



DDP-YD/ETD (2020) 91rev

Budapest, 10 June 2020

CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood through Youth Work and Youth Policy

Online meeting: <https://bluejeans.com/615557860>

16-17 June 2020, 9:30 – 13:00

CONCEPT NOTE
DRAFT PROGRAMME
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BACKGROUND TO THE MEETING

Young refugees are among the most vulnerable groups, due to experiences that may have involved violence, exploitation and trauma, as well as continuing risk of violation of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Reaching the age of majority, being no longer under the protection of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, young refugees no longer have access to rights and opportunities previously held as children and, many of them as adults, are likely to face an abrupt change in the possibility of accessing services and support across many sectors, including welfare, education, health care and psychosocial support, leisure and recreational activities, housing and special accommodation, information on relevant administrative procedures, and other essential services. Lack of support and difficulties in accessing their rights may lead young refugees to go into hiding, thus putting their safety at risk, exposing them to violence, exploitation, and/or trafficking in human beings.

The [*Youth.Together*](#) project was introduced by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe to support social inclusion of young refugees and their access to education, self-development and autonomy through youth work and non-formal education activities, notably through a long-term training course for youth workers and refugees. The project resulted in 32 youth initiatives addressing the issues affecting young refugees across Europe today and increased self-confidence and resilience of young refugees and youth workers.

Taking Young Refugees Seriously

Youth.Together was part of the [Council of Europe Action Plan](#) on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children and relates to the Committee of Ministers [Recommendation on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood - CM/Rec\(2019\)4](#). The Committee of Ministers recommends the member states' governments ensure that additional temporary support is available to young refugees after the age of 18 to enable them to access their rights. It also acknowledges the important role played by youth work and non-formal education/learning in supporting the inclusion of young refugees, and in developing competences of active citizenship and democratic participation.

The COVID 19 pandemic drastically affected the situation of young refugees; many struggle to meet the most basic needs as in scale as never before. The impact on access to education, labour and health is also severe. Refugee children and young people are exposed to greater risks than before and access to youth work or non-formal education opportunities has become even more difficult. Young refugees can and must also be associated to the solutions – provided that they are given the means, the trust and recognition of their qualifications.

The adoption of the CM Recommendation on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood and the results of the *Youth.Together* project should encourage youth policy entities and youth work practitioners to feel better confident about the relevance of their work with young refugees. It is important, however, that the momentum created is not lost as a result of the urgencies created by COVID 19.

In October 2019 the Joint Council on Youth adopted a roadmap for the implementation of the recommendation inviting member states, youth organisations and the Council of Europe youth sector to work within their roles and means to make the recommendation relevant. In this roadmap, the Youth Department is expected to:

- support capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with relevant stakeholders in the programme of the European Youth Centres and through activities funded by the European Youth Foundation;
- support the dissemination of this recommendation in member States;
- include the recommendation and its principles in other relevant areas of its work (youth policy development and advice, assistance measures to member States) where relevant;
- ensure inter-institutional co-operation in the promotion of this recommendation.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

In this context, the Youth Department organises this consultative meeting to identify, prioritise and further organise the ways to support the implementation of the measures proposed by the Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 through youth policy and youth work. The meeting will be structured around the following points:

1. What are the main needs of young refugees and the main challenges for youth work with young refugees resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic?
2. What kind of awareness-raising activities and capacity-building activities should the Council of Europe youth sector put into place, organise or support? Are there important guidelines or approaches to safeguard regarding, for example, timing of activities, target groups, partners, resources and evaluation?
3. What needs to be done and prioritised to support knowledge about the recommendation in the member states?
4. How to secure synergies and connections with the work of youth and human rights organisations?
5. How to benefit from and contribute to the strategic actions of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Refugees and Migration?

The conclusions of the meeting will be communicated to the Joint Council on Youth for possible discussion and adoption. They should also inform the Youth for Democracy programme in the current and upcoming biennium (until 2023).

PARTICIPANTS

The consultative meeting will bring together experts and representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

1. The Joint Council on Youth
2. Refugee-led youth organisations and youth organisations with projects in support of young refugees
3. European Youth Forum
4. Council of Europe structures dealing with refugees
5. Local authorities with projects for refugees and migrants in transition to adulthood.

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. Participation in the meeting is free of charge.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The meeting will be held in English as an online consultation. The system used for the meetings is BlueJeans allowing for a group conversation and presentations as well as breakout rooms.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

16 June, Tuesday

- 09:30 Introduction and opening of the meeting
Presentation of participants and expectations from the meeting
- 10:00 Rights and priorities of young refugees rights in the reality of COVID 19, with:
- **Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and Refugees.
 - **Jutta Seidel**, Officer in Charge of the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg
- 11:00 *Break.*
- 11:30 The Council of Europe work on Social inclusion of Young Refugees, by **Rui Gomes**, Head of the Education and training division, Youth Department
- 11:50 Main needs of young refugees and the main challenges for youth work with young refugees - Reflection in 3 breakout groups, with introductory inputs from:
- **Razan Damlakhi, Munier Elhassan**, Voices of Young Refugees in Europe
 - **Zaher Barod**, The Young Republic
 - **Ntobuah Julius Mvenyi**, Vårdanalís
- 12:50 Conclusions of the groups
- 13:00 Closing of the day

17 June, Wednesday

- 09:30 Welcome activity
Re-calling the conclusions of the previous day
- 09:45 Youth policy examples from Flanders, by **Jan Vanhee**, European Steering Committee for Youth and **Silke Cuypers** (Tumult)
- 10:15 Measures to support the implementation of the CMRec(2019)4 on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood
- Group 1:* **Awareness-raising activities and capacity-building activities organised or supported by the Council of Europe youth sector**
- Group 2:* **Promoting knowledge and information about the recommendation in the member states**
- Group 3:* **Cooperation between youth and human rights organisations**
- Group 4:* **Benefiting from and contributing to the strategic actions of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Refugees and Migration**
- 11:15 Break
- 12:00 Presentation of the groups conclusions and proposals
- 12:30 Conclusions and follow-up to the meeting
- 12:45 Evaluation and closing of the meeting

DRAFT LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Joint Council on Youth

JAN VANHEE	European Steering Committee for Youth (Belgium)
PEGAH MOULANA	Advisory Council on Youth
CARLOTTA MUSTON	Advisory Council on Youth

Participants in Youth Together

ZAHER BAROD	The Young Republic, Sweden
NTOBUAH JULIUS MVENYI	Vårdanalys, Sweden
LINOS VIGKLAS	Second Chance School of Volos, Greece
DOHA FARAJ	LOYAC Lebanon
MAYSSA ALANI	Association de Migration Solidarité et Echanges pour le Développement, France
JAWID BABAI	Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE), Turkey
JOKE VAN DOOREN	PIN, Belgium
MINA VARGA	Isusovačka služba za izbjeglice - Jesuit refugee service, Croatia

Refugee / Youth organisations

RAZAN DAMLAKHI	Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE)
MUNIER ELHASSAN	Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE)
CHOUGHER MARIA	YMCA Syrian Armenians
DOUGHRAMAJIAN	
EBOUANEY MBIME ANDRE	Istituto dei Sordi di Torino
KARL JORESS	
POLAK SINGHE-ROBINSON	NOW Association
ALAA KADRI	The Young Republic
SILKE CUYERS	Tumult

Researchers

HAYTHEM BADAWI	University of Luxembourg
SOFIA LAINE	University of Helsinki

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

JUTTA SEIDEL	Officer in Charge, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg
DELPHINE LENEUTRE	Legal Associate, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg
PAUL BLANCHARD	Trainee, UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg

Council of Europe

DRAHOSLAV ŠTEFÁNEK	Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
KINGA JENSEN-MAGYAR	Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
RUI GOMES	Education and Training Division, Youth Department

TANYA BESSARAB

Partnership between the European Commission and the
Council of Europe in the field of Youth

NATALIA CHARDYMOVA

Educational Advisor, Youth Department

FLORIS COOIJMANS

Trainee, European Youth Centre Budapest

MARGIT BARNA

European Youth Foundation

MATTHEW FOSTER

European Youth Foundation

Consultant

AMY STAPLETON

Rapporteur

European Youth Forum (apologised)

ESZTER SOMOGYI

Secretariat

ANDREA CASAMENTI

Member of the Bureau