

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\(2011\)24](#) 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 2018 until 31 December 2019**

PILLAR/SECTOR/PROGRAMME
Pillar: Democracy Sector: Promoting Participation and Diversity Programme: Youth for Democracy
MAIN TASKS
Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the European Steering Committee for Youth (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. Taking due account of relevant cross-cutting perspectives, the overall aim is to stimulate co-operation between the governments of the States party to the European Cultural Convention with a view to developing youth policies which are likely to ensure youth participation and 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. With this purpose, the CDEJ is instructed to: (i) promote the values of the Council of Europe; (ii) elaborate youth policy standards and instruments where necessary; (iii) advise governments on their youth policy; (iv) 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: 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); (v) stimulate youth research in Europe and support co-operation between youth researchers; (vi) promote the capacity building of public authorities in the implementation of Council of Europe standards in the youth field; (vii) promote the Council of Europe's standards by granting its "Quality Label for Youth Centres"; (viii) contribute to the Council of Europe's cross-cutting activities which concern youth; (ix) 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; (x) 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; (xi) take due account of a gender perspective, to building cohesive societies and to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023 in the performance of its tasks; (xii) implement the youth-related elements of the thematic and country-specific Council of Europe action plans; (xiii) take the pertinent aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights into consideration in its thematic work; (xiv) 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; (xv) contribute to co-operation and support activities to national initiatives in this field; (xvi) without prejudice to the mandates of intergovernmental committees of the Council of Europe that already follow the work of monitoring mechanisms, follow the activities of the relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms; (xvii) 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,¹ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers.

¹ Cf. Relevant decision of the Committee of Ministers ([CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1168/10.2](#)) and list of Conventions in CM(2017)132.

SPECIFIC TASKS

To develop youth policies based on the Council of Europe's standards, with a view to supporting young people's access to rights and youth work. The programme of activities implemented under the responsibility of the CDEJ includes:

- (i) assistance measures to member States on specific youth policy issues upon request;
- (ii) exchange of information and good practices on youth policy development at the national level;
- (iii) mutual advice on the implementation of European youth policy (peer support);
- (iv) preparation of policy standards in relevant youth-related fields, including support to young refugees and minors in their transition to adulthood;
- (v) implementation of the project "Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres";
- (vi) European University on Youth Policies (Summer University) to examine a specific topical youth policy issue and improve the capacity of CDEJ and CCJ members so they can actively participate in the Council of Europe's youth structures and programmes;
- (vii) implementation of the partnership agreements with the European Youth Card Agency (EYCA) and with the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) to improve the quality of services provided to young people in member States.

COMPOSITION

Members:

The Council of Europe budget will bear the travelling 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).

States party to the European Cultural Convention may send other representatives without defrayal of expenses.

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;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- North-South Centre;
- Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE);
- other Council of Europe intergovernmental committees as appropriate.

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

- European Union;
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, 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;
- League of Arab States;
- African Union;
- European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA);
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA);
- European Youth Forum.

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 are borne by the Council of Europe in derogation from Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

WORKING METHODS

Meetings:

50 members, 2 meetings in 2018, 3 days.

50 members, 2 meetings in 2019, 3 days.

Held in parallel with the meetings of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).

Bureau:

Up to eight members representing governments from the member States of the Council of Europe, including the chair and vice-chair.

Two meetings of two days each per year, held in parallel with the meetings of the Bureau of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ).

A Gender Equality Rapporteur will be appointed also for the CDEJ and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) from amongst the members of the Joint Council for Youth (CMJ).

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution [CM/Res\(2011\)24](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.