

Young people building Europe



**Youth policy
development**

Social cohesion
Human rights
Intercultural dialogue
Participation
Research
Youth work



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND YOUNG PEOPLE BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER FOR 50 YEARS

■ For 50 years, the Council of Europe and young people have been working together to build a better, safer and more united world.

■ The Council of Europe is founded on values. Set up in 1949 to ensure that the atrocities of World War II never happen again, we defend and promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law. We are the conscience of Europe.

■ We are also the largest European organisation, with 47 member states and a combined population of over 820 million people.

OUR UNIQUE ROLE

■ The Council of Europe is committed to building a Europe with and for all young people.

■ We are pioneers in the field of youth policy. We are currently the only international organisation in the world which gives both youth leaders and government officials an equal say when deciding on youth policies, priorities and programmes. This unique power-sharing system (known as “co-management”) demonstrates our support for active youth participation.

■ We want to see effective youth policies throughout Europe, responding to young people’s needs and concerns.

We help young people to:

- ▶ Access their human rights,
- ▶ Be treated with dignity and respect,
- ▶ Realise their potential,
- ▶ Have adequate learning opportunities,
- ▶ Cope with today’s challenges,
- ▶ Defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law.



OUR PRIORITIES

Human rights and democracy

- ▶ Human rights education,
- ▶ Active citizenship and participation,
- ▶ Equality between women and men and the prevention of gender-based violence,
- ▶ Environmental education and action promoting sustainable development,
- ▶ Access to quality information and counselling for young people.

Inclusive and peaceful societies

- ▶ Preventing and fighting racism, discrimination and hate speech,
- ▶ Empowering young people to promote cultural diversity,
- ▶ Peace-building, conflict transformation and reconciliation,
- ▶ Developing global solidarity and co-operation.

Social cohesion

- ▶ Empowering all young people to access their social rights,
- ▶ Recognition of youth work and non-formal education,
- ▶ Supporting young people's autonomy and well-being,
- ▶ Enabling young people to make the transition from education to work,
- ▶ Integrating excluded young people

HIGHLIGHTS

■ The Council of Europe has been the driving force behind youth policy and youth work in Europe for 50 years, breaking new ground with innovative policies, approaches and educational materials.

Campaigns

- ▶ The No Hate Speech Movement (2012-2018) stands for equality, dignity, human rights and diversity. It is a project against hate speech, racism and discrimination in their online expression. www.coe.int/nohate
- ▶ The [Roma Youth Action Plan](#) which is helping to empower Roma young people and highlight their concerns.



Educational resources

- ▶ [Compass](#) – manual for [human rights education](#) with young people and [Compasito](#) – manual for human rights education for children
- ▶ [Bookmarks](#) – manual for combating hate speech online through human rights education and [We can!](#) Taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives to fight on-line hate speech
- ▶ The [Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio](#) which enables youth workers to assess and validate their skills and experience
- ▶ [Have your say!](#) manual on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life
- ▶ [Mirrors](#) – manual on combating antigypsyism through human rights education
- ▶ [Gender Matters](#) – manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people
- ▶ [Education Pack all different-all equal](#) – Ideas, resources, methods and activities for informal intercultural education with young people and adults

Events & Projects

- ▶ The [ENTER! project](#), to improve young people's access to social rights
- ▶ The [Living Libraries](#) – where borrowers “take out” and talk to people instead of books – to challenge our stereotypes
- ▶ The [Youth Peace Camps](#), which have helped build understanding in conflict-riven communities
- ▶ The [Quality Label for Youth Centres](#), for knowledge sharing and networking among youth centres across Europe

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

■ We work primarily with youth leaders from all types of youth organisations. Our courses are mostly devised by young people themselves. They have a very wide reach, as participants pass on what they have learnt to members of their associations.

■ We have two residential, educational youth centres where 5,000 young people train every year: the [European Youth Centre in Strasbourg](#) and the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#); we provide financial support for youth organisations through the [European Youth Foundation](#).



■ We also run training activities in member countries of the Council of Europe and organise youth events with partners outside Europe.

WORKING WITH GOVERNEMENTS

■ We work on [youth policy development](#) with the governments of the 50 European States which have ratified the Council of Europe's 1954 European Cultural Convention.

■ We set policy standards according to the Council of Europe's key texts concerning young people. These include:

- ▶ Young people's access to rights,
- ▶ Youth work,
- ▶ Youth participation,
- ▶ Youth mobility,
- ▶ Youth information,
- ▶ Non-formal education,
- ▶ Intercultural dialogue,
- ▶ Integration of marginalised groups.

■ We provide governments with a package of [youth policy development support measures](#) for ministries, public administrations and policy makers wishing to adopt the standards of the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy.

WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

■ The [Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth](#), initiated in 1998, brings together the two institutions' experience in non-formal education, youth policy, youth research and youth work practice.



**NO HATE
SPEECH
MOVEMENT**

FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

■ The European Youth Foundation (EYF) was established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to encourage co-operation between young people in Europe. It plays a key role in the Organisation's work with and for young people by providing financial and educational support for international and local youth activities which promote peace, co-operation and understanding, human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity in the 50 signatory states of the European Cultural Convention

■ With an annual budget of approximately 3.5 million euros, the EYF supports youth activities organised according to non-formal education principles. It also contributes to the administrative expenses of international non-governmental youth organisations and networks. The EYF encourages the integration of a gender perspective and recognises the time given by volunteers to youth activities it supports.

■ Focusing on content and methodology and believing in a 2-way communication process, the EYF offers guidance, ensures an extended evaluation of projects and works in a spirit of knowledge sharing. As its budget is made up of public money, transparency and accountability are essential for the EYF.

■ The EYF supports a youth activity for every working day – 300 every year all over Europe involving over 300,000 young people a year. So far, more than 3 million young people aged 15 to 30 have benefited directly from EYF-supported activities.

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**Partnership programme
with the European Commission**
[https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/
youth-partnership/home](https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/home)



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