

March 2015

### **Call for representatives of youth NGOs or networks to participate in the Advisory Council on Youth 2016-2017**

The Council of Europe's youth works on the basis of a partnership between non-governmental youth organisations and governments, in what is known as the **co-management system**. This means that representatives from non-governmental youth organisations (NGYOs) and youth networks sit down with government officials to establish the work priorities of the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

In this context, the **Advisory Council on Youth**, the non-governmental partner in the co-management system, also has the task of formulating opinions and proposals regarding youth questions within the Council of Europe (see Appendix I for details). This body 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**.

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.

The Council of Europe Youth Department is part of the Directorate General of Democracy (DGII), Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation. The Department elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming at the promotion of youth citizenship, youth mobility and the value of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans. For more information on the Council of Europe's youth sector and co-management see: [www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth).

#### **Criteria for selection of 10 members in the Advisory Council who are not members of the European Youth Forum**

Representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks in Council of Europe member states, 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 (2016-2017).

Candidates, **aged between 18 and 30**, should have a mandate from their organisation/network to actively participate in the work of the Advisory Council and preferably have experience in at least one of the following **priority areas**:

### **1. Advancing democratic citizenship through innovative forms of participation**

- a. E-forms of youth participation and promoting human rights online;
- b. Promoting real influence of young people in decision-making processes, particularly participation at the local and regional level ([European Charter of Local Self-Government](#); [Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional life](#));
- c. Acquisition of competences for democratic citizenship;
- a. Promoting youth participation in formal education.

### **2. Autonomy of young people and their access to rights**

- a. Young people's transition to autonomy through a rights-based approach;
- b. Young people's access to rights and the implementation/follow-up of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)3](#) on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights as well as the recommendation in preparation on young people's access to rights;
- c. Increasing knowledge of and capacity to combat intersectional, multiple and other forms of discrimination;
- d. Acquisition of competences through non-formal learning and its recognition.

### **3. Promoting inclusive and peaceful societies**

- a. Peace-building and intercultural dialogue through non-formal learning and formal education;
- b. Countering violent extremism and radicalisation - combating hate speech;
- c. Integration/social inclusion of migrants, young refugees, minority and vulnerable groups, including follow-up of the Roma Youth Action Plan;
- d. Supporting youth NGOs in conflict affected regions;
- e. Continuing building strong links with relevant actors in the youth-field on a global level;
- f. Follow-up to the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) Campaign.

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

- experience of youth work and youth policy at European level, especially in an intercultural setting;
- 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;
- motivation, availability and commitment to attend meetings and contribute in writing to consultations and opinions;
- interest in representing the Advisory Council in activities relevant to its work;
- good analytical and conceptual thinking.

**All of the Advisory Council's work is carried out in English.**

Please see Appendix II for the scale to use when indicating the level of English in the application form.

Organisations which have not previously co-operated with the Youth Department of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, in particular those which operate

in other fields of action of the Council of Europe (e.g. human rights, democracy (pluralist and participative), 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.

In order to ensure as varied a representation as possible as well as continuity in the work of the Advisory Council, the selection of the 10 representatives will aim at having a good age, gender and geographical balance as well as a good balance between representatives of new organisations and representatives of organisations which have already been members of the Advisory Council.

### **Deadline for applications**

Applications on the **attached form**, together with a supporting letter from the organisation represented, should be sent **by 30 April 2015** to:

[advisorycouncil@coe.int](mailto:advisorycouncil@coe.int)

**Selections will be announced in July 2015 and submitted for approval by the Committee of Ministers in the autumn.**

**For further information, please contact:**

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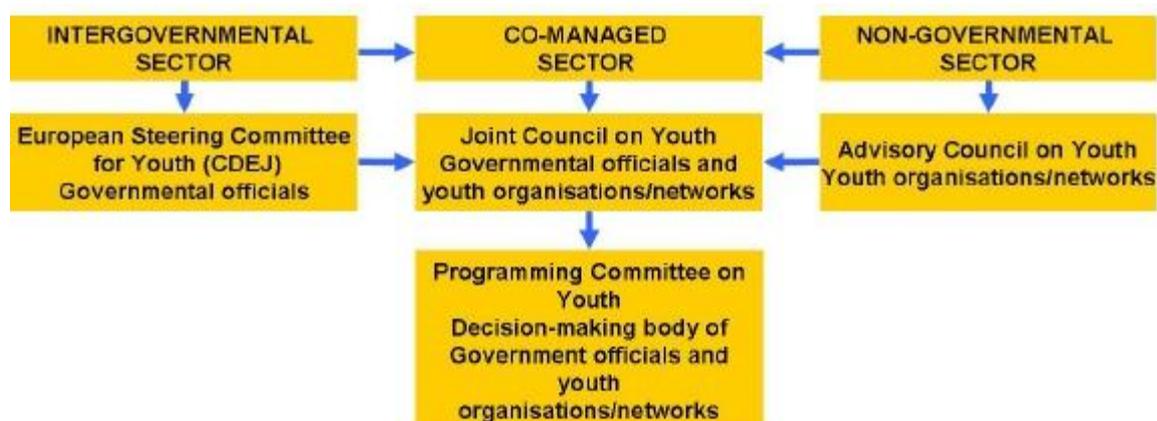
## APPENDIX I

### 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 properly constituted in the States party to the [European Cultural Convention](#), and other States which participate in the activities of the programme of the Youth Department, designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- Ten representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks not members of the European Youth Forum, 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 for two years, from among its members, those who shall be invited to represent it 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 Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three 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, it was at the origin of the campaign "No Hate Speech Movement" launched in 2013, which should empower online activists to take action against hate speech on line and to promote and defend human rights on line. The AC was also instrumental in the drafting of Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, adopted in January 2015. It is currently involved in drafting a Recommendation on Young People's access to rights.

The Advisory Council co-operates with other intergovernmental sectors of the Council of Europe; the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE); the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities; and the Commissioner of Human Rights.

The overall programme of the youth sector is implemented bearing in mind the importance of taking the youth dimension better into consideration in other activity sectors 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, which develops 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, Congress sessions, 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 Advisory Council on Youth:

- The No Hate Speech Movement Campaign
- The World Forum for Democracy:
  - From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy? (Strasbourg, 3-5 November 2014)
  - Freedom vs control: the democratic response (Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015)
- International review of the national youth policies of Greece (2013) and Serbia (2014)

- Parliamentary Assembly work on "Migrant children: what rights at 18?"; "Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge"; " The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis"; "The promotion of active citizenship in Europe", "Young people's access to rights" and "Young people as a key to conflict resolution and peace-building in Europe".
- Committee of Ministers' recently adopted recommendation on "the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights" and the Enter 2! Project on the same theme.
- The drafting of a Committee of Ministers Recommendation on "Young people's access to rights"
- Integration of young people with disabilities.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Congress: "Empowering youth: a shared responsibility for cities and regions"
- Euro-Arab and Euro-Africa youth cooperation
- Roma Youth Action Plan
- Intercultural and interreligious dialogue
- Recognition of youth work and non-formal education
- Cooperation between the CoE and the Russian Federation
- Cooperation between the CoE and Ukraine.

## APPENDIX II

### 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.
User	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.
User	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.
User	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.