

## Terms of reference of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

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-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: *Ad hoc* committee

Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027

Programme: Anchoring democratic values in European societies

Sub-programme: Youth

### Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) advises the Committee of Ministers on all questions relating to youth. The overall aim is to act as the non-governmental partner in the co-management structures of the youth sector (the governmental partner being the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)); the CCJ and the CDEJ co-operate within the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) in order to establish the priorities and expected results of the Council of Europe youth sector and the elaboration of youth policy standards.

In particular, the CCJ is instructed to:

- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration<sup>1</sup> in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
- ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's annual reports on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law <sup>2</sup> and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe;
- iii. contribute to the integration of a youth perspective in the Council of Europe areas of work, by formulating and addressing opinions, proposals and recommendations to the Committee of Ministers and its steering committees, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Conference of INGOs, the World Forum for Democracy, the North-South Centre, or other bodies of the Council of Europe;
- iv. promote the Council of Europe's values, youth policies and youth standards, including its youth sector strategy 2030, within the Organisation and beyond, especially amongst young people and youth organisations/networks; contribute to the implementation of the priorities for the youth sector for 2024-2027;
- v. raise the concerns and challenges facing young people in Europe in the activities of the youth sector, including those of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, and contribute to devising policy measures to address these;
- vi. raise awareness of topical issues and/or challenges facing young people in Europe by organising debates/workshops and/or issuing statements;
- vii. designate, for two years, the CCJ members who shall be invited to represent it on the Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ), the co-management body in charge of establishing the programme of activities of the youth sector;
- viii. provide input to the Committee of Ministers in view of the regular, high-level dialogue with member States and partners on delivering on the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy;
- ix. 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;
- x. 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 Traveller<sup>3</sup> issues;
- xi. 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 CCJ is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Consultation of youth organisations and networks on their requirements for the future priorities of the youth sector	1	31/05/2026
2. Contribution of opinions, proposals and recommendations to the CMJ's work throughout the quadrennium	1	31/12 of each year
3. Biennial CMJ thematic debate on a current topic which may result in, for example, policy proposals to inform the youth sector's work, with preparatory work taking place in the 1 <sup>st</sup> year.	1	31/12/2025 31/12/2027

<sup>1</sup> Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Secretary General's report 2025 "Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe".

<sup>3</sup> 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

## Composition

### • Members

30 members:

- i. 7 representatives of national youth councils, designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the European Youth Forum (YFJ);
- ii. 13 representatives of international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the European Youth Forum (YFJ);
- iii. 10 representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks, not members of the European Youth Forum (YFJ), designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Secretary General.

When designating the representatives referred to in paragraphs i, ii and iii above, the European Youth Forum (paragraphs i and ii) and the Secretary General (paragraph iii) shall establish one reserve list per category of member (national youth councils; INGYO; non-governmental youth organisations or networks not members of the European Youth Forum). Each of the three reserve lists shall contain up to a maximum of three representatives and will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for approval along with the three lists in paragraphs i to iii above. The reserve lists will remain valid for one term of office.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of each member. Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

### • Participants

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

- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

### • Observers

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

- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

## Working methods

The Advisory Council on Youth will establish its rules of procedure in derogation from the provisions of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼ Held in parallel with the meetings of the Bureau of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	30	2	3	5	2	2
2025	30	2	3	5	2	2
2026	30	2	3	5	2	2
2027	30	2	3	5	2	2

## Budgetary information \*

The CCJ is financed by the subsidiary budget of the European Youth Centres.

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	2	3	30	38.7	6.6	-	1 A; 1 B
2025	2	3	30	38.7	6.6	-	1 A; 1 B
2026	2	3	30	53.6	37.0	-	1 A; 1,5 B
2027	2	3	30	53.6	37.0	-	1 A; 1,5 B

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.