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 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

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

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

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

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

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
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
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
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.