



25 July 2011
English only

Call for representatives of youth NGOs to become members of the Advisory Council on Youth 2012-2013

The Council of Europe's youth sector works on the basis of a partnership between non-governmental youth organisations and governments, in what is known as the **co-management system**. This involves representatives from non-governmental youth organisations (NGYOs) closely co-operating with government officials to establish the standards and work priorities of the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. The more fundamental proposals are then submitted to the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

The **Advisory Council on Youth** is the non-governmental partner in the co-management system. It also has the task of formulating opinions and proposals regarding youth questions within the Council of Europe (see Appendix I for details).

The Advisory Council on Youth comprises

- twenty representatives of youth organisations and national youth councils which are members of the European Youth Forum
- and ten other members, representing non-governmental youth organisations or networks that are not members of the European Youth Forum.

This call concerns representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks that are not members of the European Youth Forum.

The composition of the Advisory Council should reflect as much as possible the reality of youth and youth work in Europe. Its members represent the voice of European youth within the Council of Europe.

See www.coe.int/youth for more information on the Council of Europe's youth sector and co-management. There is a link to the Advisory Council in the left-hand menu with the current composition.

Criteria for selection of members of the Advisory Council

Non-governmental youth organisations or networks not members of the European Youth Forum are invited to apply for a seat on the Advisory Council on Youth for a two-year mandate (January 2012 to December 2013).

Candidates, **aged between 18 and 30**, must be mandated by their organisation to sit on the Advisory Council and should have experience in at least one of the following **priority areas** (more details in Appendix II):

- **Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the core values of the Council of Europe;**
- **Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting intercultural dialogue;**
- **Social inclusion of young people;**
- **Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children.**

In addition, the following elements will be taken into account:

- experience of youth work at European level, especially in an intercultural setting;
- experience in youth policy work;
- interest in developing new proposals for the work of the youth sector corresponding to the needs of young people in Europe and the Council of Europe's core values;
- commitment to attend meetings and contribute to online consultations, drafting of documents and ensuring follow-up;
- interest in representing the Advisory Council in other activities relevant to its work;
- good analytical and conceptual thinking.

The Advisory Council as a general rule has two plenary meetings a year for three days each (March and October). The five members elected to the AC Bureau meet in between the plenary meetings (two or three meetings for one or two days each). In addition, eight of its members are elected to the Programming Committee on Youth, which has two three-day meetings a year (see Appendix I for more details on the co-management structure). All meetings take place in Strasbourg or Budapest and travel and subsistence expenses are covered by the Council of Europe.

A training course for the Advisory Council members will be organised at the beginning of 2012 to introduce the Council of Europe, its youth policy and programmes, as well as co-management. The working methods, structures and communication in the Advisory Council will form part of the programme.

The work of the Advisory Council is mainly carried out in English. Candidates should therefore feel comfortable with speaking and interacting in English. Please see Appendix III for the scale to use when indicating the level of English in the application form.

Organisations which have not previously co-operated with the Directorate of Youth and Sport, in particular those which operate in other fields of action of the Council of Europe (e.g. human rights, political democracy, social inclusion, migration, media and information society) and which have a youth structure, are strongly encouraged to submit applications. They are also invited to submit a brief description of their structure and past, present and planned activities.

Deadline for applications

Applications on the **attached form**, together with a supporting letter from the organisation represented, should be sent **before 15 September 2011** to the Director of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, using the following e-mail:

advisorycouncil@coe.int

The applications will be assessed by the Directorate of Youth and Sport and a shortlist will be presented to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, taking into account the criteria mentioned above. The Secretary General will then submit his proposals to the Committee of Ministers for decision before the end of 2011.

For further information, please contact:

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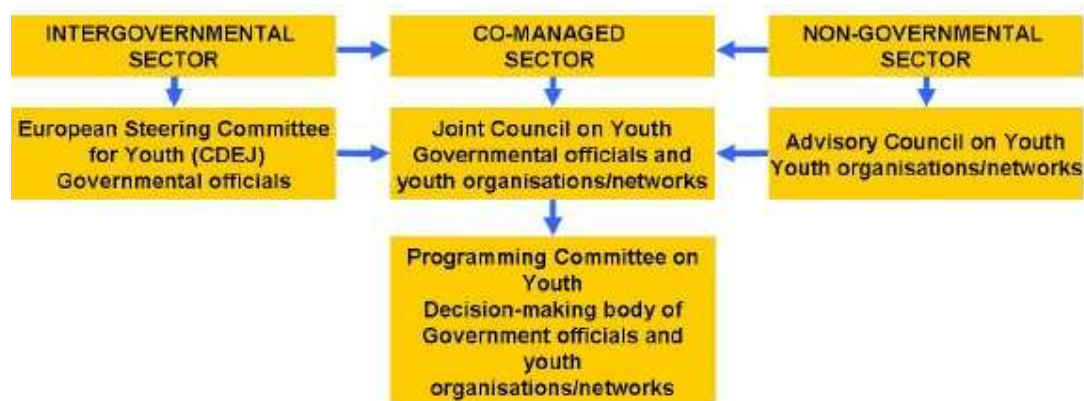
APPENDIX I

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH

The Advisory Council on Youth (AC) is composed of thirty members:

- Thirteen representatives of international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- Seven representatives of national youth councils designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- Ten representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Council of Europe's Secretary General.

The AC is the non-governmental partner in the co-managed bodies of the youth sector. It has the task of formulating opinions and proposals on any question concerning youth dealt with within the Council of Europe.



According to its terms of reference, the AC has the following tasks:

- To contribute to the mainstreaming of youth policies across the Council of Europe programme of activities by formulating opinions and proposals on general or specific questions concerning youth in the Council of Europe; where appropriate, to address these opinions and proposals to the Committee of Ministers or other bodies of the Council of Europe. The Advisory Council on Youth may also be invited by the Committee of Ministers to formulate opinions on general or specific questions concerning youth policy;
- To formulate opinions and proposals concerning the priorities, expected results and budget allocations for the youth sector;
- To designate every two years, from among its members, those who shall be invited to be represented in the Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ), the co-management body in charge of establishing the programme of activities of the youth sector.

The AC elects a Bureau, made up of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and two other members, who meet in between the plenary sessions of the AC.

During the past years the AC has made important contributions to the priority fields of work of the Council of Europe, notably by developing innovative proposals in response to topical issues. For example, in 2010 it developed a "Youth Ambassadors for Peace" project, inspired by the achievements and standards of the Council of Europe in the field

of human rights, intercultural dialogue and democracy. It was also at the origin of a new project "Cyberspace is public space: young people defending human rights online", which will start in 2012 to train young human rights activists on combating hate speech and discrimination on the Internet.

The Advisory Council has developed co-operation with other sectors of the Council of Europe, including the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The youth sector also aims at representing the interests of young people, and strengthening the role of youth policy, in other activity areas of the Council of Europe. This implies in particular:

- the participation of representatives of the statutory bodies of the youth sector in a number of steering committees and other working structures of the Council of Europe;
- the consultation of the Advisory Council on Youth by the Committee of Ministers or by subordinated intergovernmental committees, regarding legal texts which have a specific impact on young people;
- the active co-operation of the youth sector with other sectors of the Council of Europe and its participation in the multidisciplinary programmes of the Organisation.

The members of the Advisory Council remain in permanent contact in between the statutory meetings, developing a spirit of co-operation and a collective approach to the issues at stake. A group of dedicated AC members prepare a newsletter after each statutory meeting.

The Advisory Council normally holds two plenary sessions a year. In addition, it is invited to send representatives to a variety of activities, some of a statutory nature (Programming Committee on Youth, Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, Joint Co-ordinating Committee with ERYICA, international teams to carry out youth policy reviews in Council of Europe member states, Management Board of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth, Executive Committee of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe), and some of a more ad hoc nature (hearings of the Parliamentary Assembly, conferences organised by other Council of Europe sectors, working/expert groups on specific issues, activities organised by the North-South Centre).

Here are a few examples of recent events attended and processes followed by members of the AC:

- Contributing to the preparation of a Parliamentary Assembly recommendation "Towards a European framework convention on youth rights"
- Meetings of the Senior Officials to prepare the 9th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth (Russian Federation, September 2012)
- Expert group on the recognition of youth work and non-formal education (in the framework of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth)
- Preparatory meeting for the Council of Europe Youth Ambassadors for Peace project (in the programme of the Directorate of Youth and Sport)
- Consultative meeting of the Pool of European Youth Researchers (in the framework of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth)
- Preparation and evaluation of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit (in the framework of the programme of the Council of Europe's North-South Centre)
- Council of Europe Committee of experts on participation of people with disabilities in political and public life (Directorate General III – Social Cohesion)

- International review of the national youth policy of Belgium (in the framework of the youth sector's intergovernmental programme)
- Preparation of a policy recommendation on the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods (in the programme of the Directorate of Youth and Sport).

APPENDIX II

PRIORITIES OF THE YOUTH SECTOR 2012-2013

“Developing European youth co-operation through youth policy, youth work and non-formal education/learning”

This document presents the priorities of the programme of the Council of Europe’s youth sector for the period 2012-2013.

Project N°1: “Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the core values of the Council of Europe”

Project N° 2: “Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting intercultural dialogue”

Project N° 3: “Social inclusion of young people”

Project N° 4: “Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children”

More information on the programme and activities of the Council of Europe’s youth sector: www.coe.int/youth

Project N°1: “Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the core values of the Council of Europe”

- 1.1 To further develop and disseminate existing tools and resources on human rights education with young people and children¹, with a view to supporting the role of youth work and youth NGOs in this area and promoting the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.
- 1.2 To promote the participation of young people and children at local, regional and national levels, on the basis of the Council of Europe values and standards in this regard.
- 1.3 To consolidate and support the development and the role of non-governmental youth organisations in all the states signatories of the European Cultural Convention.
- 1.4 To develop youth policy and youth work approaches and methodologies for combating gender-based discrimination and violence.

Project N° 2: “Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting intercultural dialogue”

- 2.1 To develop tools and resources with a view to supporting intercultural youth work in multicultural environments, involving in particular young migrants, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons.
- 2.2 To support youth work in combating discrimination, racism, xenophobia, hate speech and hate crimes.
- 2.3 To support youth work for peace-building, conflict prevention and transformation, as well as the development of the network of Youth Ambassadors for Peace.
- 2.4 To support the role of youth work and youth NGOs in addressing situations of exclusion and discrimination of Roma young people.

Project N° 3: “Social inclusion of young people”

¹ Council of Europe youth policy addresses children and young people from the age of 10/12, not below.

- 3.1 To support the role of youth work and youth NGOs in addressing the exclusion and marginalisation of young people and in promoting their access to rights.
- 3.2 To promote the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, notably through youth work at local level.
- 3.3 To mainstream the participation of young people with disabilities in European youth activities.

Project N° 4: "Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children"²

- 4.1 To support youth and child policy development at national level, particularly through policy reviews and advisory missions.
- 4.2 To strengthen the contribution of youth policy to young people's access to the labour market, namely through the recognition of competencies and skills acquired in non-formal education and youth work.
- 4.3 To support innovation and quality of non-formal education in youth policy and youth work.
- 4.4 To support quality youth information and counselling.

² This project concerns mainly intergovernmental co-operation.

APPENDIX III

Global Scale for proficiency in English

Proficient	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
Independent	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
Basic	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.