

## **Info session on the Call one-off international youth co-operation projects Ukraine (2026.C4.A)**

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**GEORGESCU Mara**

Hello. This session aims to give you further information and answer your questions about the call we've launched in July around international youth cooperation related to Ukraine. The session includes an introduction, the presentation of the application form and a presentation about how to prepare your budget. We will take questions in several moments.

This call we are launching now is for proposals for international one-off youth cooperation activities. In the past, maybe some of you are aware, we had a wider call in support of Ukraine that included many different possibilities of actions. This call now is a way to actually also keep international focus, international attention to the situation in Ukraine and to the situation of young people from Ukraine. So, this is a very important call for proposals because it really goes at the heart of what we are as the European Youth Foundation.

Firstly, we are part of the Council of Europe as a fund. And the Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation with 46 member states. The Council of Europe's mission, since its creation in 1949, is to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the member states to ensure society and societies where peace, prosperity can happen. This is our mission.

At the moment, and this has been the case for several years now, even if you look on the Council of Europe in general and its work in general, even beyond youth, you will see that supporting Ukraine is a key objective. And this happens through different cooperation programmes and different mechanisms of support. And one of them is in the youth field, also our call. But there is more to what we are doing as an organisation for Ukraine, as Council of Europe. I think it is useful for you to check a little bit on that beyond the youth field to see also what the Council of Europe is doing in Ukraine. There is also an office of the Council of Europe in Kyiv where there is coordination of our different programmes there. And there is also a cooperation programme in the field of youth with staff and support in Ukraine directly.

This is about the Council of Europe. I'll not go deeper because I think there are other places to find out more, but just as a reminder, and here I turn to what is the

Foundation. We were created in 1972 in order to support youth cooperation, to provide financial support to activities that serve the promotion of peace. And with this call, we are very much connected to this aspect of our work, but also understanding and cooperation in the spirit of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are a fund and we are supporting youth organisations to build up peace and to promote our values.

We work with youth organisations from the 46 member states. Now, there are also organisations we work with that extend beyond the 46 member states, and that's great, because of course, some of the concerns of young people go beyond any borders. But to be eligible, an organisation needs to be based in one of the 46 member states.

We provide funding for both youth-led projects, as well as for the operations of notably international youth organisations.

We are part of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

Per year we have an approximate budget of 4 million euro.

What is important for us really that we continue to support youth-led projects and international cooperation activities, notably to allow young people to promote democracy and human rights.

How can you apply for any EYF call? First of all, you need to register with us. So that means that there is a new granting platform [support4youth.coe.int](https://support4youth.coe.int). There, you need to create an account and once the account is created, you need to fill in a registration form for your organisation. In the form, you will present your organisation, your activities, your statute, and answer some questions. We have this first step as a due diligence step where we actually can make sure that we continue to fund youth-led organisations. If you are not registered with the EYF, you need to do it immediately. And if you are, you are probably being at the moment migrated from the old platform to the new platform. Once you are registered, you will be able to apply for different calls. For the calls for proposals that are more project-based, we will ask you to fill in a narrative and a financial form for presenting your proposal.

Then what happens after the deadline? There is a first technical assessment that we do according to the criteria specific to each call. We first check if the organisations and the proposals are eligible and then we assess them on the basis of the award criteria. These are criteria you have in the call, so you can see exactly what we are

looking for and what we are looking at. And then on the basis of this report we prepare, the decision making on the grants is in the mandate of our Programming Committee on Youth, which is a committee that involves 8 representatives of member states and 8 representatives from youth organisations.

Let's see now what kind of projects we fund. The projects we usually fund are of an educational, cultural, social nature. These are projects where young people have a very important role to play, be it as beneficiaries, be it as direct, indirect participants as you want to call them, but also being leaders, youth leaders in the project. The projects we fund are by, with, for young people.

Projects also need to be in line with the youth sector's approaches, such as intercultural learning, young people's participation, and human rights education. It is all about creating space for international understanding and cooperation among young people.

What about this call? What is this call about? Within this mission of supporting international one-off youth cooperation activities, our specific focus here is to support initiatives by and for young people from Ukraine. Usually this would be international youth meetings, between young people from Ukraine, either based in Ukraine or in other countries, and other young people from the other member states.

If it comes to the topics, if young people are meeting, what are they supposed to be discussing about? We have 4 priorities in our sector around democracy, access to rights, living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, which includes a part also in combating discrimination, for example, as well as the development of youth work activities with young people.

One of the things I need to make you aware of already now is that when you apply for a project, you know, if it's very focused, it's also very fine. You could say, okay, I'm looking at these priorities. They all look very promising, but I just want to work on one issue, which could be, I don't know, the situation of young veterans in Ukraine and how youth work can help them. That's quite specific, right? As opposed to saying, okay, I'll prepare a project proposal on all these topics, which is a bit more difficult because then they are quite big topics. And just "solving" them through one meeting may be difficult. Hence, I invite you to consider the priorities, but also to

consider going deeper in the priorities and checking which aspect you want to focus on from the perspective of the young people you are working with first and foremost. Start with their needs, their wishes, their dreams, as opposed to saying, okay, I need to figure out how I include all of these four priorities somehow. You can just pick up a very specific issue and then work on that, as opposed to a very general proposal that deals with everything, but then it risks being a little bit maybe superficially dealing with some issues.

Moving ahead. Here we're really looking at more specific objectives of the call. We mention here emerging needs of young people from Ukraine in the context of the war of aggression. Start your proposal from the needs you observe, your organisation sees, what you think is important, what the young people think is important. We want through this call also to support participation in democratic societies, in youth organisations, in action or mobilisation. We want to allow people to meet, to discuss different topics important for democracy from perspective of accessing rights, peace and combating discrimination. As I mentioned, most of the focus is in meetings of young people in international groups, this is a really very good way to also promote intercultural dialogue, to confront different perspectives, to learn from each other, to build something together, to cooperate.

The last objective is building capacities of young people for future action. This is also an important focus of the Foundation, to try, through the projects that we fund, to create some buzz, if you like, or ripple effect by which young people can also then talk to others, initiate new activities in their contexts.

These call objectives are also good tests where you think of your proposal to say, okay, am I doing this? Did I think of intercultural dialogue in the context of an international meeting of young people? Am I building specific skills of young people or attitudes or what am I working on? You can also use the objectives of the call in that way.

More practically, what are we going to fund? We're going to fund international meetings of young people. The format can be a camp, a seminar, a conference, a training course, a study visit, you name it. This list is not exhaustive. However, when we say meeting, this is not an online meeting, it's an in-person meeting.

The participants should be residing in at least seven Council of Europe member states. Inadequate country representation, I need to stop a little bit here and say, what is that? If you have one person from Ukraine coming to your activity, and then you have 29 young people from other member states, we might say, well, you know, you're putting a lot also of pressure on that young participant. Maybe you need to have a different kind of numbers from different countries and from young people from Ukraine. We are really, really very much stressing this, young people from Ukraine must be participants. They can also be part of the team of the activity. And of course, if they reside in other member states, it's also fine.

We advise against proposals where you are kind of involving young people from Ukraine very late on in the proposal. We would like to see more proposals where they are involved in all stages and even in the planning.

We have also some limitations in terms of age since we are a youth Foundation. Among your participants, at least 75% shouldn't be older than 30. The team of the activity, and by team we mean who prepares the activity, but also who facilitates the sessions of the programme, trainers, experts. The team needs to be diverse, and include experts or trainers, facilitators, team members from Ukraine.

As we are a Foundation part of a youth sector that promotes non-formal education, youth work, youth participation, human rights education, we also look at these aspects in your proposals. We have a set of quality standards that could help you in the preparation of your proposals.

Now, there are some technical aspects as to where projects can start and end. They need to start in December this year. They need to end in latest on 31 December 2027. When we say project is really from the moment where you start working on organising the meeting of young people. The meeting may happen in 2027, but the preparations need to start as of December 2026. The project duration is a different thing than the actual duration of your meeting, and you need to take these parameters into account.

How about the budget? The maximum amount of the grant is 25 000 euro, you will need to have some form of co-funding to it, which can also be in kind.

In the call, you will find a list of ineligible activities that I would really invite you to consult, because for example, we cannot do things such as renovating a building.

There are also some criteria of exclusion for the grant, which are mostly related to the organisation applying. For this, we would ask you to check them and to make a self-declaration in the application form.

As for who can apply, by the time of the deadline, your organisation needs to be an active or validated organisation in the EYF granting system as, either an international non-governmental youth organisation, or an international network of youth organisations or a sub-regional network or even a national non-governmental youth organisation. National youth organisations need to have either three partners in other countries or a partner as an international, non-governmental youth organisation or network. Have a close look in the call on the applicants. Only the main applicant needs to be registered with the EYF, not the partners.

I wanted to just give you some examples of the kind of meetings we supported in the past, just for you to have an idea, because we've had a similar call in the past four years. So, some examples. We gave a grant to a project that was supporting deaf people affected by the war. And they had a meeting, a seminar of four days to learn about each other to see how they can get politically active. The main topic was around political participation and leadership.

Another example: the proposal started from the problem of low awareness around the environmental damage caused by the war of aggression that affects Ukraine and the fact that young people don't have skills to advocate for the protection of the environment. The grantee organisation ran a five-day seminar mobilising 25 young people from our cross-border cooperation, providing the space to develop skills to advocate on environmental issues at different levels. They created as a result a digital campaign on talking more about the environmental consequences of the war.

Another example, this was about engaging young people in a discussion around the post-war recovery of Ukraine through a three-day workshop. Fifteen participants equally split between Ukrainians and European peers developed different policy

proposals for the reconstruction of Ukraine. They worked on these proposals and they published them in a vision paper. And now the organisation is doing this advocacy work to make sure that whenever there is an international discussion about the reconstruction of Ukraine, there is also attention paid to the proposals of young people.

Let's take some questions.

1. What is the part of the co-funding needed for a proposal? The co-funding is more of a principle now for us. What counts as co-funding can be in-kind, can be the time of your volunteers if you work with volunteers, can be also financial contributions, private or from different donors. There is no specific threshold.

2. I just wanted to check about the seven countries participating in the meeting. That means that they're the Ukrainian beneficiaries and six other representatives of youth organisations or whatever that participate and that's an absolute requisite. If there are only four or five and not seven, is it still possible? For this call, what is important is that the young people are residing in at least, and I would underline also at least, seven different member states. They could be of any nationality, what matters is where they reside now.

Let's check the narrative application form now. On our website, we have the application form in Word and I'll open it from there. We also have the budget application form. You can use these files to prepare your proposal, but then you need to submit the proposal through the forms which are on [support4youth.coe.int](https://support4youth.coe.int)

We are asking for a contact person, project title, venues and countries, project start date and end date. Indicate then the number of working days of the international meeting. We usually advise for a duration of at least 4 working days, and justified exceptions can be made.

In the next section, the more substantial questions around the proposal are included. For each question, there are limits of characters. We are asking here about the format of your meeting. What is it that you want to have the meeting for? Why are you

proposing this and is there any connexion between the meeting or the proposal you make and the goals of the call? This is a first overview.

Then we are asking about your objectives. What do you want to achieve at the end of this? In this same section, you can also explain if you want beyond what you will achieve as, I don't know, new capacities of young people, new networking, new solutions, new policy papers, and do on. If there are also some clear outputs, for example, a publication, a website, videos, a podcast, a manual, you can also add this information.

What is the programme idea of this meeting of young people? Of course, between draft programme and the programme, as it will happen, there will be changes, don't worry, but we just want to have, what's your idea of what this meeting of young people would look like? What kind of sessions will the programme contain?

And then we are also asking what is your approach, for example, to youth participation, to make the meetings inclusive, and if you have any considerations, for example, around gender equality or other, as we call them, value-based considerations.

We're also asking some questions about your project team. If you do not know who will be in the team, indicate the team members' profiles.

And then you need to indicate project partners. For national youth organisations, this is a compulsory field, for international youth organisations and networks and sub-regional networks, this is not compulsory.

Finally, we ask about the participants, how many they are, where they are based, and also their age range. Of course, again, this is an estimate and maybe the age will change if a participant drops out and another one is replacing them. What you need to bear in mind on the participants is this: at least 75% of them need to be up to and inclusive of 30 years. We're also asking about what kind of participants do you want to recruit?

Let's take more questions.

1. The limit of characters includes spaces? Yes.

2. If our organisation is national, when we need 3 partners in other countries? Yes. The 3 partners need to be youth organisations and need to be based each in a different country.

3. Can a partner be a university from Ukraine? As a national youth organisation, you need to have as partners three other youth NGOs based in other member states. Additionally to these partners, you can work with the university as an additional partner. The minimal is that you have three partners in other countries that are youth NGOs.

4. Does the EYF take into account how many years the organisation has been active? No, we don't assess this.

5. We are the national branch of an international youth organisation that is already registered with the EYF. Who can apply to this call? The international youth organisation can apply, and they are already registered, so the process could be more direct. The national branch organisation may also submit first their registration and, if accepted, they can also apply with partners.

Let's now look into how to best prepare the budget for your proposal.

### **LERCH Katalin**

There is a legal background of the of the EYF. There is a statute, there are operational regulations, and we also have a guide to the EYF grants, where you can find information on preparing budgets and reporting on grants. Please consult this guide, you find it easily on our website.

I will show you how it's set up. There is a section how to apply and report by type of expenditure, that part you will see, for example, at local travel cost, which are considered as local travel cost. These are travel costs which occur during the activity like project visit, like moving between venues, and then specifically, when you apply, the guide explains what to do, so you must indicate the estimate cost. When reporting, you will the documents you will need when you report on the local travel cost. So, this is just to show you the logic.

Let's go through each section.

Travel costs: for us, these are lump sums or a unit cost per travel. You will see this table. When you apply, you will see this table. This is actually the new screen of the online system. When you prepare your budget, you can see that you need to provide information on the trips for the preparatory meeting, main event and follow up event.

When reporting, we will calculate the unit rates, please consult them in the guide. You are also asked to indicate the amount of co-funding per each section.

Accommodation and meals: you need to make an estimate when applying. The reporting will be on real costs.

Human resources: there are two subcategories. There are salaries of staff members employed by your NGO. And then there are fees for experts or trainers or interpreters or consultants. Normally, these fees of trainers, they come with short-term expert contracts dedicated to a specific task in the project. And then, of course, when you apply, you need to give us, for example, for the salaries, the gross salaries calculated for a month divided by the number of working days and multiplied by the number of days dedicated to the project. So actually, if you have a staff member which dedicates, I mean, 50% of his or her salary, then you have to put it in the budget form. You have to calculate the salary per day and then how many days this person dedicates to the project. And for example, this person dedicates all together, I don't know, 30 days for this project. And then this calculation will be done. For experts, it's different. You have to give the daily fee and how many days you pay these experts for. And then the calculation will be done by the system.

Equipment and supplies: here you can put all the purchasing of office supplies, material, what you need for your project. This cost category also includes the purchase of low value items such as laser pointers, chargers, small microphone, with the maximum total value of 300 euro per grant. You can also indicate rental cost of equipment, as well if you need it for your project. And this is the new screen here where you can fill in that material and office supplies for the whole event, how many units and what is the average cost per unit.

Supplementary expenditure and services: here, you can put meeting room rental here, technical production of project outputs here, visibility and communication cost as well into this section.

Multiplier activities: you just need to create a contract between the grantee organisation and the multiplier. And then you will have, you will find in the appendix 2 on page 40 in the guide, a kind of template for this kind of contract, what you have to set up with your multipliers.

At the end of the form, you will find the co-funding and the comments of co-funding.

Indirect eligible costs are eligible costs but not referred to any previous budget category. This category may include all costs related to the office of your organisation, cost of an accountant, for example. The system will automatically calculate this indirect eligible cost as 7% of the grant. So actually, you don't have to do anything. The system will do it as an automatic calculation. In case the award is lowered by the Programming Committee, the 7% will be recalculated. In the reporting phase, you don't have to give us any receipts or any invoices for the 7%.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to procurement. Your organisation must follow the relevant national legislation. Before signing contracts with suppliers, for example, it's important that you have a few offers maybe and try to get the best value for money to you try to find the best deal actually. You can also use competitive calls. Please, check carefully the national legislation.

As for the documentation, you need to keep all documentation for 10 years for further audits.

As for payments of the grant, the first instalment is always 80% payable upon the signature of the grant agreement, or if the project starts later, but it's in the year than 10 weeks before. The final instalment up to 20% is payable upon the EYF approval of the final project report, both narrative and financial. You must report on your project after two months from the date and from the end date of your project.

## **GEORGESCU Mara**

Let's take some questions now.

I have a question about project outputs. Is it always necessary that it's a tangible outcome? The short answer is no. Produce whatever is meaningful for your young people and for your project. The focus should remain on the meaningful experience young people have during the international meeting, what they learn, what they decide to do next. However, if you want to produce something, it is also possible, but it is not obligatory.

Let's then look into the process of applying.

The applicant organisation must be registered with us and apply through the online system [support4youth.coe.int](https://support4youth.coe.int)

The deadline is 1 September 2026, 23:59 CEST.

Some tips for applying:

Read the call several times. Read also the EYF guide and the funding priorities. This is really needed reading for preparing a proposal.

You need to agree with your partners and your project team on the focus of your proposal. In principle, since the project should reflect the needs, the wishes of young people, if you can have conversations with them already to say, okay, what should we work on? It's very important that you do so and that you also look at the situation of young people from Ukraine specifically.

Another tip. The budget is an estimated budget. Estimate to the best of your capacities. If the grant is awarded, there are possibilities to make modifications.

Another tip. Avoid a proposal that wants to solve everything in just a few days of a youth meeting. We know that young people may need time to get to know each other, to learn from each other, to reflect, to find solutions. Propose an activity that is focused and meaningful.

Make use of the resources that our sector has produced. We have, for example, toolkits on project management and financial management. This can help you focus your proposal.