



Strasbourg, 30 November 2020

Draft priorities 2022-2023 of the Council of Europe youth sector¹

Guidelines for submitting grant applications to the European Youth Foundation

The strategic priorities for each biennial programme of the Council of Europe's youth sector are defined by the Joint Council on Youth, which is the central co-managed political body of the youth sector.

During its 43rd meeting, the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) is invited to **define the strategic priorities** (expected results and programme orientations) **of the Council of Europe youth sector for the period 2022-23** ("Youth for Democracy" sub-programme), and to **apportion the budgetary means** which will be made available in the political and budgetary framework to be established by the Committee of Ministers for the next biennium.

The main **strategic orientations** for the draft priorities for 2022-2023¹ should be the following:

- **Priority 1: Revitalising pluralistic democracy**
- **Priorité 2: Young people's access to rights**
- **Priority 3: Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies**
- **Priority 4: Youth work**

The Programming Committee on Youth is the co-managed body taking decisions on the programme of the youth sector, including the grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation.

When taking its decisions, the Programming Committee on Youth examines a proposed project's links with these priorities (expected results) and how it can contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the youth sector.

The following expected results and programme orientations have been defined for 2022-2023¹ and should be taken into account by youth NGOs submitting a grant application to the EYF.

¹ Subject to approval by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

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.

Programme orientations for expected result 1:

- a. 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;
- b. Advancing young people’s participation in political processes;
- c. Advocating the importance of an expanding space for youth civil society organisations in order that they may develop and flourish;
- d. Supporting youth participation in artificial intelligence and Internet governance processes;
- e. 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;
- f. 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;
- g. Supporting youth policy actors to understand and influence the impact of artificial intelligence on young people;
- h. 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.

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.

Programme orientations for expected result 2:

- a. 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;
- b. 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);
- c. 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;
- d. Supporting and developing information, data and media literacy with children and young people;
- e. 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;
- f. Mainstreaming rights-based approaches in youth policies, programmes and projects.

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.

Programme orientations for expected result 3:

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

- a. Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism;
- b. social inclusion of young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- c. 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:

- e. intercultural dialogue;
- f. peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- g. co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions, especially through youth mobility programmes and opportunities for intercultural learning;
- h. convening institutions, representative bodies, community groups and the wider society for dialogue;
- i. 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.

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.

Programme orientations for expected result 4:

- a. pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and promoting a European youth work agenda;
- b. supporting the access to² 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);
- c. pursuing quality development and innovation (including digitalisation) in the capacity-building activities of the Youth Department.

² New for 2022-23.