



Call for proposals for ad hoc youth initiatives “Living and building democracy” (2026.C3.C)

European Youth Foundation

- ▶ Intergovernmental organisation with 46 member States
- ▶ Since 1949, created in the aftermath of WWII
- ▶ Based in Strasbourg, France
- ▶ 3 pillars: human rights, democracy, rule of law
- ▶ Key objective today: New Democratic Pact for Europe

“(...) The aim of the Foundation is to promote youth cooperation in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities that serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation between the people of Europe and of the world, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

Article 1, Statute of the European Youth Foundation

- ▶ Partnership and financial support for youth organisations from 46 member States of the Council of Europe for youth-led projects and for their operations
- ▶ Part of the Council of Europe - Youth Department
- ▶ Since 1972
- ▶ Approximately 4 million euro per year
- ▶ Based in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg
- ▶ Supporting youth-led projects and international co-operation activities of youth organisations that allow young people to promote democracy and human rights and multiply Council of Europe values and work in their contexts.

REGISTRATION

Online form, documents of the NGO

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Online calls, proposals with a narrative and financial part

ASSESSMENT

By EYF secretariat, on the basis of criteria specific to each call

DECISION

By the Programming Committee on Youth, co-managed committee involving 8 representatives of member States and 8 representatives of youth organisations

- Educational, cultural, social projects by, with and for young people
- Contribution to youth sector priorities and using youth sector approaches
- European dimension, international solidarity, supporting peace and co-operation
- Youth participation

Main aim: Support youth initiatives that empower young people to learn about and actively engage in democracy and human rights.

Objectives:

- Create space for young people to learn more about democracy and the role of human rights therein, in relation to specific challenges to democracies in the current European context.
- Allow young people to develop their attitudes, views and specifically their critical thinking for building a democratic culture, including when using the digital space.
- Equip young people with citizenship skills and ways to take active part in democratic processes and human rights promotion.

Responses to specific challenges young people face in engaging with democratic processes, such as challenges around misinformation and manipulation, disinformation and fake news, barriers to voting, limited participation in political and governance processes, etc.

Applicants: registered in the granting system of the European Youth Foundation as a local youth organisation or as a national youth organisation.

Main parameters:

- **Activities:** awareness-raising and educational initiatives that directly engage young people in learning about democracy and human rights and learning how to be active therein. Activities must have an **educational dimension** (for example, by exploring what democracy and human rights are, how a democracy functions, different ways how people can be involved in democracy, as well as the threats to democracy, and the links between democracy and human rights), as well as a **youth engagement dimension**, supporting and empowering young people to be part of democratic processes, youth organisations, civil society initiatives and other forms of participation.
- **Approach:** human rights education and education for democratic citizenship
- **Focus on:** strengthening critical thinking of young people and fostering their participation in democratic processes and civic life, within a European/global context of erosion of democracy.
- **Impact** for young people and their local communities.

Main parameters:

- **Participants:** young people interested in taking part in such initiatives, and who have had limited or no prior opportunities to engage in similar actions. Participants: at least 75% are not older than 30 years of age; residing in at least one Council of Europe member State (with the possibility of including participants from other States, if justified).
- **Duration:** Projects can start between 20 November 2026 and 31 December 2026; end of projects: latest 30 June 2027. Maximum duration of 6 months.
- **Use resources:** Council of Europe *acquis* and educational resources, such as [Compass – Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People](#) and other [resources](#), as well as of the [European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#), as a policy framework.
- **Budget:** maximum 8 000 euro, co-funding
- Ineligible activities
- Excluded applicants (self-declaration in the application)

Questions and answers

Let's open the application form

How to prepare the budget of your proposal

How to apply?

a. Registration

- a. Online system will be available end of July 2026
- b. Until then, if not registered already with the EYF on fej.coe.int, prepare your documentation
- c. If registered already with the EYF on fej.coe.int, just follow the information on migration of NGO data

b. Application: narrative form and budget form.

c. Deadline 1 September 23.59 CEST

Forms available in Word / Excel formats, but applications only received via online system of the EYF.

Tips:

1. Read the call several times, read the EYF guide and get more familiar with Council of Europe resources
2. Agree with your partners and project team on the focus of your proposal. Prepare your proposal with the young people!
3. The budget is an estimated budget. Estimate to the best of your capacities.
4. Consider carefully the priority of the call : avoid a proposal that is about everything. Identify the challenge and need carefully.
5. Use the resources of the youth sector, for example [T-kit project management](#).

STAY TUNED FOR OPEN CALLS



website – **eyf.coe.int**



granting system – **support4youth.coe.int**



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