The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth (hereafter Youth Partnership) is seeking researchers to join the renewed Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) to support its think tank function in the European youth sector, namely: gathering and producing knowledge and translating it for an effective use in youth policy and practice.

The overall goal of the Youth Partnership is to foster synergies between the priorities and programmes of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, in the youth field. It contributes to implementing the aims of the partner institutions’ youth strategies:

- Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030
- European Union Youth Strategy (2019-2027): engage, connect, empower

The Youth Partnership supports the related research processes through the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) and correspondents of European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYP).

What is PEYR?

PEYR is a network of 35 members from across Europe who have a diversity of expertise in different policy, practice and research areas connected to youth. The mission of the PEYR is to contribute to developing and improving knowledge about young people in Europe, to better understand current and upcoming challenges and trends in their lives, and their implications for youth policy and youth

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¹ This call for expression of interest does not constitute a procurement procedure and therefore does not automatically give rise to a consultancy contract.
² PEYR encompasses all signatory states of the European Cultural Convention
work. Since its establishment in 2010, PEYR has provided research, advice, analysis and perspectives on youth policy and youth work strategies to the partner institutions and the youth sector in Europe. PEYR researchers are supported by the PEYR Advisory Group.

The objectives of PEYR are to:

- support the functioning of the Youth Partnership as a think tank, and the partner institutions with expertise and research on the priority thematic areas identified by the Youth Partnership workplan;
- actively contribute to research, knowledge development and analysis about young people in Europe, as well as knowledge management and translation, as relevant;
- support diverse actors in the youth sector with research and expertise (policy makers, researchers and youth work practitioners) to develop informed, evidence-based policies and initiatives.

PEYR members may be asked to:

- Conduct on-demand research, prepare policy-oriented studies, reports, recommendations, analytical papers or briefs on issues of relevance to young people in Europe, in particular those in relation to the priorities of the Youth Partnership and the partner institutions;
- Contribute to knowledge management, translation, communication and dissemination of research findings to support youth policy and practice at relevant offline and online events;
- Support a variety of policy processes at European or national level with research, advice, expertise and analysis, thus contributing to the development of informed, evidence-based youth policies and initiatives;
- Cooperate, where appropriate, and carry out joint projects with the other actors in the European youth field, including EKCYP correspondents, mutually supporting their activities;
- Contribute to conceptual and methodological development, coordination and implementation of studies and research outputs, thematic workshops, seminars and other relevant events organised by the Youth Partnership or any of the two institutions;
- Be involved in seminars, symposia and other Youth Partnership events, together with practitioners and policymakers;
- Provide support on the implementation of the Youth Partnership’s workplan and activities, as relevant;
- Promote youth research and capacity building on research across Europe, and actively engage in establishing and sustaining national knowledge networks in countries of residence.
Ways of working

PEYR membership

The members are selected for the first term of 2 years. It may be tacitly renewed for a further term of two years (until the end of 2027), unless either the Youth Partnership or the PEYR member notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the membership. Should selected members no longer be able to actively contribute to the work of PEYR and the Youth Partnership, they may be replaced.

Members of PEYR participate in a personal capacity and based on their personal competence.

Quality of work

PEYR members are required to execute their tasks within the set deadlines and with the highest concern for quality and accuracy of their work. They should familiarise themselves with and adhere to the writing and submission style guidelines of the Youth Partnership, as well as to the defined administrative procedures.

PEYR projects may be individual or collaborative tasks, depending on expected volume of work and output so editorial coordination and teamwork are important skills for aspiring PEYR members.

PEYR members are expected to be highly proficient in written and oral English and to submit high quality final outputs.

Contractual and administrative matters

This selection process does not constitute a competitive procurement procedure. However, throughout the duration of the PEYR mandate, its members may be offered consultancy contracts on a case-by-case basis, according to their research profile, and against a defined remuneration fee in accordance with the Council of Europe procurement rules.

Meetings and travel reimbursement

Members of PEYR are expected to meet at least once a year, during the EKCYP-PEYR meetings, or other events or meeting of the Youth Partnership. During their mandate, they may be invited to represent PEYR in specific Statutory and policy meetings of the partner institutions, by bringing in a broader youth research perspective. The Youth Partnership undertakes to reimburse travel and subsistence allowances if this is not otherwise provided for.

11. Application and selection process

Prospective applicants fulfilling the criteria indicated in this call are invited to send their application, including the completed application form, CV and a writing sample to youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int by 20 October 2023, indicating in the subject of the email Application – PEYR – Name.

Up to 35 candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:
• relevance of professional background (youth research experience gained through both academic and applied approaches), in particular in the Youth Partnership priority areas: youth participation, access to rights and social inclusion of young people, digitalisation and AI, mental health, climate justice and sustainability, youth policy and youth work;
• experience and interest in contributing to knowledge-based policy and practice development;
• high level of knowledge about youth issues in Europe;
• high written and oral proficiency in English;
• balanced representation of experienced and early career researchers;
• balanced composition of thematic expertise, gender, age, geographic coverage, experience of previous PEYR mandates and new candidates.

The final number will be decided based on the quality and complementarity of profiles.

All questions about the role of PEYR, the selection criteria, application procedure, etc. shall be submitted by 5 October to lana.pasic@partnership-eu.coe.int with the following reference in the subject: Questions – PEYR.

Applicants will be informed of the selection results by e-mail by 15 December 2023.