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Strasbourg, 19 February 2025

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 2026 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 2026 will be run according to the priorities and programme orientations decided by the Joint Council on Youth for the period 2024 – 2027. Accordingly, we invite you to submit proposals for activities falling within the following expected results:

1. Revitalising pluralistic democracy, with the following orientations:

- Advocating for 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, with a focus on young people in rural areas, from minorities, or vulnerable groups
- Addressing the impact of climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy.

2. Young people's access to rights, with the following orientations:

- Implementing the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) on young people's access to rights
- Facilitating the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights ([Enter! Recommendation](#))
- Citizenship and [human rights education with young people](#) (implementing the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE)
- 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, with the following orientations:

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.

4. **Youth work**, with the following orientations:


- 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 methodologies in youth work and non-formal education/learning
- Enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people in rural communities.

More details about specific issues addressed under each priority can be found in this [page with the 2024-2027 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 2026 should send their application by **15 April 2025** to eyc.studyssessions@coe.int.

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



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