reference to a “meaningful and transparent dialogue with civil society at all levels”;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 on the need to strengthen the protection and the promotion of civil society space in Europe;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation Rec(2006)14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2006)1 on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2004)13 on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2192 (2017) on youth against corruption;*
- *Congress Resolution 386 (2015) Bringing down barriers to youth participation: adopting a lingua franca for local and regional authorities and young people;*
- *Congress Resolution 387 (2015) Voting at 16 – Consequences on youth participation at local and regional level;*
- *Congress Resolution 346 (2012) Youth and democracy: the changing face of youth political engagement;*
- *Conference of INGO’s roadmap for youth participation (2018-21).*

Programme orientations for expected result 1:

- *Advocating a sustainable enabling environment in which young people can exercise their right to assemble and to freely form, join and be active in associations;*
- *Advancing young people’s participation in political processes;*
- *Advocating the importance of an expanding space for youth civil society organisations in order that they may develop and flourish;*
- *Supporting youth participation in artificial intelligence and Internet governance processes;*
- *Supporting member States and youth organisations to implement the principles of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life; further disseminating the “Have your say” manual to public authorities and the non-governmental sector;*
- *Supporting the capacity of youth organisations to participate and facilitate participation of young people in decision-making processes at local level, with renewed focus on youth organisations which work with young people in rural areas, from minorities, or vulnerable groups;*
- *Supporting youth policy actors to understand and influence the impact of artificial intelligence on young people;*
- *Supporting youth policy actors to understand and address the impact of emerging trends such as the climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy.*

² See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

Priority 2: Young people's access to rights

Expected result 2

“Young people and youth organisations have increased their capacity to access their rights and advocate for human rights and citizenship education.”

Young people's access to rights depends on their capacity to exercise them, which presupposes knowledge of them and being able to advocate them. The promotion of access to rights for all young people will be pursued with member States and youth organisations through measures to support the implementation (at local, regional, national and European levels) of the Committee of Ministers' recommendations CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights. Special attention will be paid to the continuation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme - both on- and offline, the review of the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter, as well as any evaluation of and latest developments by the Council of Europe in the Internet and media literacy fields.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Second thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;³*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)10 on developing and promoting digital citizenship education;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 215 (2013) on young people's access to fundamental rights;*
- *Congress Resolution 319 (2010) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;*
- *Congress Resolution 442 (2019) on social rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities;*
- *Congress Resolution 414 (2017) Forever young? The role of youth policies and youth work at local and regional levels in supporting young people's transition to autonomy and working life;*
- *Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-27;*
- *Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.*

Programme orientations for expected result 2:

- *Implementing the roadmap on the dissemination of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and its first five-year review;*
- *Implementing support measures to member States, local authorities and youth organisations to follow-up the conclusions of the review of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);*
- *Continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, and reviewing the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;*
- *Supporting and developing information, data and media literacy with children and young people;*
- *Increasing the understanding and addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and the exercise of social rights, including physical and mental health;*
- *Mainstreaming rights-based approaches in youth policies, programmes and projects.*

³ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

Priority 3: Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies

Expected result 3

“Youth workers and young people have gained knowledge and skills to work on peace-building and intercultural dialogue to prevent and combat discrimination, exclusion and violent extremism.”

Preventing and counteracting discrimination, to allow the democratic participation of all young people, remain central to the Council of Europe’s youth policy and a permanent concern of its partners. These are necessary steps to strengthen social cohesion and respect for diversity. A specific focus is also needed on developing intercultural competences and detecting, preventing and combating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, taking an intersectional approach, especially through youth mobility.

The lives of too many young people are still shaped by armed conflicts and their consequences. Youth organisations and youth workers play an important role in supporting young people in these situations and in promoting the application of the Council of Europe’s standards and experiences across the member States. Youth organisations and youth workers also play a role in supporting intercultural dialogue with neighbouring regions and involving young people in confidence-building and conflict-transformation activities in the spirit of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Third thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*⁴
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly draft resolution on strengthening the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;*
- *Congress Resolution 366 (2014) on empowering Roma youth through participation: effective policy design at local and regional levels;*
- *Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue;*
- *Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-23;*
- *Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-23;*
- *Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;*
- *Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Travellers Inclusion (2020-25).*

Programme orientations for expected result 3:

Combating all forms of discrimination, racism and exclusion, including structural forms, with a specific focus on:

- Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism;
- social inclusion of young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- multiple discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights and intersectionality (including gender equality, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability).

Enabling young people to promote peaceful societies by providing them with opportunities to play an active role in:

- intercultural dialogue;
- peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions, especially through youth mobility programmes and opportunities for intercultural learning;
- convening institutions, representative bodies, community groups and the wider society for dialogue;
- volunteering and solidarity actions at local, national and regional and international levels.

Mainstreaming inclusiveness, equality and intersectionality.

Enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people in the rural communities.

⁴ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

Priority 4: Youth work

Expected result 4

“Youth organisations and member States have increased their capacity to strengthen, recognise and advance youth work policies and practices, notably through a European youth work agenda.”

Youth work as a social practice makes an important contribution to active citizenship and youth participation by providing opportunities to acquire the values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding required for effective civic engagement and social action in democratic culture. In this respect, special attention will be paid to the dissemination of Council of Europe standards in relation to the training of youth workers and to the quality of youth work provisions.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Fourth thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*⁵
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation Rec(2003)8 on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people;*
- *Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio;*
- *Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres: [criteria and procedure; role, value and impact of youth centres](#);*
- *Quality standards in education and training activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.*

Programme orientations for expected result 4:

- pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and promoting a European youth work agenda;
- supporting the access to⁶ quality development and recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning and their dissemination to member States (e.g. through the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres and the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio);
- pursuing quality development and innovation (including digitalisation) in the capacity-building activities of the Youth Department.

⁵ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

⁶ New for 2022-23.

Expected Result 5

The fifth expected result focuses on supporting the member States in the development of their youth policy. This expected result is included in the programme of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and does not fall within the remit of the CMJ, however is given here for information only.

“Member States have increased their capacity to develop youth policies promoting Council of Europe standards.”

Programme orientations for expected result 5:

- assisting member States to integrate Council of Europe [standards](#) into national youth policies, action plans and strategies through a diversified package of assistance measures, and encouraging them to do so in close co-operation with national youth organisations and networks;
- supporting the capacity building of relevant public authorities to implement national youth policies in accordance with the Council of Europe’s standards and approaches, and fostering their co-operation with various groups of young people and youth NGOs;
- ensuring the dissemination and implementation of Council of Europe standards, with a special focus on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030 (Resolution CM/Res(2020)2) and on Committee of Ministers’ recommendations (CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood, CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights and CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights);
- assisting interested member States to develop national quality standards for youth centres, based on the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres;
- promoting and encouraging geographical balance in member States taking part in the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres programme.