



Strasbourg, 14 January 2019

Priorities for the 2020-2021 programme of activities of the Council of Europe's Youth Sector

Guidelines for submitting grant applications to the European Youth Foundation

The strategic priorities for each biennial programme of the Council of Europe's youth sector are defined by the Joint Council on Youth, which is the central co-managed political body of the youth sector.

The three strategic priorities for the 2020-2021 biennium¹ are:

1. Access to rights
2. Youth participation and youth work
3. Inclusive and peaceful societies

The Programming Committee on Youth is the co-managed body taking decisions on the programme of the youth sector, including the grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation.

When taking its decisions, the Programming Committee on Youth examines a proposed project's links with these priorities (expected results) and how it can contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the youth sector.

The following expected results and programme orientations have been defined for 2020-2021 and should be taken into account by youth NGOs submitting a grant application to the EYF.

¹ Subject to approval by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

Priority 1: Access to rights

Expected result 1: Young people and youth organisations have been supported in accessing their rights and in advocating education for human rights and democracy

Programme orientations:

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| a. Implementing the roadmap on the dissemination of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and preparing its first five-year review. |
| b. Implementing support measures to member states, local authorities and youth organisations to follow-up the conclusions of the review of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation). |
| c. Continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, including information and media literacy with children and young people, as a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. |
| d. Continuing to identify and remedy the effects of shrinking civic space on young people and youth organisations. |

Young people's access to rights requires the removal of legal, political and social barriers. Young people and youth organisations furthermore need support in order to promote human rights and democracy, particularly in light of the trend towards a shrinking space for civil society. Any obstacles to their work have to be removed. This requires the co-operation of member states and youth organisations at local, regional, national and European levels.

The promotion of access to rights for all young people will be pursued with member states and youth organisations through measures to support the implementation of the Committee of Ministers' recommendations CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER!). Special attention will be paid to the continuation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme on- and offline, the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter as well as latest developments within the Council of Europe in the field of information and media literacy.

Priority 2: Youth participation and Youth work

Expected result 2: Youth organisations and member states have been supported in the development of youth policy and youth work for the democratic participation and autonomy of young people.

Programme orientations:

Youth participation
a. Supporting young people to access their rights to assemble and freely form, join and be active in associations; enhancing young people's meaningful participation in political processes.
b. Supporting youth participation in Internet governance processes.
c. Promoting the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and supporting member states and youth organisations to implement its principles.
d. Further disseminating the "Have your say" manual to public authorities and the non-governmental sector.
Youth work
e. Pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, developing and promoting a European youth work agenda;
f. Supporting the quality development, sustainability and recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning, notably through the use of Council of Europe instruments in the member states (e.g. through the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres and the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio).

The sustainability of the Council of Europe's core values relies also on the creativity, competences, social commitment, and contribution of young people as well as on their confidence in the future. Youth policies and youth work practice must support young people to realise their full potential as autonomous members of society, enabling them to develop life plans and exercise their democratic citizenship. Special attention will be paid to young people's meaningful participation in political processes.

Youth work as a social practice makes an important contribution to active citizenship and youth participation by providing opportunities to acquire the values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding required for effective civic engagement and social action in democratic culture. In this respect, special attention will be paid to the dissemination of Council of Europe standards in relation to the training of youth workers, their promotion through partners at national and European levels, institutional bodies of the Council of Europe (e.g. Congress of Local and Regional Authorities) and other sectors concerned, and to the quality of youth work provisions.

Throughout this priority, the participation of young people with disabilities and inclusive youth work will be promoted.

Priority 3: Inclusive and peaceful societies

Expected result 3: Youth workers and youth organisations have been supported in their work on peacebuilding and social cohesion to prevent and combat discrimination and exclusion.

Programme orientations for strategic priority 3:

Promoting social inclusion, fostering active participation, gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights - taking an intersectional approach - with a specific focus on:

- a. Roma youth and other minority groups;
- b. Young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- c. Young people with disabilities;
- d. LGBTQI young people;
- e. Young women and girls.

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

- f. Intercultural dialogue/learning;
- g. Peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- h. Challenging the rise of nationalism and populism;
- i. Co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions.

Preventing and counteracting discrimination, to allow the democratic participation of all young people, remain central to the Council of Europe's youth policy and a permanent concern of its partners. These are necessary steps to strengthen social cohesion and respect for diversity. The lives of too many young people are still shaped by conflicts and the absence of peace. Peaceful and inclusive societies also depend on the recognition of intersectionality and combating all forms of discrimination and social exclusion. Persistent forms of structural discrimination combined with prejudice impact negatively on the prospect of social inclusion and well-being of marginalised groups of young people, including young people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, young Roma, refugees and migrants, women and girls, LGBTQI youth, etc. Youth organisations and youth workers play an important role in supporting intercultural dialogue with neighbouring regions and involving young people in confidence-building and conflict-transformation activities in the spirit of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security and of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.