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Budapest, 24 February 2022

Training Course on
Essentials of Non-Formal Education
for organisers and facilitators of study sessions at
the European Youth Centres and of projects
supported by the European Youth Foundation

9-14 May 2022

European Youth Centre Strasbourg

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: 20 March 2022

BACKGROUND

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe provides educational support and expertise for quality international youth activities aiming to promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, central to the mission of the Council of Europe. This is done mostly through partnerships with youth organisations holding study sessions in the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg. It also includes supporting financially youth-led activities through the European Youth Foundation (EYF). Educational resources have been developed for this purpose such as Compass, Gender Matters and the Manual for Facilitators (add links where relevant).

Non-formal education refers to planned, structured programmes and processes of personal and social education for young people designed to improve a range of skills and competences, outside the formal educational curriculum-

Compass – Manual on human rights education with young people

The role of non-formal education as a methodology and approach in enabling quality youth activities is also recognised within the [Council of Europe Youth Sector strategy 2030](#), adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2020. The Youth Department works to to continuously strengthen the opportunities for young people to take part in, and organise, quality non-formal education activities based on the principles laid out by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and to support young people to make use of the educational resources that have been created in partnership with young people.

To this end, the Youth Department has established a set of its [quality standards in non-formal education activities](#). The standards relate to the function of intercultural non-formal activities with young people in promoting the right to human rights education, peace-building and intercultural dialogue where intercultural learning has a central role in content and methodology of the activities. Quality in concerns the whole spectrum of context, partners, people, methods and stages of the activity or project.

[The European Youth Foundation](#) (EYF) is a fund established by the Council of Europe to provide financial and educational support for European youth activities. Currently, the Foundation supports around 150 youth activities a year that are implemented by youth organisations or networks. The EYF supports local and international youth projects with a strong educational component, based on the principles of non-formal education, addressing societal challenges affecting young people, in line with the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

[Study sessions](#) are based on co-operation between the partner organisations and the Youth Department and hosted in one of the European Youth Centres. Study sessions are international educational youth activities, lasting up to eight days, which bring together members of youth organisations or networks and experts for discussions on a specific subject leading to conclusions relevant to the priorities and programmes of the Council of Europe's youth sector. Creativity and innovation in methodological as well as thematic terms are also important aspects of study sessions.

In all cases, the quality of the activities depends on the competences, ability and motivation of the organisers and, especially, the facilitators to plan and deliver a programme and methodology in line with non-formal education principles. Many facilitators are volunteers, regardless of the role that they play in the activity (trainers, multipliers, youth leaders); their

status as volunteers does not mean that their activities are qualitatively less relevant. However, facilitators who have the possibility to receive training are more likely to plan educational activities that correspond to the expectations of all those involved; the participants, the organisers, the facilitators and the sponsors or partners, such as the Council of Europe.

THE TRAINING COURSE

The training course on essentials of non-formal education for facilitators will bring together young people who are trainers, facilitators or organisers of non-formal education activities and are likely to be involved in upcoming study sessions or activities supported by the European Youth Foundation. The training course will focus on developing a common understanding and practical implications of the principles and approaches of intercultural non-formal education activities, particularly in the context of the Council of Europe's Youth Department.

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe works through strong partnerships with youth organisations and networks. This training course has been designed to support these partnerships through a focus on the principles of non-formal education underlying the activities organised in the European Youth Centres or in the member states of the Council of Europe through the EYF. The training course will provide a space for youth leaders acting as facilitators to meet and exchange experiences and develop their skills in non-formal education and to gain a common understanding of the priorities and approaches of the Youth Department.

The course will furthermore make use of the Youth Department Manual for Facilitators in Non-formal Education, to support participants in being able to use it directly in their work and in their organisations more broadly.

The aim of the training course

To support organisers of study sessions and EYF-supported activities in implementing quality intercultural non-formal education activities with a multiplying effect building on standards of the Council of Europe youth sector.

Objectives

- To strengthen participants' competences in using non-formal education with young people including the understanding of the main principles, the skills needed to use non-formal education approaches and the attitudes underlining these educational approaches
- To foster a common understanding of the essential approaches and methodologies in non-formal education as applied in the European Youth Centres and in the European Youth Foundation
- To share best practices on implementation of study sessions or EYF supported activities
- To support participants in increasing their understanding of the full project cycle in organising a non-formal education activity in relation to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, including the application process, implementation and reporting
- To explore how study sessions and activities supported through the EYF can have a multiplying impact
- To get familiar with the existing tools and manuals produced by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, and the principles, standards, and priorities they build on, and reflect on their practical use in upcoming activities.

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

The content and methodology of the course are designed to make participants reflect on and experience non-formal education. It will build on experiential learning, individual reflection, and exchange of practices among participants by using the participatory methods of learning, such as working groups and facilitated discussions. The programme will include elements of sharing experiences and best practices of organising non-formal activities in the context of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and outside to support peer-learning between participants.

The course will itself apply the quality standards in non-formal education produced by the Youth Department.

The course will be implemented following three main steps:

1. **Exploring** non-formal education: facilitation, programme design, evaluation, learning theories and styles.
2. **Applying** Council of Europe tools and principles including the Manual for Facilitators and the quality standards in non-formal education.
3. **Multiplying and sharing** lessons learnt and best practices on non-formal education in youth activities.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Profile of participants

Participants of the training course are expected to be:

- trainers, facilitators or organisers of upcoming study sessions at the European Youth Centres or activities receiving financial support of the EYF
- in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the training to teams carrying out activities (study sessions, EYF activities) in the next years
- have some previous experience with non-formal education methodology (as trainers, facilitators or participants) and motivation to develop their competences.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30
- Be committed to attend for the full duration of the course
- Be able to work in English.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

The call is open to all interested applicants, but priority will be given to team members of upcoming activities in 2022 and 2023 (planned or expected). Organisations wishing to nominate several applicants should state the internal priority between these applicants. This should be stated in the support letter by the organisation.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

The training course will take place at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 9 to 14 May 2022. All participants are expected to attend in person.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training course will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form.

Enrolment fee

An enrolment fee of 60 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYCS during the training course.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

COVID protocol

A special COVID protocol will be shared with participants upon selection. This includes rules and recommendations for a safe stay in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. All participants are expected to follow this protocol during the training course.

Application, procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

The Council of Europe will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established.

Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list.

The application form must be submitted on-line with the support letters before **20 March 2022**, 23:59 CET at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>.