

EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH (CDEJ)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: **Steering Committee**

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2022 until 31 December 2025¹**

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME ▼
<p>Pillar: Democracy Programme: Democratic participation Sub-programme: Youth for democracy</p>
MAIN TASKS ▼
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDEJ will oversee the Council of Europe's programme in the field of youth and advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence. The overall aim is to stimulate co-operation between the governments of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention with a view to developing and implementing youth policies based on Council of Europe standards, thereby ensuring the participation of young people and facilitating young people's access to their rights. The CDEJ acts as the governmental partner in the co-management structures of the youth sector (the non-governmental partner being the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)); the CDEJ and the CCJ co-operate within the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) in order to establish the priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector.</p> <p>In particular, the CDEJ is instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure the follow-up of the relevant decisions taken at the 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers (Hamburg, 21 May 2021),² and in particular contribute to the implementation of the key strategic priorities relating to its specific field of expertise as identified in the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe, and respond to the respective key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's 2021 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "A democratic renewal for Europe"; (ii) promote the values and standards of the Council of Europe; (iii) elaborate youth policy standards and instruments where necessary; (iv) advise governments on their youth policy; (v) promote Council of Europe youth policies by supporting member States in the implementation of key recommendations of the Committee of Ministers in the youth field, in particular: Resolution CM/Res(2020)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030; Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood; Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work; Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights; Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER Recommendation); (vi) stimulate youth research in Europe and support co-operation between youth researchers; (vii) promote the capacity building of public authorities in the implementation of Council of Europe standards in the youth field; (viii) promote the Council of Europe's standards by granting its "Quality Label for Youth Centres"; (ix) contribute to the Council of Europe's cross-cutting activities which concern and impact youth; (x) designate, for two years, the CDEJ members who shall be invited to represent it on the Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ), the co-management body in charge of establishing the youth sector's programme of activities; (xi) contribute to the preparation of Council of Europe Conferences of Ministers responsible for youth and ensure, as appropriate, the follow-up of any decision taken by the Committee of Ministers subsequent to the Conferences; (xii) implement the youth-related elements of the thematic and country-specific Council of Europe action plans; (xiii) follow the implementation of the non-binding instruments that it has prepared as well as conventions the Committee of Ministers has instructed/asked it to supervise; (xiv) contribute to co-operation and support activities of national initiatives in this field; (xv) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued; (xvi) take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller³ issues; (xvii) where relevant, contribute to building cohesive societies and to strengthening the role and meaningful participation of civil society in its work;

¹ These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2022-2023. For the second biennial period 2024-2025, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2024-2025.

² CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/2a, CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/2b, CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/2c and CM/Del/Dec(2021)131/3.

³ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

- (xviii) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,⁴ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- (xix) contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 3: Good health and well-being; Goal 4: Quality Education ; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth; Goal 10: Reduce inequality; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

MAIN DELIVERABLES ▼

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDEJ is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Deadline ▼
1. Contribution of opinions, proposals and recommendations to the CMJ's work (cf. CMJ terms of reference for concrete deliverables)	31/12 of each year
2. Summary of the biannual exchange of information on the latest youth policy developments at national level	31/12 of each year
3. Draft annual intergovernmental programme of assistance measures to member States on youth policies issues	31/12 of each year
4. Progress report on the implementation of the annual intergovernmental programme of assistance measures to member States on youth policies issues	31/12 of each year

COMPOSITION ▼

MEMBERS:

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties. The participation of non-member States referred to by Decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1429/2.5 and Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 is restricted to meetings and activities convened pursuant to Art. 6 of the European Cultural Convention.

Governments of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank with expertise in the field of youth policies.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each State Party to the European Cultural Convention (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

PARTICIPANTS:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- North-South Centre;
- Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Japan, Mexico, United States of America.

OBSERVERS:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- Ibero-American Youth Organisation;
- Commonwealth Youth Programme Secretariat;
- League of Arab States;
- African Union;
- European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA);
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA);
- European Youth Forum (YFJ).

Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

⁴ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2021)132.

The “Pool of European Youth Researchers” (PEYR), co-operating with the Council of Europe Youth Department and the European Commission in the framework of their partnership in the field of youth, will be invited to send a representative, without the right to vote. The expenses of this representative will be borne by the Council of Europe in derogation from Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

WORKING METHODS ▼

	Plenary meetings ▼ held in parallel to the meetings of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).			Bureau meetings ▼ held in parallel to the meetings of the Bureau of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2022	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2023	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2024	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2
2025	49	2	3	Up to 8	2	2

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.