



Strasbourg, 1 July 2026

CPJ(2026)PV55_abridged

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE ON YOUTH (CPJ)

55th meeting

30 June –1 July 2026

**European Youth Centre
Strasbourg**

ABRIDGED REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the secretariat. The [List of participants](#) appears on the restricted website.

2. Adoption of the agenda

[CPJ\(2026\)OJ55](#) and [annotated programme overview CPJ\(2025\)PV54](#)

Decision:

The CPJ adopted the agenda of its 55th meeting as set out in document CPJ(2026)OJ55.

3. Election of the Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson for the mandate 2026-2027

[CPJ\(2013\)18rev1](#)

The CPJ elected its Chair and Vice-Chair for the mandate 2026-2027 according to the new Rules of Procedure¹, Rule.5 Art.1 “The Committee shall elect, for a period of two years, its Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members. The members elected to these two functions shall comprise one governmental representative and one non-governmental representative. The two functions shall alternate between a governmental and a non-governmental representative; after serving one year, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall exchange roles for the second year of their mandate”.

Decision:

The CPJ elected:

- Dragos Tarta as Chair for 2026 and Vice-Chair for 2027,
- Marija Ivkovic Trkulja as Vice-Chair for 2026 and as Chair for 2027.

¹ The CPJ took item 4 before item 3 of the agenda and adopted the new Rules of Procedure, thus its Chair and Vice-Chair were elected according to the new version.

4. CPJ Rules of Procedure

[CPJ\(2013\)18rev1](#); [CPJ\(2026\)8 - with track changes](#); [CPJ\(2026\)8 - final version](#)

As part of the EYF reform and following the adoption by the Committee of Ministers on 24 September 2025 of the new Operational Regulations of the EYF, the CPJ Rules of Procedure of 2022 needed updating (it is recalled that, according to the CPJ [Terms of Reference](#), the committee should have its own Rules of Procedure). The CPJ considered the revised version of the Rules of Procedure of the CPJ as set out in document CPJ(2026)8 and agreed to their adoption. The revised Rules of Procedure took effect immediately upon valid adoption. The secretariat distributed a form for a declaration of interests and a form for a declaration of confidentiality for the CPJ members to sign and return to the secretariat.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- adopted its revised Rules of Procedure as set out in document CPJ(2026)8;
- agree that they take effect immediately at the present meeting;
- took note of the declarations of interest and the declarations of confidentiality signed by the CPJ members and observers valid for the duration of their mandate, and submitted to the secretariat;
- agreed that the declarations of interest and of confidentiality will be forwarded for signature to the governmental and non-governmental substitutes of the CPJ by a written procedure.

5. Exchange of views with the Head of the Youth Department

Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Youth Department, addressed the CPJ on recent developments in the Council of Europe's youth sector, particularly on events which took place since the CMJ meeting of 24-25 March 2026 (Budapest).

Decision:

The CPJ held an exchange of views with the Head of the Youth Department and took note of the recent developments in the Council of Europe and its Youth Sector, particularly since the CMJ meeting of March 2026 in Budapest.

6. Follow-up to the 54th meeting of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), 24-25 March 2026, as regards the decisions taken in respect of the CPJ

[CMJ\(2026\)PV54](#)

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the CMJ decisions taken at its 54th meeting in respect of the CPJ and other CMJ decisions which might be relevant for the CPJ work.

7. Monitoring of the co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs and grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation

7.1 Co-managed programme of activities of the European Youth Centres (EYCs) – 2025 budget and programme: final reporting

[CPJ\(2024\)5-rev4](#); [CPJ\(2024\)5-rev4 Appendix I](#); [CPJ\(2024\)5-rev4 Appendix II](#);
[CPJ\(2024\)5-rev4 Appendix III](#); [CPJ\(2024\)5-rev4 Appendix IV](#)

The CPJ adopted the draft EYCs' Co-managed programme of activities at its 51st meeting (June 2024). It was subsequently modified at its 52nd, 53rd and 54th meetings (December 2024, June and December 2025), including due to an inflation adjustment. Revised budgets for each activity are presented in **Appendix I** in "To be financed from budget allocation" and "Additional needs" (**Appendix II**).

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the modifications to the 2025 Co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs as they appear in document CPJ(2024)5-rev4 and Appendices I, II and III.

7.2 Grants of the European Youth Foundation 2023 - 2025**[CPJ\(2026\)2](#)**

In 2025, 97 grants were awarded; among them six are still on-going; eleven reports are still to be received. As of 8 June 2026, all 2023 grants were closed except for two and all 2024 grants were closed except for seven, the EYF secretariat being in contact with these organisations to facilitate and expedite the finalisation of their reports.

In 2025, an investigation by the Directorate of Internal Oversight (DIO) concluded on a sufficient evidence to confirm that fraud occurred in the delivery of the two projects (reference numbers **5707.9.PA.2021 and 5707.7.IA.2022.PC 45**). At its 54th meeting, the CPJ cancelled the two awards and requested the reimbursement and bared the youth organisation concerned from future grants. As a follow-up, the Council of Europe Directorate of Legal Advice and Public International Law (DLAPIL) sent a letter to the youth organisation end of 2025 requesting the full reimbursement of the grant awards within 30 days. With no response, the DLAPIL granted a Power of Attorney to a law firm in the country concerned with the same demands. The results were awaited.

The EYF secretariat checked with the CDEJ representative of France about one organisation, Association de jeunes de La Courneuve (NEOLEA); the latter did not provide any feedback thus the CPJ agreed to cancel its project.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- took note of the information provided in document CPJ(2026)2, on the projects supported by the European Youth Foundation in 2023, 2024 and 2025;
- agreed to cancel the pilot activity grant 12815.1.PA.2024 of Association de jeunes de La Courneuve (NEOLEA) on the grounds of lack of reporting on the grant, and requested the reimbursement of the first grant instalment of €12 000.

8. Monitoring of the 2026 co-managed programme of activities and of the grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation**8.1 A) Co-managed programme of activities of the European Youth Centres (EYCs) – budget update and programme reporting 2026**

[CPJ\(2026\)3 ER1 Priority 1](#) “Revitalising Pluralistic Democracy”;
[CPJ\(2026\)3 ER2 Priority 2](#) “Young people’s Access to Rights”;
[CPJ\(2026\)3 ER3 Priority 3](#) “Living Together in Peaceful Inclusive Societies”;
[CPJ\(2026\)3 ER4 Priority 4](#) “Youth Work”

The reference documents provide information on the implementation of the programme “Youth for Democracy” 2024-2027 under the four priorities covering the period from 13 November 2025 to 20 May 2026. The secretariat made a detailed update of the developments under each of the four CMJ priorities.

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the update on the implementation of the co-managed programme of activities of the European Youth Centres (EYCs) in the first half of 2026.

8.1 B) 2026 Co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs

[CPJ\(2025\)5-rev3](#) ; [Appendix I](#), [Appendix II](#), [Appendix III](#) and [Appendix I rev](#)

On 18 November 2025, the Committee of Ministers adopted the Council of Europe budget for the year 2026². The envelope adopted for the 2026 programme of activities of the European Youth Centres is €1 297 900. The total budget for each priority in the programme follows the decision by the CMJ to distribute the total programme budget equally between the strategic priorities 1 to 4 with a leeway of +/- 10%.

As of mid-May 2026, 22 out of 62 activities and processes were implemented. The May update includes 40 activities which are not yet initiated or fully implemented, i.e. around 35% of the activities were fully implemented in the first 5 months of 2026. The proposals for the adjustment of the list of activities for the remainder of 2026 and for the re-adjustment of the prioritisation of activities for additional funding, should it become available, are presented in **Appendix I: 2026 Co-Managed Programme of Activities of the EYCs (Update May 2026)**. **Appendix II – 2026 Additional needs** presents the list of activities requiring additional funding. CPJ examined the proposed modifications to the 2026 Co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs.

Decision:

The CPJ agreed to the proposed modifications to the 2026 Co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs as they appear in document CPJ(2025)5-rev3 and its Appendices I and II, supporting the proposed options to align the duration of activities 3.12 and 4.9 of the Co-managed programme and to use the resources of line 4.10, should the need for supplementary funding arise.

8.2 Update on the European Youth Foundation budget 2026

[CPJ\(2025\)7_rev2](#)

The 2026 EYF budget was adopted by the CPJ at the 54th meeting (December 2025). For 2026, the obligatory member States' contributions were increased by 2 percent in comparison to 2025. In addition, voluntary contributions were received during the reporting period from Estonia and Belgium. The reference document presents in detail the 2026 receipts and expenditures. The CPJ considered and approved the adjustments to the allocation of the funds within the EYF budgetary envelope for 2026 as presented in document CPJ(2025)07_rev2.

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the information on recent developments and approved the adjustments to the allocation of the funds within the EYF budgetary envelope for 2026 as presented in document CPJ(2025)07_rev2.

8.3 Grants of the European Youth Foundation 2026, including ad hoc calls in 2026

[CPJ\(2026\)4](#) ; [CPJ\(2026\)1](#)

As of June 2026, the CPJ has awarded 48 project grants. These projects include 21 long-term youth co-operation projects and 27 one-off youth co-operation projects. The latter also include one project in support of young people from Ukraine (previously called Special call for Ukraine).

As regards the upcoming **ad hoc calls**: the new EYF Operational Regulations provide for ad hoc calls for proposals which may be launched to respond to emerging priorities or specific circumstances. At its 53rd meeting (November 2025), the CMJ decided for two thematic priorities for the EYF ad hoc calls for proposals in 2026 (both calls are under preparation):

- Support for young people from Ukraine;
- Support for fostering young people's critical thinking to strengthen democratic and inclusive societies.

² and provisionally adopted the budget of the Organisation for 2027.

The upcoming ad-hoc will take place in 2026 once the new online system becomes operational. Consequently, the CPJ decision on the grants to be awarded under these calls is envisaged for September 2026, through online meetings.

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the information provided in document CPJ(2026)4 on the grants awarded in 2026 and the forthcoming ad hoc calls, the progress on the implementation of the Equal Access Fund, and on the developments of the support activities of the European Youth Foundation in 2026.

9. Reform of the European Youth Foundation

A major reform of the EYF was initiated in 2023 to modernise its grant-making framework and provide improved support for youth and civil society organisations across Europe, in line with the Reykjavík Declaration. The reform involved revising the Foundation's Operational Regulations and aligning procedures with the Council of Europe standards and best international practices. On 24 September 2025, the Committee of Ministers adopted the revised Operational Regulations. The reform has entered its operational phase. One of the key components of the EYF reform process that remains is the development/launch into operation of a new online grant management system for the EYF. The full cost of the development and implementation of the system has been incorporated into the 2026 budget.

Decision:

The CPJ took note of the update on the implementation of the reform of the European Youth Foundation as presented by the secretariat.

10. 2027 draft co-managed programme of activities of the European Youth Centres and grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation

The CPJ worked in four parallel working groups to prepare decisions for item 10.1 and in three parallel working groups to prepare decisions for items 10.2, 10.4.1 and 10.4.2. The working groups then reported them to the plenary.

10.1 2027 draft co-managed programme and budget of the activities of the EYCs [CPJ\(2026\)10](#) ; [Appendix I](#) and [Appendix I rev](#) ; [Appendix II](#) and [Appendix II rev](#) ; and [Appendix III](#).

The 2027 draft co-managed programme of activities of the European Youth Centres (EYCs) is presented within the framework of the Council of Europe Programme and Budget (see Appendix I). It is presented on the basis of a budgetary allocation of **€1 271 900** subject to approval of the 2027 budget and programme of the Organisation by the Committee of Ministers. The programme is being prepared in a context of continued financial constraints and increasing operational costs, requiring careful prioritisation and the continued mobilisation of resources. **Appendix II** shows activities to be potentially financed through additional funds, if they become available.

With the momentum of the New Democratic Pact for Europe, the programme continues to reflect the Council of Europe's increased focus on democratic resilience, meaningful youth participation, human rights in the digital age, and strengthening social cohesion in the face of geopolitical, technological and societal challenges.

An issue of + or – 10% leeway in apportioning the allocations within the budgetary envelope was discussed. That rule came from the decision of the CMJ to distribute funds evenly over the four priorities, which resulted in the lack of flexibility.

The CPJ examined the proposed 2027 co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs, validated the final list of activities to be financed from the budget allocation within the programme as set out in Appendix I, and examined the proposed activities to be funded from receipts or savings as such become available, i.e. activities in the list of additional needs as set out in Appendix II. The CPJ also decided on the alignment of the eligibility criteria between the EYF and the programme of the European Youth centres.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- adopted the 2027 Co-managed programme of activities of the EYCs, as it appears in document CPJ(2026)10 Appendix I-rev, subject to the decision of the Committee of Ministers on the 2027 budget of the Organisation;
- agreed to propose a discussion at the CMJ, in view of the forthcoming development of the next quadrennium, on the continued importance of promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and of preventing and combating discrimination in all its forms and on the need to allocate adequate resources to initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, combating racism and ethnic discrimination, addressing hate speech and fostering inclusive societies;
- raised the opportunity for the CMJ to reflect on the 10% leeway rule applicable to allocation of funding between the different priorities of the Youth Programme for 2028 and beyond;
- decided to align the eligibility criteria for applicant organisations and networks for activities to be held in cooperation with the European Youth Centres to the ones of the EYF Operational Regulations, notably:
 - bringing to 7 (instead of 8) the number of countries where international youth networks of youth organisations need to have members or affiliates;
 - modifying from “at least 5 neighbouring countries” to criteria of “4 to 6 countries” the condition for sub-regional networks of non-governmental youth organisations operating within a European sub-region.

10.2 Study sessions to take place at the EYCs in the first half of 2027

[CPJ\(2026\)9](#) ; [Study sessions applications](#)

The secretariat received **31** applications for study sessions for the 1st semester of 2027 (deadline of 15 April 2026). Eight (8) proposals were submitted by the first-time applicants, 26 applications received a positive recommendation from the secretariat. According to the 2027 programme prepared for adoption by the CPJ, the 1st semester of 2027 foresees resources for 10 study sessions. The CPJ selected 10 study sessions out of 26 with positive recommendations.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- approved the following ten study sessions for the 1st half of 2027:
 - ENIL Youth Network Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Network and Learning Opportunities (NLO): Double Study session - Making multiple identities visible: Exploring the intersessions of migration status and disability – for visibility, rights and access;
 - Erasmus Student Network (ESN): Mobility Rights in Action;
 - Human Rights Education Youth Network: Human Rights Education in the Face of Rising Authoritarian Practices;
 - ICYE - International Cultural Youth Exchange and CCIVS: Declining participation in long-term volunteering: challenge or opportunity for democratic youth engagement? Reasons, needs and European responses;
 - International Federation of Hard Hearing Young People (IFHOHYP): Our Stories, Our power: Advocacy through Narrative;
 - OSRS – Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska: NYC CBC – National Youth Councils Capacity Building Cycle;
 - Rural Youth Europe: Safe to Learn: Safeguarding Essentials in Non-Formal Education;

- VOICIFY - European forum for Youth with Lived Migration Experiences: Raising Our Voices: Youth Participation for Migrant Rights in Europe;
- YMCA Europe/Alliances Européenne des YMCA ASBL: From Algorithms to Peace: A Youth Advocacy Lab for Democratic Resilience;
- Young Pirates of Europe a.s.b.l.: Recording Power: Young People's Agency in Technological Futures;
- placed the two following applications on a reserve list:
 - European Union of the Deaf Youth (EUDY): Youth Work in the Age of AI: Navigating Opportunities and Risks for Deaf Youth,
 - No Hate Nordic: Learning through listening: - Countering hate speech by building bridges;
- invited four applicants to resubmit their proposal (call to be issued in Autumn 2026);
- decided that five applications did not meet the eligibility requirements;
- took note that the information will appear in Appendix to the report of the meeting, including the conditions applying to the selected study sessions.

10.3 2027 draft budget of the European Youth Foundation [CPJ\(2026\)5](#)

Following the current budget discussions in the Committee of Ministers, the Directorate of Programme Coordination has informed the EYF secretariat that the 2027 budget might be adjusted to reflect an inflation figure of 2 percent. By consequence, any budgetary distribution approved by the CPJ at its 55th meeting in June 2026 will be provisional and may be subject to changes, to be adopted by the CPJ at the 56th meeting in December, after the Committee of Ministers adoption of the Council of Europe's 2027 overall budget, in November 2026. The CPJ considered and approved the breakdown of the preliminary draft 2027 EYF budget, subject to the decisions of the Committee of Ministers on the 2027 Budget of the Council of Europe, as well as other developments influencing budget and expenditure.

Decisions

The CPJ approved the Secretariat's proposals on the breakdown of the 2027 draft budget of the European Youth Foundation, as presented in document CPJ(2026)5, subject to the final decisions of the Committee of Ministers on the 2027 budget of the Council of Europe.

10.4 Grants of the European Youth Foundation in 2027

10.4.1 Grants to long-term co-operation projects [CPJ\(2026\)6](#)

Following the call for international long-term youth co-operation projects in 2027 (2027.C2.B), forty-one (41) proposals were submitted by the deadline of 1 April 2026, thirty (30) proposals were found eligible. The EYF secretariat assessed these proposals against the award criteria (Appendix 1) and indicated a preliminary ranking of proposals as per Appendix 2. The CPJ proceeded with the prioritisation according to the available budget envelope and decided on the work plan grant applications.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- approved 11 grants to be allocated by the European Youth Foundation under the Call for proposals for international long-term youth co-operation projects in 2027 (2027.C2.B), representing a total amount of € 646 441, to the following organisations:
- World Student Christian Federation in Europe (WSCF-E);
- European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL),

- Youth and Environment Europe (YEE),
 - International Young Nature friends (IYNF),
 - Cooperation and Development Network for Eastern Europe (CDN),
 - International Falcon Movement Socialist Education International (IFM-SEI),
 - Developing Youth Participation at Local Level Network (DYPALL),
 - Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU),
 - Erasmus Student Network (ESN),
 - ternYpe International Roma Youth Network (ternYpe),
 - Solidarity Action Day Movement in Europe ivzw (SAME);
- instructed the secretariat to contact three applicants with the invitation for further guidance on their proposals for possible future application;
- decided that 11 applications were ineligible as per document CPJ(2026)6;
- rejected 19 applications.

10.4.2 Grants to international one-off co-operation activities [CPJ\(2026\)7](#)

Following a call launched by the EYF secretariat for international one-off youth co-operation activities in 2027 (2027.C1.A), fifty-five (55) proposals were submitted by the deadline of 1 April 2026, thirty-five (35) proposals were found eligible. The EYF secretariat assessed these proposals against the award criteria (Appendix 1). The preliminary ranking of the proposals appeared in Appendix 2. The CPJ proceeded with the prioritisation according to the available budget envelope and decided on the international activities grant applications.

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- approved 12 grants to be allocated by the European Youth Foundation under the Call for proposals for international one-off youth co-operation activities in 2027 (2027.C1.A), representing a total amount of € 268 033 to the following organisations:
- Young European Federalists (JEF Europe),
- International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY),
- european play work association (e.p.a.),
- Youth and Environment Europe (YEE),
- European Liberal Youth (LYMEC),
- International Debate Education Association (IDEA),
- European Youth Energy Network (EYEN),
- Migration Youth and Children Platform (MYCP);
- Board of European Students of Technology (BEST),
- European Minority Youth Network (EMYN),
- European Youth Network for Creativity and Innovation (EYNCRIN),
- European Youth for Action (EYFA);
- decided that 20 applications were ineligible as per document CPJ(2026)7;
- rejected 23 applications.

11. Preliminary draft agenda of the 56th meeting of the CPJ [CPJ\(2026\)OJ56_preliminary](#)

Decision:

The CPJ approved a preliminary agenda of its 56th meeting as it appears in document CPJ(2026)OJ56_preliminary subject to further developments in the Youth Sector.

12. Any other business

13. Venues and dates of the next meetings of the CPJ

Decisions:

The CPJ:

- adopted the following dates and venues for its meetings in 2027:

- 57th meeting on 14-15 June 2027 in Budapest;
- 58th meeting on 13-14 December 2027 in Strasbourg;

- agreed that the dates for the on-line meetings in 2026 will be decided on at a later stage.

14. Adoption of the report

Decision:

The CPJ adopted the abridged report of its 55th meeting.