Young people building Europe

Youth policy development

Social cohesion
Human rights
Intercultural dialogue
Participation
Research

Youth – Jeunesse

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND YOUNG PEOPLE BUILDING EUROPE TOGETHER FOR OVER 40 YEARS

For over 40 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 800 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.

Promoting cultural diversity

- ► 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 over 40 years, breaking new ground with innovative policies, approaches and educational materials.

Campaigns

- ► The No Hate Speech Movement (2012-2014) stands for equality, dignity, human rights and diversity. It is a project against hate speech, racism and discrimination in their online expression. www.nohatespeechmovement.org
- ► The Roma Youth Action Plan which is helping to empower Roma young people and highlight their concerns.

Resources

- ▶ The Compass and Compasito human rights education manuals, which have been translated into more than 30 languages;
- ▶ The Gender Matters training manual on tackling gender-based violence;
- ▶ The Portfolio, which enables youth workers to assess and validate their skills and experience;
- ▶ The Have your say! Manual, to encourage young people to participate in the democratic life of their community;
- ▶ The Youth Information Starter kit, in partnership with ERYICA, to provide guidance on creating youth information services across Europe;

Events & Projects

- ▶ The development of Living Libraries – where borrowers "take out" and talk to people instead of books – to break down prejudice and stereotypes.
- ▶ The ENTER! project, to improve young people's access to social rights;
- ▶ The European Network of Youth Peace Ambassadors and Youth Peace Camps, which have helped build understanding in conflict-riven communities.

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

▬▬ We have two residential youth centres where around 5,000 young people are trained every year:

- ▶ the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, set up in 1972; and
- ▶ the European Youth Centre in Budapest, set up in 1995 with the support of the Hungarian Government.

▬▬ We also run training activities in member countries of the Council of Europe and organise youth events with partner organisations in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Our role

► Provision of training, conference facilities and educational advice at European level;

► Development of educational materials;

► Provision of on-line information on the situation of young people and youth policy development (European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy);

► Co-operation with youth researchers;

► Financial assistance to youth organisations through the European Youth Foundation.

▬▬▬ We work primarily with youth leaders from all types of youth organisations: political party, trade union, environmental, religious and minority groups. Our courses are often devised by young people themselves. They have a very wide reach, as participants pass on what they have learnt to members of their associations.

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:

► Youth participation,

► Youth mobility,

► Youth information,

► Non-formal education,

► Support for youth organisations,

► Intercultural dialogue,

► Integration of marginalised groups,

► Education for democratic citizenship and human rights.

▬▬▬ We provide governments with expertise and policy advice. We also undertake reviews of the national youth policies of Council of Europe member states, at their request. (www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/IG_Coop/youth_policy_reviews _en.asp)

▬▬▬ Every four to five years a European conference of ministers responsible for youth is held in one of the Organisation's member states.

NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

FUNDING 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 support for international and local youth activities which promote peace, co-operation and understanding, human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

■■■■ With an annual budget of approximately 3 million euros, the EYF provides grants for trainings, meetings, studies, research, campaigns and pilot activities, thereby promoting non-formal education. It also funds the administrative expenses of international non-governmental youth organisations and networks.

■■■■ Focusing on content and methodology and believing in a 2-way communication process, the EYF offers guidance, provides 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.

■■■■ More than 370,000 young people aged 15 to 30 have benefited directly from EYF-funded activities. The EYF supports a youth activity for every working day – 300 grants all over Europe involving over 15,000 young people a year. These activities have a positive impact on millions more.

ENG

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**Partnership programme
with the European Commission**
www.youth-partnership.net

No hate speech movement
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