

Questions and answers

1. **Question:** In the Applicant section of the application form, we understand that the educational institution should be identified as the lead applicant/grantee. Could you please confirm whether this interpretation is correct?

Answer: Yes. In this scenario, the higher education institution should be identified as the Lead Applicant (Lead Grantee) and will be responsible for the overall management of the grant, including reporting obligations.

2. **Question:** Should each student involved in the project also be included in the Applicant section through separate applicant entries and identified as individual applicants? If not, should their names be listed as project team members within the project description?

Answer: Each member of the consortium should be included separately in the Applicant section of the application form. Therefore, in addition to the higher education institution, each student involved in the project should be listed as a consortium member and complete the sections applicable to natural persons. The students should not only be mentioned in the project description.

3. **Question:** Regarding the Signature section, if the students are considered individual applicants, would each of them also need to sign a “Grantee” signature box?

Answer: Yes. The higher education institution should sign as the Lead Grantee. Additional “Grantee” signature boxes may be added to the application form and each student participating as a consortium member should sign a separate signature box.

4. **Question:** Concerning the required CVs, whose CVs should be attached to the application? We would appreciate clarification on how to interpret the requirement that, “in the case of a legal person, [the CV should be] of the individuals proposed to be assigned to the project.”

Answer: Each student involved in the project should submit a CV. In addition, the higher education institution should submit the CV(s) of any staff member(s) who are expected to contribute to the implementation of the project. This may include academic supervisors, project coordinators or other staff assigned to the project.

5. **Question:** Should applicants include travel and accommodation costs related to participation in the Strasbourg event (9–11 November 2026) in their project budget? If not, can such costs be indicated as co-financing or own contribution?

Answer: Applicants should not include in their project budget any costs related to participation in the Strasbourg event for the person who would present the selected

project. If your proposal is selected for a grant, participation in the event is already included and the Council of Europe will cover the related travel and accommodation costs for **one representative** of the selected project.

Should you wish to send an additional accompanying person, any related costs would need to be covered by your organisation and could be indicated as your own contribution if relevant.

6. **Question:** How many representatives from a selected project may attend the Strasbourg event and present the project?

Answer: For projects selected under the grant scheme, we currently foresee support for **one representative per selected project** to attend and present the initiative in Strasbourg.

If your organisation considers it important for a second person (for example, a staff member accompanying the young project lead) to attend, this would need to be financed separately by your organisation.

7. **Question:** Is it necessary to apply separately under the Call for Participation if an application has already been submitted under the grant scheme?

Answer: We would nevertheless encourage applicants under the grant scheme to also apply through the separate call for participation.

Selected grant beneficiaries will automatically be invited to the event and will not need the participation call in order to attend. However, results of the grant selection process are expected to be communicated around mid-September. **Applying through the participation call therefore provides an additional opportunity to attend the event in case a project is not selected for funding.**

We hope this clarifies the process. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further questions.

8. **Question:** Is there an age limit for applicants? Do age restrictions also apply to organisations or project team members?

Answer: The age requirement applies only to applicants applying as natural persons. In such cases, applicants must be aged 18–30 as of the deadline for submission of applications.

Where an application is submitted by a legal entity (such as an association, NGO, media outlet, educational institution or other organisation), no age limit applies to the organisation itself or to the individuals involved in the implementation of the project.

The "youth" dimension of the call primarily relates to the objectives of the initiative and the target groups addressed by the proposed activities. Projects are therefore expected

to demonstrate meaningful youth engagement, participation and leadership, and to contribute to strengthening young people's understanding of journalism, media literacy, freedom of expression and democratic resilience.

Applications submitted by legal entities whose project teams include individuals over the age of 30 remain eligible, provided that the project meets the objectives and requirements of the call.