



Strasbourg, 3 September 2024

Consultative meeting on the reform of the European Youth Foundation's grants

11 and 12 September 2024
European Youth Centre Strasbourg

Draft programme

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 10 September

Arrivals of participants

- 19.00 Dinner at the European Youth Centre (canteen open until 20.00)
Informal get together and welcome drinks (Belgian Bar)

Wednesday 11 September, Room 3.2

- 09:00 Opening, introductions and context of the EYF reform
Welcome by Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

In this programme session, participants will first learn more about the other participants and the meeting objectives and purpose.

The context of the EYF reform will be explained, placing this meeting within a longer strategic process. Participants will have an overview of the steps taken for the EYF reform so far, and the plan following the consultative meeting. The main outcomes from the public consultation carried earlier in May 2024 will be presented.

- 10.00 What is new and relevant in young people's democratic engagement? Implications for the EYF reform.
Presentation by Tomaž Deželan, Professor of political science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana and member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers

In this programme session, participants will first follow an input based on an analysis carried by Professor Deželan. The core of the session is to first look at young people and how they engage in civil society, and extract from there consequences for the EYF grants and EYF reform. Following the presentation, participants will reflect together on the main implications for EYF reforms.

- 11.00 Break

- 11.30 Good practices in supporting civil society: how to orient donor practices in the best interest of young people
Presentation by Gisèle Evrard, consultant for the EYF

In this programme session, participants will first learn more about the main findings of a study carried in 2024 by the EYF to get inspiration for its reforms from the practices of other donors involved in grant-making. Following the presentation, participants will reflect on the main 'must-do' for the EYF reform when it comes to grant-making. Some of the discussions will continue in the next session in the working groups.

- 13.00 Lunch break

- 14.30 Working groups on EYF reform:
- WG1: Support to international youth co-operation
 - WG2: Support to operations of youth organisations
 - WG3: Support to emerging initiatives of young people

- WG4: Transversal elements to include in grants (ecological aspects, accessibility, intersectionality, etc.)

Participants will split in 4 working groups, where they will have a facilitator and a rapporteur for notes-taking.

In the 4 groups, participants will first learn more about the input that came from the open consultation carried out by the EYF.

The groups will make a proposal of a possible architecture of the EYF grants relating to the topic of their respective working group. Each working group will discuss key questions about their main topic, to help steer the proposals in a coherent way. They should also bring up any options where dilemmas or tensions exist in relation to their topic, with the aim to recommend potential choices to be made.

19.00 Reception and dinner

Thursday 12 September

09:00 Opening of the meeting and review of the previous day
Collecting input from working groups

In this session, each group will bring their main points for the new architecture of the EYF grants related to their group topic; the assigned rapporteur will present the main discussion points from the previous day that they wish to propose to the meeting. There will be space for first presentations and feedback from the rest of the participants, especially those who did not attend the group presenting.

11:00 Break

11.30 Further elaboration on the main open questions

In this session, participants will engage in a discussion to find constructive proposals to the main open questions that came from the working groups, and to address the dilemmas that are identified as still necessary to be discussed.

12.30 Follow-up to this consultative meeting and closing of the meeting

In this session, it will be explained what will happen with the outcomes of the consultative meeting and what the next steps in the EYF reform work will be. Members of the statutory bodies of the youth sector of the Council of Europe will also be invited to take the floor in relation to their future steps.

13.00 Lunch

Departure of participants

Background

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) was set up by Council of Europe in 1972 to promote peace, understanding and international co-operation between young people in Europe and beyond, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It does so by providing financial support to international, national and local non-governmental youth organisations and networks, to carry out strategic projects relevant to the Council of Europe youth sector priorities. To be eligible for EYF support, youth organisations must be youth-led. The fact that the EYF caters for activities “for youth by youth” gives it a unique position among donor institutions. Furthermore, EYF-funded activities must represent the values of the Council of Europe and, in this respect, the EYF positions itself as a key instrument of the youth sector to support youth civil society.

The **EYF statute** was adopted by the member states of the Council of Europe in 1972. The statute includes provisions for the overall mission of the EYF. The **operational regulations of the EYF** define the procedures in place for the EYF to fulfil its mission. The regulations have been updated regularly with the latest version adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2012. More than 10 years later, these regulations need to be updated, and checked against the needs and strategic developments relating to young people and democratic societies.

The EYF started several reforms in 2022 following different feedback rounds with EYF beneficiaries and representatives of youth organisations with the aim of reinforcing the EYF as a key instrument that spearheads the work of the Council of Europe with youth civil society, and which remains fit for its mission within the larger context of the Organisation. Overall, the reform of the EYF grants aims to reinforce the EYF as a core, unique and independent donor to youth organisations with a mission for revitalising democratic life and promoting human rights.

More specifically, the EYF reform aims to lead to the following outputs

1. Revised grant types to ensure suitable support to youth organisations, in a modern, relevant, and strategic manner in view of young people’s needs and aspirations and Council of Europe priorities in the youth field and civil society domain
2. Revised EYF regulations reflecting the grant changes and additional updates or other modifications needed to make the Foundation more accessible and youth friendly
3. Refined and redefined support measures to youth organisations that make the EYF an alert donor, close to young people and the needs of youth organisations.

In 2024, the EYF will collect and process input from a diversity of stakeholders to propose relevant reforms for the grants that the EYF provides and for the operational regulations it adopts in this process. A wide consultation is under process. Two studies are also under way to better orientate the directions of reforms in an evidence-based manner.

The timeline for the EYF grant reform extends to 2025, with the involvement of the relevant statutory bodies in the updating and adopting of new operational regulations for the EYF.

About the consultative meeting

The consultative meeting will bring together key stakeholders of the youth sector of the Council of Europe to explore and steer the main directions of change in the EYF grants and procedures. It will support the EYF to engage meaningfully with its main stakeholders in a dialogue about the added value of the EYF, the needs for change and the means to reform the operational regulations. The conclusions and proposals from the consultative meeting will be presented to the Joint Council on Youth and support the adoption of specific directions for the revision of the EYF operational regulations.

The main objectives of the consultative meeting are:

- To review the input from the studies and consultations carried out so far on the EYF grants and procedures
- To identify and prioritise the main directions for the changes in the EYF grants and the relating granting procedures in order to maintain and develop the strategic value of the EYF
- To provide direction for the added value of the EYF within the Reykjavik Summit follow-up and as an instrument for furthering the youth perspective in the Council of Europe and in its member states.