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Strasbourg, 1 March 2022

### **To youth organisations interested in cooperating with the Council of Europe youth sector**

We are pleased to inform you that the process for applications for activities to be held in co-operation with the European Youth Centres as part of the Youth for Democracy programme in the first semester of 2023 is now open. These activities concern, for the main part, study sessions and "special projects". The specific conditions and criteria for the activities are appended to this message, together with an application form.

The programme of activities for 2023 will be run according to the priorities and programme orientations decided by the Joint Council on Youth for the period 2022 – 2025. Accordingly, we invite you to submit proposals for activities falling within the following expected results:

#### **1 Revitalising pluralistic democracy:**

- Advocating for the right of young people to exercise their right to assemble and to freely form, join and be active in associations, expanding the space for youth civil organisations to develop and advancing young people's participation in political processes
- Understanding the impact of artificial intelligence and supporting youth participation in artificial intelligence and Internet governance processes
- Implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life by developing the capacity of youth organisations to facilitate participation of young people in decision-making processes at local level, with a focus on young people in rural areas, from minorities, or vulnerable groups
- Understanding and addressing the impact of climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy.

#### **2 Young people's access to rights:**

- Implementing the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) on young people's access to rights
- Implementing the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)3](#) on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation)
- Human rights education with young people (continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme)
- Information, data and media literacy with children and young people
- Addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and the exercise of social rights, including physical and mental health.

#### **3 Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies:**

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

- Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism;
- social inclusion of young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- multiple discrimination and intersectionality (including gender equality, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability).

Enabling young people to promote peaceful societies by providing them with opportunities to play an active role in:

- intercultural dialogue; peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions.

Enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people in rural communities.

#### **4 Youth work:**

- Dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)4](#) on youth work and promoting a European youth work agenda;
- Quality development and recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning
- Pursuing quality development and innovation (including digitalisation) in capacity-building activities.

More details about specific issues addressed under each priority can be found in this [page with the 2022-25 priorities](#). For the Council of Europe, study sessions represent an important way of associating young people to Youth for Democracy programme and a concrete means of support to youth organisations and networks, notably by covering the costs of the activity and providing educational support.

Youth organisations and networks intending to apply for a study session for the first semester of 2023 should send their application by **15 April 2022** to [eyc.studysessions@coe.int](mailto:eyc.studysessions@coe.int).

We hope that the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic will allow us to implement the 2023 programme according to expectations so the European Youth Centres can fully play their role as educational institutions for intercultural learning, European cooperation and youth participation. Please visit regularly our [internet site](#) for updates. In case of doubt or in need of advice, please contact my colleagues in the Youth Department at [eyc.studysessions@coe.int](mailto:eyc.studysessions@coe.int)

Thank you in advance for your support and interest in cooperating with the Council of Europe.



Antje Rothemund  
Head of Department