

EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION 2022



Annual report

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2022

European Youth Foundation

Youth Department

Directorate for Democracy

Directorate General of Democracy and Human
Dignity

Council of Europe

EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

Annual report 2022

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THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) supports youth co-operation by providing financial support to European activities that promote of peace, understanding and co-operation between young people of Europe and the world, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EYF provides financial and educational support to youth projects of youth organisations developed by, with and for young people, from the member states of the Council of Europe and the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention.

The EYF supports youth activities, youth work and youth organisations in Europe. It is an instrument of

the Council of Europe's youth sector to promote the Organisation's values and priorities. The Foundation is a partner for local, national, and international non-governmental youth organisations and networks, to strengthen civil society.

Every year the EYF supports around 200 youth projects and reaches out to about 15 000 young people.

The EYF was set up by the Council of Europe in 1972 and it is part of the Youth Department of the Directorate for Democracy.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The European Youth Foundation provides continuous support to the Council of Europe's "Youth for Democracy" programme addressing challenges that young people face in Europe. The activities funded in 2022 contributed to revitalising democracy, promoting access to rights for young people and supported more inclusive and diverse societies.

In 2022, the EYF provided grants to more than 150 projects implemented by youth organisations. The projects included activities at local and national level in Council of Europe member states, as well as international activities and annual work plans promoting international youth cooperation and youth work. The total amount of grants distributed to projects was €2 672 282. In addition, the EYF offered structural grants to 29 international youth organisations and networks to support their operational costs for a total amount of €675 857.

During the year, the EYF launched two special calls for pilot projects of local and national initiatives by youth organisations in Council of Europe member states.

Through the special call in the framework of the Youth Campaign "Democracy Here. Democracy Now", the EYF supported projects that aimed at strengthening youth participation in democratic processes and institutions, as well as the flagship activity, Youth Action Week: Democracy Now!, that resulted in a Call for action issued by 450 young activists gathered in Strasbourg.

Another special call was launched for projects in support of Ukrainian young people affected by the war in Ukraine, where youth organisations based in

Ukraine or in other Council of Europe member states could apply for project grants.

In total, the EYF assessed 293 new project proposals and applications which resulted in the Programming Committee on Youth taking decisions on granting 78 new pilot activities (implemented in 2022), and 42 new international activities and work plans (to be implemented in 2023).

During the year, the EYF received voluntary contributions from member states which were essential for the reinforcement of youth organisations, and it allowed the Foundation to organise additional information sessions for youth NGOs and networks, as well as to step up support to local and national youth organisations in member states.

Relevant data and statistics on the EYF supported activities are provided in this report, including number of applications, distribution of grants in terms of youth sector priorities, type of awarded grants, geographical spread of the beneficiary organisations and examples of activities implemented.

EYF GRANTS, PARTNERS, AND BENEFICIARIES

The EYF provides grants to youth projects and youth led initiatives developed at local, national and international levels by non-governmental youth organisations, in line with the values, principles, and priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe. The EYF financial support includes:

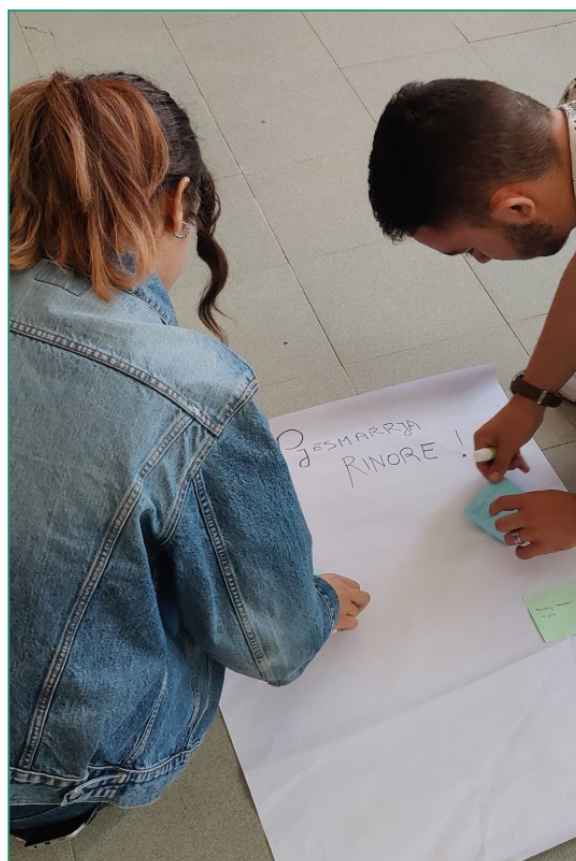
- ▶ **Grants for annual work plans of international youth NGOs and networks.** In order to be implemented over a period of one year, an annual work plan must include a series of activities which are interconnected and contribute to a broader aim. These activities may be international (a multi-lateral meeting involving young people from at least seven countries) or other type of events, including local or national activities. A work plan must include at least one international activity. The maximum grant for a work plan is €50 000.
- ▶ **Grants for one-off international activities of international non-governmental youth organisations or networks and national youth NGOs with at least three partners in other countries.** The international activities are multilateral meetings of young people from at least seven countries that contribute to the priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector. The maximum amount of a grant for an international activity is €20 000.
- ▶ **Structural grants to international youth NGOs and networks.** The EYF's two-year structural grants cover the general administrative costs of youth NGOs and are accessible to international youth NGOs or networks that have been receiving EYF support. The upper limit on structural grants is €25 000 for one year, or €50 000 for two years.
- ▶ **Grants for pilot activities of local/national NGOs and regional networks.** The aim of pilot activities is to support actions which address needs identified and/or challenges faced by young people at local level. They have a clear link to and impact on the local context. The maximum grant for a pilot activity is €15 000.

Supporting activities to the EYF grant giving, include training sessions, workshops, campaigns, online work and tool development. The EYF also organises information and training sessions for youth organisations on the EYF application and reporting requirements and monitors the implementation of supported projects.

The priorities of the youth sector

- ▶ Revitalising pluralistic democracy, promoting democratic citizenship, participatory policies, removing barriers to participation;
- ▶ Young people's access to rights, supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe's standards in this field, promoting human rights education;
- ▶ Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, countering discrimination, violence and exclusion, and promoting European unity, global solidarity, peace, diversity, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue and environmental sustainability;
- ▶ Youth work, strengthening, recognising and advancing youth work, improving its quality, and extending the access and attractiveness of youth work.

(Youth sector strategy 2030)



In 2022, the EYF provided 168 grants to youth organisations, including to 138 projects at local, national, and European levels and 29 structural grants. The detail is provided in the following table:

	Number of applications received	Number of granted projects for 2022
Annual work plans	37	25
International activities (regular) ¹	37	20
International activities (Democracy campaign)	12	7
Pilot activity applications submitted in 2021	-	8
Pilot activities in 2022 (regular) ²	104	44
Pilot activities (Democracy campaign)	88	34
Structural grants	33	29
Integrated grant European Youth Forum	1	1
Total	312	168

Decision-making on EYF grants: the Programming Committee on Youth

The Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ) is the decision-making body of the EYF.

The committee is part of the co-managed system of the youth sector and takes decisions on the Foundation's programme and budget, and it monitors its implementation.

Led by the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, the CPJ consist of 16 members who take the decisions on the EYF grants and advise on EYF developments.

Twice a year, the CPJ meets in plenary sessions to decide on the EYF grants, and it reports back to the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ). The Joint Council on Youth is the main co-managed statutory body of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.



1 Following applications submitted and decisions on grants taken by the CPJ in June and in December 2021.

2 Following applications received and grants awarded in 2022.

EYF beneficiary organisations

Youth NGOs from member states of the Council of Europe and the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention can apply for EYF grants if they meet the EYF criteria for grants. Important criteria are that the applicant NGOs must be youth-led local, national or international youth organisation, run by and for young people, between the age 15-30, and have their own statutes.

At the end of 2022, there were 1 347 organisations registered in the EYF database: 840 local NGOs; 388 national NGOs; 79 international NGOs, 38 international networks of NGOs; 1 regional network of NGOs, and the European Youth Forum.

The following charts present the NGOs registered in the EYF database, by country and by type.

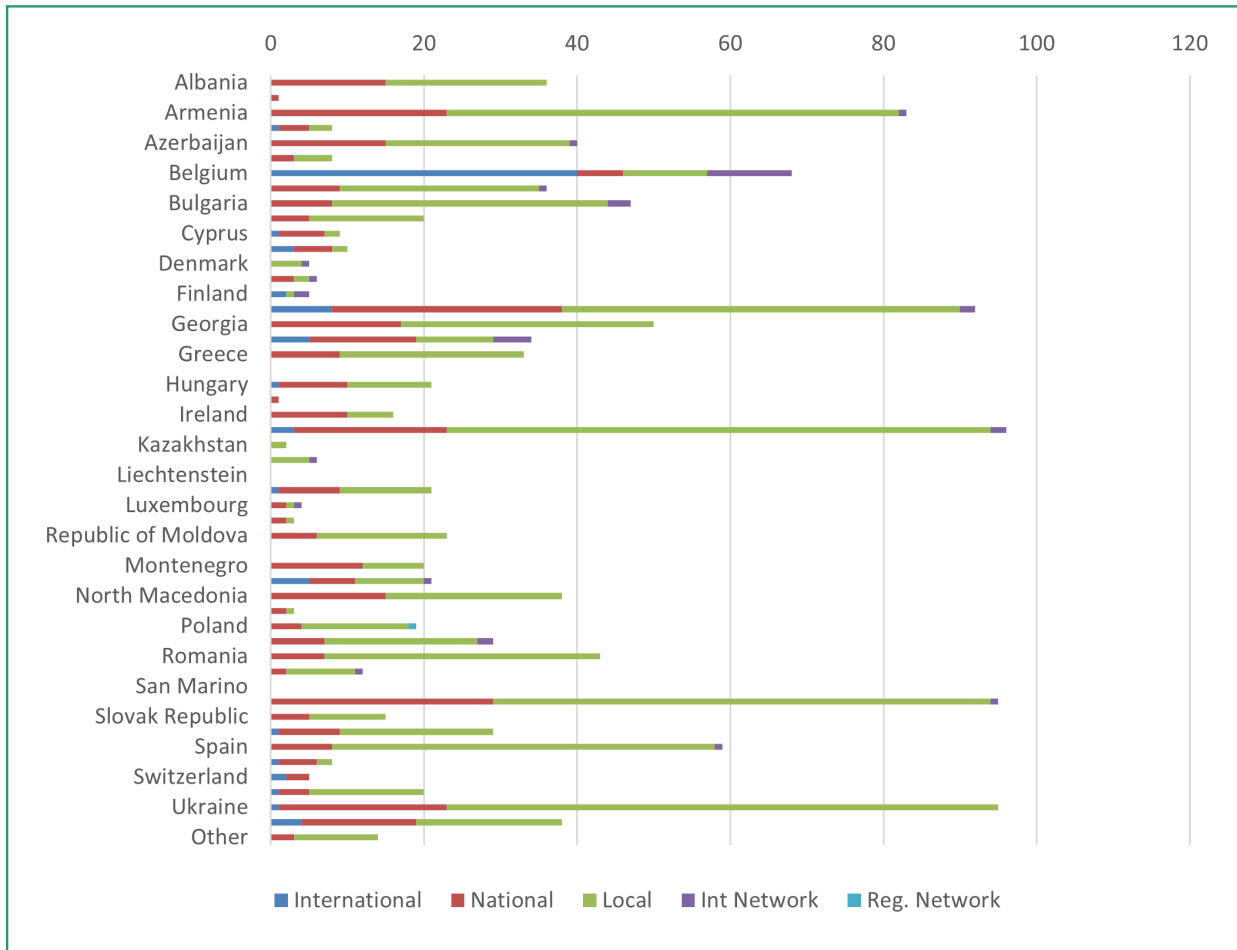


Chart 1: Number of NGOs registered in the EYF database by country

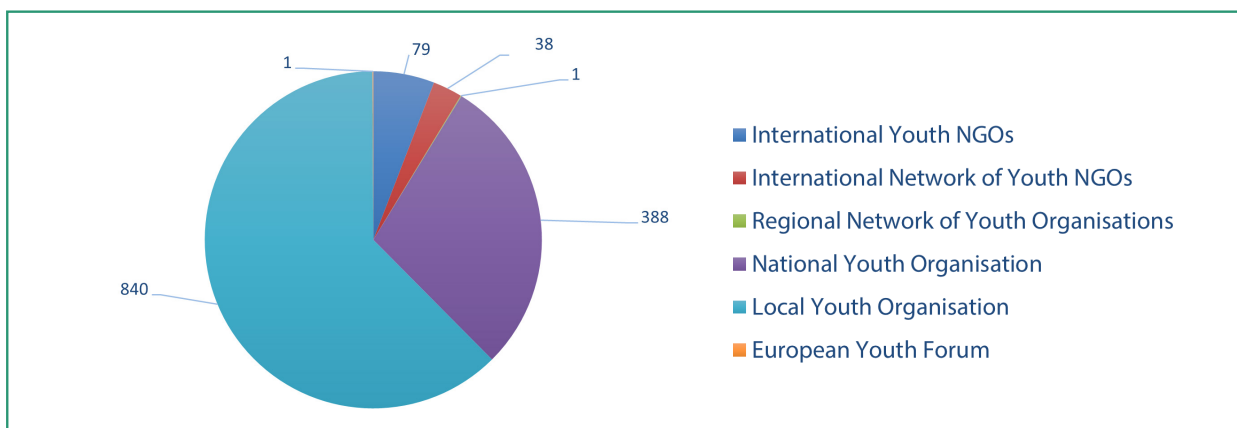


Chart 2: Number of type of NGOs

SPECIFICITY OF THE EYF

Priorities of the Council of Europe promoted by young people and youth civil society

The funding of the European Youth Foundation is based on the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, hence the EYF represents a tangible tool for promoting the Council of Europe's values, principles and priorities among young people across the continent.

In 2022, the EYF supported projects at all levels, based on the four priorities of the youth sector, revitalising democracy, young people's access to rights, peace and intercultural dialogue, and youth work, together with special calls on the campaign "Democracy here. Democracy now" and in support of young people's from Ukraine. The grants supported by the EYF provide important opportunities for young people to be associated to these priorities and learn more about the value of human rights and democracy, and hence these grants contribute to the Council of Europe's awareness raising and promotion of its fundamental values, principles and practices.

Unique governance

Within the panorama of donors, the EYF has a specific governance system, the Programming Committee on Youth, that involves young people representing youth organisations with an equal voice on decisions together with governmental representatives. The Programming Committee on Youth consists of 8 government representatives and 8 non-governmental youth organisations, elected for a two-year mandate. The Committee establishes and monitors the programme of the European Youth Foundation, so it takes the decisions on all applications submitted to the EYF.

Attentiveness and communication with grantees

One of the specificities of the EYF is its flexibility and open approach to youth organisations' projects. For example, once a project is submitted to the EYF, the team of assessors of the EYF may communicate with the organisation and ask specific questions to support the clarification of the project. Throughout the granting process, through the EYF online system, communication happens regularly with grantee organisations. In 2022, the EYF also introduced a new

format of inception meetings, which are operational meetings with organisations whose projects were granted at a given deadlines, to prepare them for managing their grants.

Impact

In all its grants, the EYF supports projects that reach out to young people, as well as to the wider community, to youth organisations, and other stakeholders. The EYF encourages youth organisations to have a planned approach in their projects to social change, and put in place measures for a longer-term change, either at local level, or through a multiplier effect in the case of international activities and annual work plans.

Volunteer Time Recognition

For a decade, the EYF has allowed grantee organisations to use the time which their volunteers devote to EYF supported projects, notably international activities and annual work plans, as co-funding for these projects. A document outlining the EYF's definition and the specifications and calculation method for the VTR is available on the EYF website.

Gender equality

The EYF has an approach which takes account of gender equality issues and encourages gender mainstreaming into the projects it supports. This allows organisations who apply to the EYF to use gender lenses on the topic they wish to address, as well as in the composition of the group of participants and the project team, and in their project materials and outputs. The EYF has developed a specific thematic page with advice for organisations.

Non-formal education

The EYF has focused this year on non-formal education, and particularly emphasised the importance of incorporating non-formal education and learning principles into the activities it supports. One thematic page provides specific advice to organisations on this topic. In 2022, the EYF also contributed and supported the Youth Department's training course on the essentials of non-formal education, as a measure to reinforce the capacities of youth organisations to run projects based on non-formal education with young people.

Inclusion and diversity in youth projects

Recognising diversity as a value and striving to ensure accessibility are at the core of inclusion and access to human rights. The EYF values an inclusive approach in the project it supports. Inclusion is understood at all levels, from topic, participants' backgrounds, educational approaches as so on.

In 2022, the EYF developed a specific tool for youth organisations, the Toolbox on inclusive practices. The Toolbox is the result of a collaborative process involving representatives of youth organisations and it includes concrete ideas on how to incorporate inclusive practices into youth activities, including EYF supported projects. It focuses on 6 areas of project management: finance, participants, logistics, online activities, team and atmosphere, programme and content.

Youth at the core

For a project to be supported by the EYF, it must be developed and implemented by, with and for young people. The project should respond to issues, needs and/or challenges affecting young people. The EYF supports activities that are developed and implemented by youth organisations.

Sustainability in youth projects

In the context of the European Youth Foundation, youth organisations running their EYF-funded projects have been encouraged to green their practices and also adopt ways in which to ensure a lesser environmental impact of their activities. Since 2014, The EYF has encouraged youth organisations to use in their EYF-funded projects the guidelines towards environmental sustainability for projects.

In 2021, a sustainability checklist was developed by the EU - Council of Europe youth partnership, with the input of the EYF, for the use of youth organisations and other actors of the youth sector. In 2022, the EYF carried out awareness raising activities and workshops to reinforce the skills of youth organisations to implement sustainable projects.

For more information,
www.coe.int/en/web/european-youth-foundation/resources



DISTRIBUTION OF EYF FUNDING PER GRANT TYPE

Annual work plans

The total amount of grants awarded to annual works plans implemented in 2022 was €1 094 273. They were 25 annual work plans including a total of 83 international activities and more than 20 “other” activities, that are local or national actions, such as training sessions, workshops, campaigns, online work, and tool development.

The chart below illustrates the number of applications and awarded grants per year for the past five years. It can be observed that the number of awarded grants remains comparable during that period.

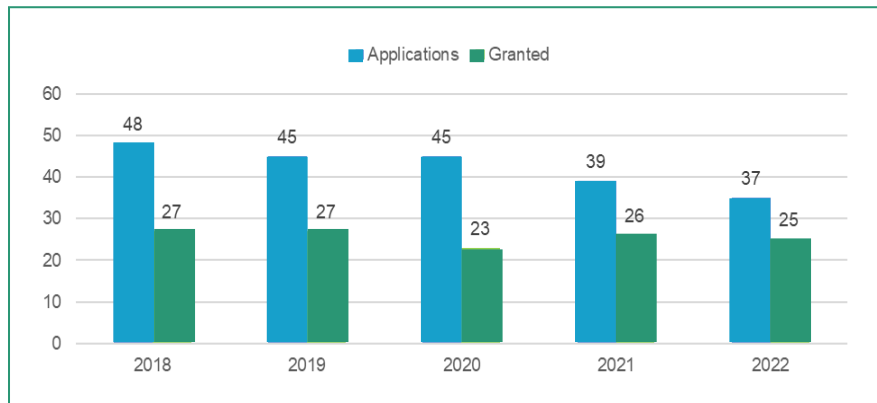


Chart 3: Number of applications and awarded grants per year

Out of the total amount of funding allocated to annual work plans in 2022, approximately:

- ▶ 37% was used to support 9 work plans on revitalising pluralistic democracy
- ▶ 31% was for 8 work plans on supporting young people’ access to rights
- ▶ 23% went to 6 work plans on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies
- ▶ 9% was allocated to 2 projects in the field of youth work.

The chart below shows the number of work plans per youth sector priorities.

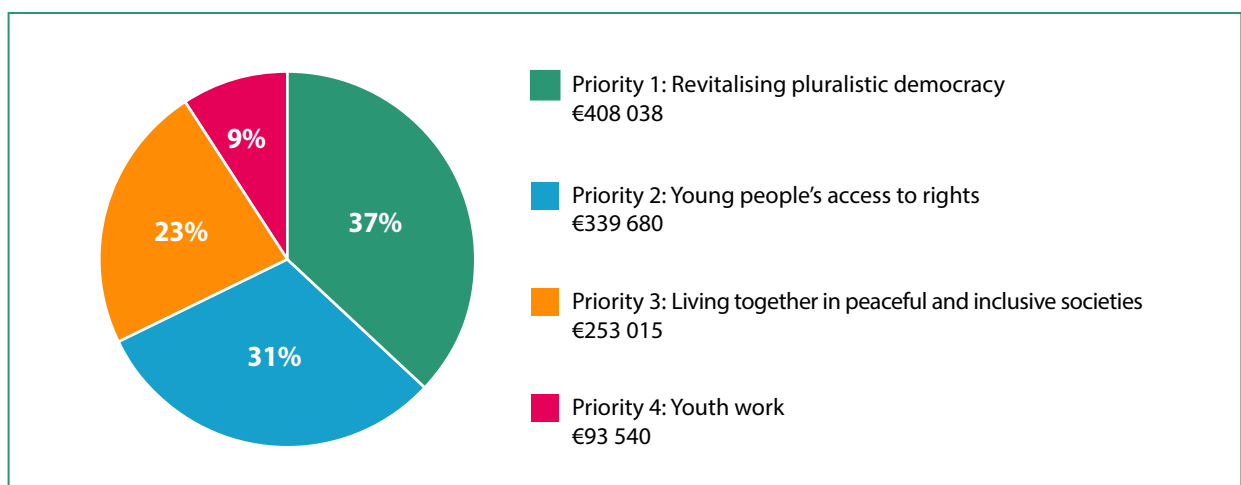


Chart 4: Distribution of funding for work plans by youth sector priority. The percentages refer to the share of each priority in the total funding allocated to work plans

Examples of annual work plans in 2022

Youth of European Nationalities

The YEN work plan “Growing Together” was presented in the context of challenges that youth organisations were facing after the COVID-19 pandemic. It was designed to support capacities of minority youth organisations, and to make sure that young people from national, ethnic, and linguistic minorities can participate in democracy and access rights. It was made up of three activities building on each other’ results, called “Time to Learn”, “Time to Think”, and “Time to Rebuild”.

The National Unions of Students in Europe

This work plan called “The Cycle of Resilience - Building an Inclusive Post-Pandemic Recovery” was designed to support students from vulnerable or underrepresented groups, including with immigrant, refugee, ethnic minority backgrounds, to play an active role in their student life and post pandemic recovery. By providing training, which included opportunities to learn about various human rights and social policies and to develop practical skills in the field of project management, the students improved their practical and theoretical competencies, to pre-

pare and implement their own mini-projects, and to reflect on what they have achieved by presenting their work to relevant civil society organisations.

Nordic Youth Organisation - Nordisk Ungdomsorganisation

The aim of the project “Together Towards Inclusion” was to enhance peaceful societies by improving relations and dialogue between people and institutions. It consisted of five activities, supporting awareness raising and dissemination of relevant information, and to strengthen relations between participating NGOs, public institutions, schools, companies and to foster peaceful relationships.

International Federation of Catholic Parochial Youth Movements

The work plan “Together but apart; digitally connecting youth work globally and locally” focussed on local communities, where local groups were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as their connection with youth was lost and voluntary youth leaders were losing motivation. By exploring digital ways to make connections and exchanges between local groups easier, the project aimed at reviving youth work at local level.



International activities

From the €2 672 281 allocated in grants in 2022, 17% (€458 682) went in support of international activities of youth organisations. Twenty regular³ international activities were supported with €339 832. In addition, seven international activities received grants for a total amount of €118 850 awarded within the framework of the Youth campaign “Democracy here, Democracy now”.

The chart below illustrates the number of applications and awarded grants to international activities per year for the past five years.

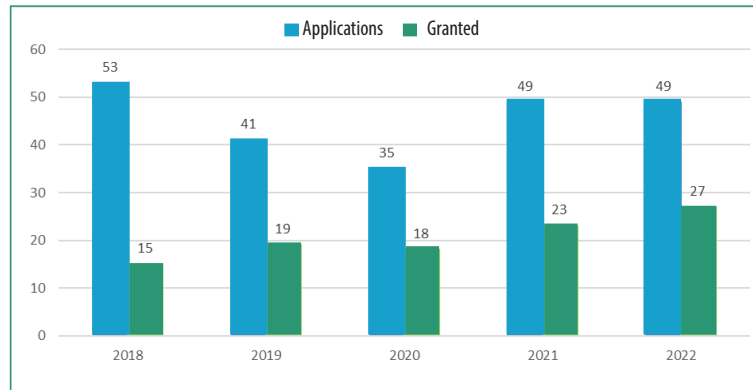


Chart 5: Number of applications and awarded grants to international activities per year

The 27 international activities supported were fully in line with the Council of Europe youth sector’s priorities 2022-2025, and included:

- ▶ 12 projects promoting pluralistic democracy.
- ▶ 3 activities supporting access to rights for young people.
- ▶ 10 activities promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.
- ▶ 2 projects in the field of youth work.

The graph below shows the distribution of the international activities in terms of the youth sector priorities.

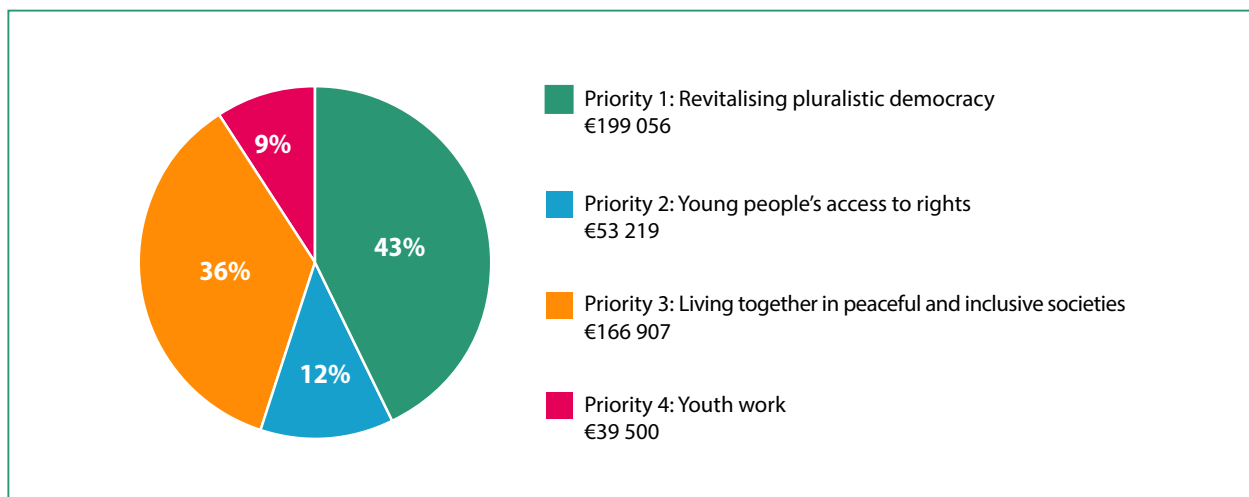


Chart 6: Distribution of funding for international activities by youth sector priority. The percentages refer to the share of each priority in the total funding allocated to international activities.

³ Granted by the Programming Committee on Youth following a regular application procedure in 2021

Examples of international activities in 2022

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE)

Organised in the context of the European Green Capital 2022 and the French presidency of the Council of the European Union, the “Youth Greenable Summit” brought together 50 participants from 20 countries for a three-day exchange and training with the aim to strengthen the importance of cities in environmental and social change.

World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

The activity “The power of human rights education” was a training course for 30 youth leaders from the Scout movement to develop their capacities in human rights education within Scout organisations at the national level, as a tool to encourage young people’s engagement.



Egyesek Youth Association (Hungary)

The project “Peer The Change” was designed to strengthen the capacity of 28 youth trainers and their organisations in their work with young people by providing an 8-day training course for trainers. Rather than a skill and theory-based training-for-trainers about the basics of non-formal education and experiential learning, the training activity used a holistic approach that emphasized the interconnections between formal, non-formal and informal learning and the relations between personal and professional development.



Pilot activities

There was a total of 86 local and national projects implemented in 2022 with an EYF pilot activity grant. The total amount of the grants allocated was €1 119 326,8. The 86 pilot activities in 2022, included 34 projects awarded in the framework of the youth campaign Democracy Here-Democracy Now, 44 regular pilot activities submitted by youth organisations and awarded in 2022, and 8 pilot projects submitted in 2021 and granted for 2022.

The chart 7 illustrates the pilot activity grants' evolution in the period 2017 – 2022.

The chart 8 shows the distribution of the 86 pilot activities implemented in 2022, in terms of the youth sector priorities.

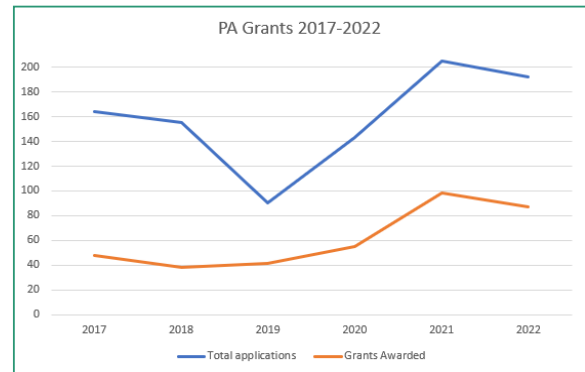


Chart 7: Pilot activity grants' evolution

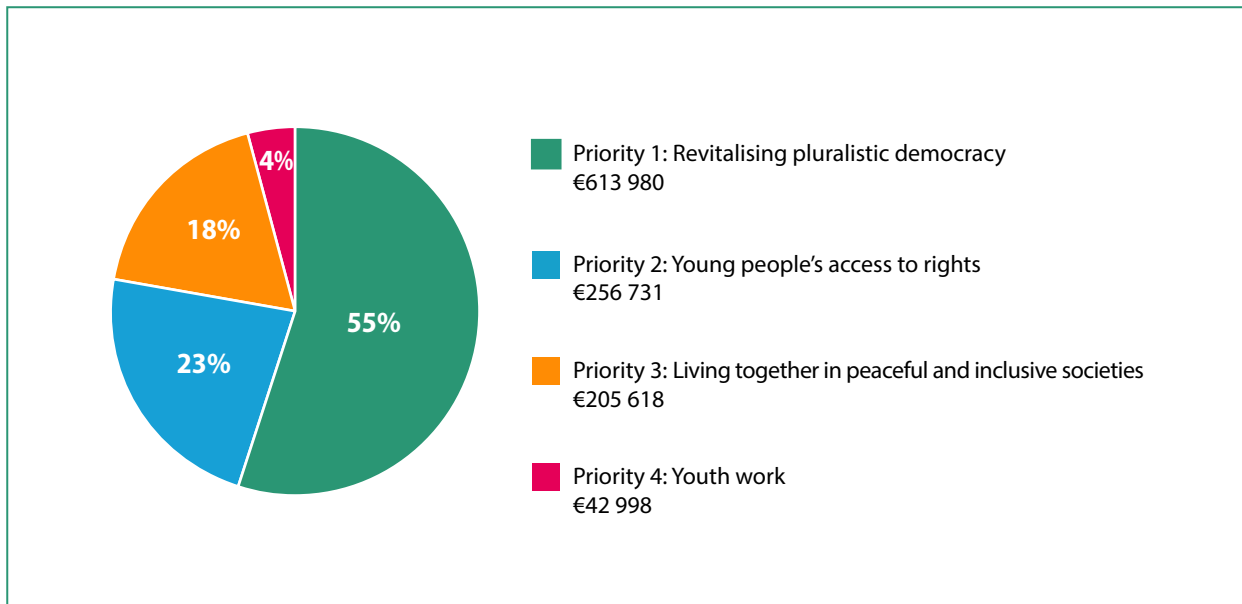


Chart 8: Distribution of funding for pilot activities by youth sector priority. The percentages refer to the share of each priority in the total funding allocated to pilot activities.

Structural grants

In 2021, structural grants were awarded to 29 international youth NGOs and networks for the period 2022-2023. In 2022, the awarded organisations received a total of €675 857 to cover the first year of their two-year grants.



Examples of pilot activities in 2022

H.R.Y.O. Human Rights Youth Organization (Italy)

The aim of the project “ECOMMUNITY” was to mobilise young people, especially those who need Employment, Education or Training (NEET), in the fight against climate change and to prepare them to act at local level.

Associació de Joves Inquiets (Andorra)

The project “Nous decidons ! We decide!” responded to needs of young people in Andorra who had important limitations to their social rights. It offered a training course for 30 young people, aged from 15 to 23, to learn about social rights and how to promote knowledge, as well as to raise awareness towards other young people for better integration in Andorran society.

Donetsk Youth Debate Centre (Ukraine)

This project called “Democracy here. Democracy now. Voices of Young People in Ukraine” was aimed at providing visibility on the effects on young people of the war in Ukraine. It was designed to involve young people from 5 cities, collect their stories and advocate for young people’s rights, including in co-operation with local authorities. Five phases planned within the project included a training course for young people, collection of stories by the trained participants, a social media follow-up and an evaluation meeting.



Union Center for Education and Training (North Macedonia)

The project “New strength for youth society” focused on raising competences of youth workers, specifically through a training programme that the NGO expected to see certified by authorities and lead to recognised youth worker qualifications in the country. The project planned the creation of an expert working group to develop the training module; validation of the training module by the Adult Education Centre; 5-day training for 20 youth workers; local workshops and other initiatives delivered by the trained participants; online evaluation meeting and promotional campaign.



CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is a European platform representing 43 national youth councils and 62 international youth NGOs. Among those, 80 are full members, 25 are observers and one is an associate member. Through the network structures of its member organisations, the YFJ represents 6 000 youth organisations and has outreach to 40 million young people in Europe.

The YFJ acts as an agenda-setter on youth matters at European level and as a platform for the empowerment of its member organisations. There are long-lasting relations between the European Youth Forum and the Council of Europe's youth sector. The YFJ has observer status with the Joint Council on Youth, the youth sector's co-managed political decision-making body, and participates actively in meetings of the Joint Council on Youth and the Programming Committee on Youth, as well as supporting the work of the Advisory Council on Youth.

The European Youth Forum is an important partner of the European Youth Foundation. It supports the EYF work through the dissemination of calls for grant applications, holding consultations with youth NGOs, and organising information sessions for international youth organisations. In 2022, the YFJ,

- ▶ contributed to the objectives of the Council of Europe and the priorities of the youth sector at various levels, focusing on youth rights (exploring a youth rights convention), youth participation (supporting participation structures, lowering the voting age to 16), social inclusion (such as banning unpaid internships, ending age-based discrimination) and strong youth organisations (strengthening youth civic space in Europe and sustainable funding for youth organisations).



- ▶ implemented more than 20 activities directly supporting the priorities of the Council of Europe and its youth sector, such as trainings, coordination meetings, information sessions and to help young people better advocate for their rights.
- ▶ was a key partner in the youth campaign "Democracy Here, Democracy Now", supporting the steering group. It has also contributed to the Democracy Action Week held in Strasbourg, as well as the dissemination of the issued Call to Action.

The YFJ receives an annual integrated grant from the European Youth Foundation. The amount awarded in 2022 was €100 000.



DISTRIBUTION OF EYF FUNDING PER YOUTH SECTOR'S PRIORITIES

All EYF funded activities are linked to the [strategic priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector for 2022-2025](#). The strategic priorities are set by the Joint Council on Youth, as follows:

1. Revitalising pluralistic democracy
2. Young people's access to rights
3. Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies
4. Youth work.

Priority 1: Revitalising pluralistic democracy

From the total of €2 672 281 allocated for grants in 2022, 46% were allocated to activities supporting young people's capacity to develop and implement actions to revitalise democracy, inter alia initiatives to foster young people's participation in political processes and in decision-making at local level, expanding spaces for youth civil society organisations and promoting their rights to free assembly and be active in associations.

The total of €1 221 074 went to 68 projects split as follows:

- ▶ €408 038 for 9 annual work plans.
- ▶ €199 056 for 12 international activities.
- ▶ €613 980 for 47 pilot activities.

The 68 projects supported included,

- ▶ 4 activities promoting the right to free assembly, joining and be active in associations.
- ▶ 32 projects supporting young people's participation in political processes.
- ▶ 4 projects that were expanding spaces for youth civil society organisations.
- ▶ 3 activities that were promoting the implementation of the Charter on participation in local and regional life and the dissemination of the "Have your say" manual.
- ▶ 15 projects supporting participation of young people in decision-making processes at local level, in rural areas, for minorities and vulnerable groups.
- ▶ 10 projects dealing with the impact of climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy.

Priority 2: Young people's access to rights

From the total of €2 672 281 allocated for grants in 2022, 24% went in support of activities promoting young people's access to rights and advocating for human rights and citizenship education. Projects included inter alia, initiatives to foster young people's capacities, advocacy skills and co-operation to support the implementation 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.

The total of €649 630 went to 31 projects split as follows:

- ▶ €339 680 for 8 annual work plans.
- ▶ €53 219 for 3 international activities.
- ▶ €256 731 for 20 pilot activities.

From the 31 projects,

- ▶ 7 projects supported the implementation of 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.
- ▶ 2 projects focused on 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).
- ▶ 7 projects were in support of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, and the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.
- ▶ 10 activities supported information, data and media literacy for children and young people.
- ▶ 3 projects focused on increasing the understanding and addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and their exercise of social rights, including physical and mental health.
- ▶ 2 projects supported rights-based approaches in youth policies, programmes and projects.

Priority 3: Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies

From the total of €2 672 281 allocated for grants in 2022, 23% were allocated to youth initiatives promoting social inclusion and gender equality.

A total of €625 540 went to 32 projects split as follows:

- ▶ 6 annual work plans.
- ▶ 10 international activities.
- ▶ 16 pilot activities.

From the 32 projects supported,

- ▶ 12 addressed combating all forms of discrimination, racism, and exclusion, including:
 - 1 project dealing with Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism;
 - 1 project promoting social inclusion of young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
 - 10 projects dealing with 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).
- ▶ 14 enabled young people to play an active role in promoting peaceful societies:
 - 5 projects focusing on intercultural dialogue;
 - 7 projects addressing peacebuilding and conflict transformation;

- 2 projects on volunteering and solidarity actions at local, national and regional and international levels.

- ▶ 6 dealt with mainstreaming inclusiveness, equality and intersectionality

Priority 4: Youth work

From the total of €2 672 281 allocated for grants in 2022, 7% were allocated to youth initiatives promoting social inclusion and gender equality.

A total of €176 038 was allocated to 7 projects, split as follows:

- ▶ €93 540 for two annual work plans.
- ▶ €39 500 for two international activities.
- ▶ €42 998 for three pilot activities.

Of the 7 projects funded,

- ▶ 1 project pursued the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and promoting a European youth work agenda.
- ▶ 6 projects supported the access to 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).



EYF SPECIAL CALLS IN 2022

Special call for projects in the framework of the Youth campaign “Democracy here, Democracy now”

In 2022, the EYF launched a special call to support to the Youth campaign “Democracy here, Democracy now”. Youth-led organisations active at local, national, regional, and international level were invited to apply for EYF grants for their activities in the framework of the campaign. The campaign was run throughout the Council of Europe member states during the period from March to October 2022 with the aim to strengthen young people’s role in the process of revitalising participatory democracy and restoring trust between young people and democratic institutions and processes. The campaign focused on three key themes: revitalisation of democracy, meaningful youth participation and digitalisation.

The EYF recorded 76 project applications submitted by local, national, and international organisations in the framework of the special call for the Youth campaign, including 8 international activities and 68 pilot activities. The Programming Committee on Youth granted 3 international activities for a total amount of €39 916 and 21 pilot activities for a total amount of €267 606.

Overall, the EYF supported 34 pilot activity projects in 18 countries.⁴ The campaign allowed EYF to reach out to new local and national organisations, in countries that had a low rate of applications, including Andorra, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and United Kingdom. 15 organisations applying for a first time were granted.

With regards to international activities, 7 projects were granted in the framework of the campaign and received funding of a total amount of €118 850. They were implemented by international youth organisations and networks that have been supporting the work of the Council of Europe’s youth sector. The seven international activities were dedicated to promoting meaningful youth participation and access to rights for young people. The special call was very appreciated as it provided an opportunity and funding to international youth organisations to join timely and contribute effectively to the Youth campaign.

Descriptions of all projects (pilot activities and international activities) granted in the framework of the youth campaign can be found on the EYF dedicated website.⁵

Special call in support of young people from Ukraine

In 2022, following a decision by the Joint Council on Youth, the EYF launched a special call for grant applications with projects in support of young people from Ukraine impacted by the war.

Since 3 November 2022, youth organisations in Ukraine and youth organisations based in other member states of the Council of Europe and working with young people from Ukraine have been able to submit applications for this EYF special call for pilot activity grants. The projects submitted must be for, support and involve young people from Ukraine affected by the war. Applications can be submitted in 2023 at any time until the EYF funds are exhausted. Updated information on the special call can be found on the [dedicated EYF website](#).



⁴ Albania (4), Andorra (1), Armenia (4), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2), Bulgaria (1), Cyprus (1), France (3), Georgia (3), Greece (1), Italy (3), Luxembourg (1), The Netherlands (1), North Macedonia (2), Poland (1), Slovenia (2), Spain (2), Ukraine (1) and United Kingdom (1).

⁵ The EYF website dedicated to the campaign can be found [here](#).

EYF SUPPORT MEASURES AND INITIATIVES

To promote effective co-operation with youth organisations and strengthen the quality of their projects, the European Youth Foundation carries out a variety of support activities.

EYF information sessions

These are in person and online sessions to inform youth organisations about the grant programmes and exchange views on youth-related issues. In the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, EYF information sessions were held online. In 2022, the EYF organised both online and in person information sessions before its deadlines for grants in January, March, April, May and September.

In 2022, the EYF actively supported the Youth Campaign “Democracy here, Democracy now”, and organised several information sessions before the deadlines of the EYF special call in January, March and April 2022. These sessions had a strong outreach to new organisations and attracted more than 150 participants. As a new measure the EYF provided also provided advice to a number of projects implemented in the framework of the campaign and pilot activity scheme. The Foundation also organised inception meetings for grantee organisations that focused on the EYF grant requirements to recall beneficiary organisations obligations in terms of reporting, communication on changes, visibility, among others.

As regards the in-person sessions, two information sessions took place on 8-9 September in Brussels, ahead of the October deadline for international activity and work plan grants for 2023. One session was for new representatives of international organisations, with 10 organisations represented, and the other for youth organisations that had longer experience in implementing EYF grants where 7 organisations joined. In connection with the information sessions, several bilateral meetings were organised with beneficiary organisations to help clarify the requirements for narrative and financial reporting, to record organisations’ good practices and to strengthen co-operation with the beneficiaries. The meetings were also informative in terms of the ongoing challenges that international youth organisations faced in implementing their projects, and their experiences in working with other donors, such as Erasmus+. Another information session was organised online on 15 September for international youth organisations that could not attend the in person meetings in Brussels.

EYF in-country training and information sessions

In-country information sessions aim at reaching out to young people and youth organisations at national level. They are organised in close collaboration with the national authorities responsible for youth to inform participants on the Council of Europe and the opportunities the youth sector can offer such as European educational activities and tools, the EYF grant programmes, and application and assessment criteria. In-country sessions allow the EYF secretariat to learn about the national context and needs of local and national youth NGOs. In 2022, the following sessions were organised:

- ▶ An online session for youth non-governmental organisations in Croatia, in co-operation with the Central State Office for Demography and Youth in Croatia. It took place on 17-19 May with participants from 17 youth organisations across Croatia.
- ▶ Further to the successful information session for French youth organisations in December 2021, a second session was organised in collaboration with the *Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de la jeunesse et des sports*, from 30 May-1 June at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.
- ▶ Online sessions in co-operation with the French-speaking community of Belgium and the International Youth Bureau in Brussels was organised for local, regional and national youth non-governmental organisations from Belgium, Luxembourg and France, on 21 and 28 October. The sessions brought together 24 participants. The evaluation showed a positive appreciation and interest of participants for the EYF grants.

Visits to supported projects

In 2022, the EYF staff carried out the 14 monitoring visits to EYF-supported projects: 4 visits to international activities, 4 visits to activities within annual work plans, and 6 visits to pilot activities. During these visits, the EYF secretariat could observe that grantee organisations respect the grant obligations and all projects demonstrated the organisations’ commitment to youth work and youth participation. At the same time, especially during the international projects visits, it was noted that the NGOs were still affected by the pandemic crisis; they had difficulties to reconnect with, and engage young people in longer-term activities and projects;

they were suffering from high turnover of staff and members of youth organisations which made it challenging to operate sustainably; the inflation and increasing costs provided logistical difficulties and other organisational problems in their daily work, among others.

EYF study and training sessions and educational resources

In 2022, the EYF supported a residential training course on the essentials of non-formal education for organisers and facilitators of study sessions at the European Youth Centres and organisers of EYF projects, 9 to 14 May at the EYC Strasbourg. The course gathered 29 participants including participants with disabilities, and sign language interpretation was provided. The course was an opportunity to promote the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe in relation to youth work and non-formal education. It enhanced the competences of organisers, facilitators, trainers, and youth leaders from youth organisations to carry out projects based on non-formal education principles and approaches. Considering the objectives of the training course and its strategic value as an opportunity to support youth organisations to step up their practices of non-formal education, it was proposed to hold another edition in 2023.

In September 2022, the EYF organised a workshop on sustainability in youth projects, in co-operation with the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth. The workshop brought together representatives from 17 international organisations who exchanged on practical ways to factor sustainability in their projects.

The EYF also implemented a two-day workshop for youth organisations from Hungary on the EYF grant programmes and other Council of Europe's youth sector opportunities for co-operation, on 6 and 7 December at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Further to an EYF training session on inclusion and diversity in granted projects and beneficiary organisations (November 2021), the EYF developed an Inclusion Toolbox – a guide on inclusive practices in youth-led projects – which was published on the EYF website as a resource for youth organisations.



EYF presentations

The EYF responds to invitations and participates in activities organised by youth organisations or EYF partners to present its work and funding opportunities to encourage international youth co-operation. In 2022 the EYF made 21 presentations about its grant programmes in study sessions organised at the European Youth Centres and in the activities of the youth sector and other departments of the Council of Europe. Presentations were occasions to exchange with different stakeholders about the needs of young people and to reach out to new organisations.

In February 2022, the EYF team was reinforced with a new staff member to strengthen the EYF educational support to youth organisations. With this additional resource, the EYF was able to step up educational activities and strengthen further the quality of youth projects submitted for EYF funding.



COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The EYF focuses its approach to communication and visibility in three areas:

- ▶ The visibility of EYF as a donor/partner for the grantee youth organisations
- ▶ The visibility of EYF in terms of reaching out to new and relevant youth organisations
- ▶ The visibility of EYF within the Council of Europe, and in relation to its member states and the statutory bodies of the youth sector.

Grantee organisations are a key source of visibility for the EYF as a donor and partner. They are required, upon approval of their grant, to include a reference to the EYF in their project materials and publications, to tag the EYF in their social media posts, to include a presentation of the EYF in their activities, and to ensure the EYF poster at the venue of their activities. They are also invited to use the work/materials of the Council of Europe in their projects. EYF project visits provide additional opportunities for visibility.

The EYF team is also available during the implementation of EYF-supported projects for questions or needs of the grantee organisations. This continuous communication between EYF and the youth organisations is important with respect to developing and sustaining qualitative work.

In 2022, through its own initiatives and support measures, the EYF reached out to youth organisations and shared with them the relevant information about its grant programme during online information sessions, training sessions (see specific chapter of the annual report).

The EYF has also been active in 2022 to increase its visibility within the Council of Europe and towards its member states. This has happened through the EYF attendance and input at the meetings of the statutory bodies of the youth sector, through synergies with other departments of the Council of Europe, as well as through thematic reporting, for example on gender mainstreaming. The previous year's annual report has also been completed on time and shared with key stakeholders and on the EYF website.

In 2022, the EYF has taken several steps to revive and steer its communication and visibility work. Firstly, internally, a new communication plan was agreed and followed. Secondly, the tools used for external communication, notably the website, have

been updated with key information. Thirdly, efforts were made to update youth organisations and other key stakeholders about the EYF deadlines, calls, tools, and other initiatives.

Based on feedback from youth organisations regarding the use of the EYF online system, changes were made to the registrations forms for youth organisations to clarify the type of information needed from them. This step has led to clearer and more focused information and a shorter time for the registrations of new organisations.

In 2022, the EYF has produced various promotional materials, notebooks, pens, tote bags. These were all distributed throughout the year to youth organisations for usage in their projects.

In 2022, the EYF website was actively updated and enriched, some examples:

- ▶ The number of news items increased significantly in comparison to the previous years.
- ▶ The website structure was revised to streamline key information and avoid repetitions.
- ▶ New sections were added about gender equality, non-formal education, sustainability, and inclusion in youth projects.
- ▶ The sections with resources from the grantee NGOs were enriched.
- ▶ Summaries of the projects supported within the special call of the "Democracy here. Democracy now" campaign were published.

In terms of social media, the EYF continued to use Facebook to share its main updates and interact with the projects it supports. At the end of 2022, the Facebook page of the EYF had over 14 000 followers.

In 2022, the EYF also updated its leaflet and its institutional PowerPoint presentation.

Efforts were made to increase the visibility of the EYF in the youth sector's newsletter, "Think Youth". Throughout the year, 20 news items related to the EYF activities and grants were included and a new section on "EYF-supported projects in the spotlight" was added to bring visibility to the projects carried out by youth organisations with the support of the EYF.



The European Youth Foundation supports international youth co-operation by providing financial support to European activities that promote peace, understanding and co-operation between young people of Europe and the world, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member States, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member States have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

