

# YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY

The Council of Europe  
Youth Sector



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Youth for Democracy Programme

ENTER YOUTH  
WEEK! Nos droits  
Notre vie

## Our mission

- ▶ **To extend youth participation**  
... so that young people are participating meaningfully in decision-making at all levels, on the basis of a broad social and political consensus in support of participatory governance and accountability.
- ▶ **To strengthen young people's access to rights**  
... so that young people and all forms of youth civil society can rely on an enabling environment for the full exercise of all their human rights and freedoms, including concrete policies, mechanisms and resources.
- ▶ **To deepen youth knowledge**  
... so that young people's democratic engagement is supported by communities of practice that are producing knowledge and expertise.

## Our objective

- ▶ **To tackle the challenges facing young people**
  - to the full enjoyment of their human rights
  - to their personal development
  - to their meaningful participation and inclusion in society
  - to a smooth transition to an autonomous life

## Our priorities

- ▶ promoting young people's access to rights and supporting them in advocating education for human rights and democracy
- ▶ facilitating young people's autonomy and participation through the promotion of youth policies and youth work, as well as support for youth civil society
- ▶ engaging young people in peace-building and social cohesion, to combat discrimination and exclusion
- ▶ increasing member states' capacity to develop youth policies promoting Council of Europe standards

## Our instruments

- ▶ Co-managed statutory committees
- ▶ European Youth Centres (Strasbourg and Budapest)
- ▶ European Youth Foundation
- ▶ Partnership with the European Commission in the field of youth

**The Council of Europe youth sector:**  
shaping generations of democracy- and  
human rights-spirited young Europeans



# Intergovernmental co-operation at pan-European level on the development and implementation of youth policy, based on Council of Europe standards



## Our vision

- ▶ Enabling young people across Europe to actively **uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law**

## Our policy

- ▶ adopting an **opportunity-focused approach to youth policy and youth work**
- ▶ **fully involving** young people in their formulation and implementation

## Our help to member states

- ▶ **developing, implementing, evaluating** youth policies through **exchange, co-operation** and **knowledge sharing**

## Quality label for youth centres

- ▶ associating **youth centres** with our **values, philosophy and educational approaches**



## Our advantages

- ▶ **competence**  
new and innovative methodologies, approaches and concepts
- ▶ **expertise**  
a wide-ranging European network of experts to hand
- ▶ **legitimacy**  
the Council of Europe's rights-based philosophy of youth work and youth policy
- ▶ **quality**  
the Council of Europe's reputation for quality in youth policy and youth work in the international youth sector

## Our principles

- ▶ mutual respect
- ▶ trust
- ▶ inclusiveness
- ▶ sustained commitment
- ▶ participation
- ▶ equity
- ▶ transparency
- ▶ collaboration

Assistance to member states,  
in particular through youth policy  
advisory missions and other multilateral  
and bilateral support measures



# The European Youth Centres Strasbourg and Budapest



## The European Youth Centres

- ▶ a unique combination of **innovative policy development, standard setting, training, research and educational creativity**
- ▶ **education and training** activities of the Youth for Democracy programme
- ▶ **educational philosophy, approaches and principles** of the youth sector
- ▶ **networking and exchanging good practice** at international level
- ▶ the promotion of **quality standards** in **non-formal learning** and international **youth work**
- ▶ the furthering of **international understanding** in a spirit of respect for **human rights** and **fundamental freedoms**

- ▶ *Trainings*
- ▶ *Study sessions*
- ▶ *Youth peace camps*
- ▶ *Consultative meetings*
- ▶ *Seminars*
- ▶ *Conferences*

## Education and training

- ▶ training Europe's **young multipliers** in the **values** of the Council of Europe
- ▶ **empowering young people** from all spectrums of European society to participate in **pluralist democracy** and promote **human rights**
- ▶ producing **research and educational manuals** for youth workers, NGOs and national authorities

“An instrument for the participation of European youth in the building of Europe”

Statute of the European Youth Centres

Purpose-built, modern and flexible international training, conference and meeting centres with residential facilities



# The European Youth Foundation (EYF)

- ▶ a fund supporting European youth activities and youth work in Europe
- ▶ a tool to further the Council of Europe's values
- ▶ a partner for national and international non-governmental youth organisations and networks
- ▶ a contribution to the sustainability of youth NGOs



The EYF's guiding principle:  
**BY, WITH** and **FOR** young people

## Financial and educational support

- ▶ **the projects**  
developed by, with and for young people  
promoting the youth sector's priorities  
tailored to meet the needs of young people
  - ▶ **the approaches**  
non-formal education  
gender perspective  
volunteer time recognition
  - ▶ **the annual figures**  
around 300 youth activities supported  
about 15 000 young people involved  
about 2.9 million euros distributed
- ▶ *International activities*
  - ▶ *Annual work plans*
  - ▶ *Structural grants*
  - ▶ *Pilot activities*





## Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



### A common European approach

#### ► fostering synergies

a platform for co-operation  
a laboratory for knowledge production  
a testing ground for new approaches

#### ► implementing aims

of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-27:  
“engaging, connecting and empowering young people”

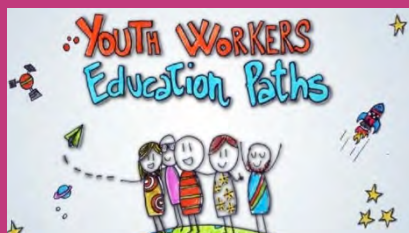
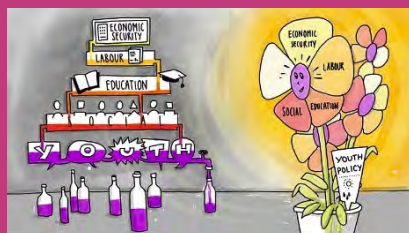
of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030: “engaging young people with the Council of Europe’s values”

#### ► addressing needs

of young people, decision makers,  
governmental experts, youth  
researchers, youth practitioners and  
youth organisations

#### ► forging links

between the triangle of governance:  
**youth research, youth policy, youth work**



### Networks, resources and tools

- European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy
- Pool of European Youth Researchers
- Youth Knowledge Books
- Perspectives on Youth
- European Platform on Learning Mobility
- Youth work development
- Massive Open Online Course on youth work and youth policy
- Training kits/handbooks
- Coyote magazine

# The co-management system



## A ground-breaking principle for decision-making

- ▶ combining the voice of young Europeans and that of public authorities responsible for youth affairs
- ▶ a living example of participatory democracy and citizen participation
- ▶ exchanging ideas and experiences in a spirit of mutual understanding and respect
- ▶ giving legitimacy and relevance to our programme and meaningfulness to intergovernmental co-operation



## Youth sector strategy 2030

- ▶ Revitalising pluralistic democracy
- ▶ Young people's access to rights
- ▶ Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies
- ▶ Youth work

### Co-management structure





**Directorate General of Democracy  
Directorate of Democratic Participation  
Youth Department**

- ▶ [www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth)
- ▶ [youth@coe.int](mailto:youth@coe.int)

**European Youth Foundation**

- ▶ <http://eyf.coe.int>
- ▶ [eyf@coe.int](mailto:eyf@coe.int)

**European Youth Centres Strasbourg and Budapest**

- ▶ [reception.eycs@coe.int](mailto:reception.eycs@coe.int)
- ▶ [eycb.secretariat@coe.int](mailto:eycb.secretariat@coe.int)

**EU/CoE youth partnership**

- ▶ <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership>
- ▶ [youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int](mailto:youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int)



**[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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