



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## Roadmap for youth participation (2018-2021)

### An integrated approach present throughout the work of the Conference of INGOs

adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 29 June 2018

#### 1. History / Background

The implementation of the “Action plan for Youth Participation” (2016 and 2018) and the new directions taken by the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs for 2018-2021 logically lead to an integrated “youth” approach present in the work of the Conference as a whole.

#### 2. General considerations

The strategic objectives adopted by the Conference of INGOs foresee a direct link of its actions with those of other Council of Europe bodies with regard to youth issues having an impact on young or not so young people. The Conference of INGOs as the collective voice of organised civil society and as a body of the Council of Europe must be close to the citizen and represent the general interest of the *whole* of civil society. It must therefore include the concerns of young people in the work of its thematic committees and working groups, as well as encourage the participation of youth members during and between sessions of the Conference, with the goal of making the Conference a more inclusive and representative platform for intergenerational debate and support.

#### 3. Definition of objectives

**3.1 Main objective « Make a difference : Youth up, be aware of Youth concerns and develop an intergenerational approach! »: developing a *Youth* integrated approach, specific to the Conference of INGOs, facilitating the participation of young people alongside the less young, encouraging an intergenerational, more inclusive and representative dialogue. Become a platform for debate and support, known and recognised by young people in all member States.**

## 3.2 Intermediate objectives

### A) Intensify the **intergenerational** character of the Conference of INGOs and, to this end,

- include the concerns of young people throughout the work of the Conference;
- contribute to education in critical thinking and on youth and intergenerational issues;
- integrate the Council of Europe's objectives in dialogue with young people, contribute to education in democratic competences;
- publicise and recognise the Conference of INGOs and its added value to young people and youth NGOs, especially where civic space is reduced;
- create a place for debate and an open and innovative stance;
- encourage the presence and interaction of young people at Conference sessions with a view to "do together";
- encourage contributions of different types of youth to build bridges between young people of diverse sensitivities (without excluding the "non-institutionalised" = those who are not represented in youth organisations);
- be inspired together to imagine tomorrow!

### B) Develop the interest of the Conference and its members for the cause of young people

- by facilitating exchanges (formal and informal) in a spirit of openness and mutual respect;
- using interactive and effective methods;
- showing the skills of young people in various fields;
- by showing the impact of their action;
- by adapting the methods of reflection and discussion (learn to systematically consider the youth perspective in each field of action of the Conference: discrimination, access to social rights, education, data protection, migration, etc.)

### C) Encourage the thematic committees to:

- systematically include the youth perspective in their action: working groups, opinions, events etc., in line with the priorities of the Council of Europe and the Conference (2018-2021 Action Plan);
- systematically invite organisations that engage in priority areas on the ground (in the 47 member countries) to contribute;
- know the Recommendation CM/Rec (2015) 3 "Youth access to social rights"

### D) Encourage and facilitate the role of young people as actors of democracy

- Invite young members of the INGOs to contribute actively to the work of the Conference of INGOs;
- Invite youth NGOs active in the field to contribute actively to the work of the Conference of INGOs (by testifying or by presenting their work);
- allow "non-institutionalised" young people to express themselves / to present their cause! (*Young people put their energy where they feel useful and recognised, where it seems to them that « action » is going their way!*);
- Enable educators / social workers to present examples of good practice

### E) Inform young people and youth organisations through a coherent narrative and an adapted communication

- on the role and work of the Conference, on its themes for reflection;
- on the interest of sharing their concerns and opinions;
- on co-operation possibilities

#### 4. Main lines of action proposed

The different objectives can be pursued both in parallel and progressively:

- Maintain and intensify links with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe;
- Maintain and intensify the links with the CCJ and the CDEJ;
- Maintain and intensify links with the European Youth Forum and its INGO members;
- Create sustainable cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Create sustainable cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Participate in actions and projects that are of major interest to the Conference, such as:
  - the World Forum for Democracy,
  - training courses offered by Youth sector of the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre,
  - events organised for and between youth INGOs in Brussels (active presence in the network!);
- Draw up a register of INGOs and NGOs most likely to be able / willing to cooperate on priority topics (according to their expertise);
- Undertake common actions within the youth network for priority topics;
- Find sources of funding to organise relevant events on a regular basis;
- Coordination with each thematic committee and its working groups:
  - Question the profile of young people who are accompanied by social workers, placed in a home, excluded, disabled, gifted, who are activists etc. (progressive contact with NGOs / Associations concerned);
  - Organise formal and informal exchanges and interactive events (during or outside sessions) bringing young people (the "institutionalised" and the "non-institutionalised") and members of the INGO Conference together.

#### 5. Proposed organisation:

Anne Kraus (Vice-President of the Conference), with Katarzyna Sokolowska and Rares Craiut (Rapporteurs of the Conference), will have responsibility for managing the progress of the work. They will develop the integrated "youth" approach according to the objectives and lines of action approved by the Standing Committee. They will initiate new methods of reflection / discussion adapted to the needs.

They may be assisted in their work by representatives of member INGOs who wish to be involved in the process of operationalising the youth axis and doing team work.

#### 6. Next steps:

- Put in place actions for 2018 – 2021
  - Create and maintain a "youth" calendar covering the main events for young people as well as meetings on youth policy in Europe;
  - Set up the narrative / communication strategy
- Continuous assessment and communication of progress at Standing Committee meetings;
- Adjustment / definition of objectives when needed
  - Establish regular contact with the network of youth organisations members that are members of the Conference;
  - Develop a list of concrete actions that can be implemented with the CCJ;
  - Set up a working system with the thematic committees to ensure that the transversal youth axis is reflected in all their actions;

- Continue to develop relations with the Youth Forum (collaboration CONEM; organise trainings together);
- Continue and deepen relations with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum;
- Set up tools and communication opportunities on the Conference for and with youth organisations;
- Organise intergenerational projects with the Conference.