

Terms of reference of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)

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.

Category: *Ad hoc* committee

Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027¹

Programme: Anchoring democratic values in European societies

Sub-programme: Youth

Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CMJ oversees the Council of Europe's programme in the youth field and advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence. The CMJ, within the framework of the Council of Europe policy established by the Committee of Ministers, is the policy-making body of the youth sector, bringing together the members of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).

In particular, the CMJ is instructed to:

- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration² 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 2023 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "An Invitation to Recommit to the Values and Standards of the Council of Europe";
- iii. develop jointly between member States and non-governmental youth organisations standards of European youth policy with a view to submitting them, where appropriate, to the Committee of Ministers and other relevant bodies of the Council of Europe;
- iv. prepare the priorities of the youth sector and apportion the budgetary means available in the political and budgetary framework established by the Committee of Ministers;
- v. establish the youth sector's structure and policy for its programme implementation, in particular through the Strasbourg and Budapest European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation;
- vi. contribute to the integration of a youth perspective into other Council of Europe areas of work;
- vii. contribute to the cross-cutting activities of the Council of Europe that concern and impact youth, including as appropriate in the field of artificial intelligence;
- viii. where appropriate, contribute to the preparation of the Council of Europe Conferences of Ministers responsible for Youth and ensure, as appropriate, that any decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers subsequent to the Conferences are followed up;
- ix. identify opportunities for input and/or complementary measures and programmes by the Council of Europe taking into consideration the activities of other international organisations, in particular the European Union and the United Nations;
- x. implement the youth-related elements of the Council of Europe's thematic and country-specific action plans as necessary;
- xi. support youth participation as a way of revitalising pluralistic democracy, building on the achievements of the campaign "Democracy Here / Democracy Now" and its follow-up project; support the implementation of relevant Council of Europe standards, including the Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes, Recommendation Rec(2006)14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life, and Congress Resolution 152(2003) on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;
- xii. support young people's access to rights by promoting the implementation of the relevant Committee of Ministers' standards in this field, with special emphasis on: 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), and Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;
- xiii. support young people's capacities to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, with special emphasis on the implementation of relevant Council of Europe standards, including Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood and Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 of the Committee of Ministers on Roma youth participation; in this connection, equally support youth organisations and youth workers working with young people living in war zones or in areas of frozen conflict through intercultural dialogue, intercultural learning and peacebuilding activities;
- xiv. support youth work as a way of increasing the possibilities for all young people to contribute actively to society in their living environment, with special emphasis on the implementation of relevant Council of Europe standards, including Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and the European Youth Work Agenda.
- xv. take stock regularly of the implementation of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030, as set out in Resolution CM/Res(2020)2;
- xvi. 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;

¹ These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2024-2025. For the second biennial period 2026-2027, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2026-2027.

² [Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values.](#)

- xvii. raise-awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
- xviii. 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;
- xix. 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;
- xx. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;
- xxi. 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 CMJ is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Category ▼	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Draft Recommendation on rural youth	A	1	31/12/2024
2. Feasibility study on a draft recommendation on peace education in non-formal education and youth work	C	1	31/12/2024
3. Dissemination of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on climate action and young people (to be adopted in 2023/24)	A	1	31/12/2024
4. Mid-term review of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030	A	1	31/12/2025
5. Follow-up to the conclusions of the review of Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, taking into consideration the European Youth Work Agenda process.	A	1	31/12/2025
6. Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood	B	1	31/12/2025
7. Methodology and tools for including a youth perspective in the Organisation's intergovernmental and other deliberations, as well as any relevant capacity-building initiative	C	1	31/12/2026
8. Implementation review report and dissemination of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (throughout the four-year period)	A	2	31/12/2027
9. Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes	B	1	31/12/2027
10. Draft recommendation on peace education in non-formal education and youth work, subject to the conclusions of the feasibility study	C	1	31/12/2027
<p>Key</p> <p>A: deliverable under preparation (2022-2023 terms of reference or Committee of Ministers' decision) or deliverable foreseen in the terms of reference provisionally approved for 2024-2025 and reviewed where relevant in the framework of the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget 2024-2027</p> <p>B: review of implementation/re-examination foreseen by the recommendation/protocol/convention</p> <p>C: newly proposed deliverable</p>			

Composition

- **Members**

The members of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ). Each member of the Committee shall have one vote.

- **Participants**

The participants in the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets.

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

- Observers

The observers in the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses.

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

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.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	79	2	3
2025	79	2	3
2026	79	2	3
2027	79	2	3

The CMJ will appoint from amongst its members up to four Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur

Budgetary information

The meetings of the CMJ take place during the meetings of the CDEJ and the CCJ at no extra cost.