

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



COUNTRY SHEET

ON YOUTH WORK

BULGARIA



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1. Context of youth work

Youth work is an organised activity or initiative that provides, protects and develops the interests and needs of young people. Youth work can be either participation in seminars and training courses focused on the professional development of youth workers or it can be part of an organisation's activities to support personal development and self-realisation. In any case, its main purpose is to improve young people's lives and perspectives through modern non-formal learning methods, mobility, training programmes and networking to develop their skills and increase their opportunities.

Youth work takes place where young people are involved, as youth workers and young people are partners in the process. It covers social, cultural, educational, sports and political activities through non-formal and informal learning. Its value is recognised in the European Council conclusions on youth work and is highlighted in a study on the [Value of Youth Work published by the European Commission in 2014](#).

There are various kinds of institutions for youth work, such as NGOs run by young people, youth organisations, youth associations, agencies and state bodies. They all provide different forms of youth work and conditions for youth activity at local, regional, national, European and international levels. One place to provide formal, non-formal and informal learning is youth centres. They support youth empowerment and social inclusion, which require a comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach to overcome the various manifestations of marginalisation and isolation in society. Youth work plays an important role in preventing social exclusion and strengthening social participation in the decision-making process. It provides them with lifelong skills, competences for development, prosperity and autonomy of all young people, including those with fewer opportunities.

Quality youth work is a prerequisite for ensuring the optimal development and practice of young people. Youth organisations, youth services and youth workers, together with relevant stakeholders, plan and implement activities and programmes that are relevant to the interests, needs and experiences of young

people. Quality youth work benefits young people personally, socially and professionally.

In Bulgaria, the number of training handbooks on non-formal learning is limited and quite insufficient due to the early stage of development of the youth sector and youth work. The lack of a specific training framework in formal education for youth workers leads to inefficient use of the capacity of professionals working in the field. That is why the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria started a project entitled the Operational Program Development of Human Resources in 2018. The main objective is to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and quality of youth services by creating, implementing and validating quality standards and creating objective performance indicators, taking into account the final result for the young person who uses them. The project will develop standards for youth services ensuring equal levels of quality in delivering services that lead to real knowledge, skills and competences, and building an effective system for evaluation and quality control. By establishing long-term and unified organisation for the funding of youth services, the project will introduce flexible models of funding and evaluation of youth services. Validation of standards and their implementation in the legal framework regulating the services provided to young people aged between 15 and 29 and improving the processes of planning, management and updating of the youth policies. After the approval process with all stakeholders, the standards will be available to youth services.

2. The strategic and legislative framework of youth work

The Youth Law has been in force in Bulgaria since 20 April 2012. It defines the ways and methods of creation and implementation of national and local youth policies, and also provides definitions of the terms “youth activities”, “youth organisations”, “youth worker”, “youth volunteering” and “national information system on youth”.

Chapter V of the Youth Law provides the following description of a youth worker:

Article 32: A youth worker is an adult, who has undertaken special training in work with youth and/or has acquired professional experience in youth work and the implementation of youth activities.

Article 33: The youth worker supports the functioning of youth organisations by analysing, planning, organising, monitoring and evaluating youth activities, based on an individual approach and assessing the specific needs of young people.

Article 34: National and municipal youth programmes include activities supporting the development and the specific training of youth workers.

The full text of the National Youth Law is available here (in Bulgarian): http://mpes.government.bg/Documents/Documents/Zakoni/ZAKON_za_mladejta.pdf

National Youth Strategy 2010-2020 (available here in Bulgarian): http://mpes.government.bg/Documents/Documents/Strategii/strategy_youth_2010-2020.pdf defines the main aims, priorities and actions of national youth policy.

Based on the main ideas, concepts and strategic aims of the National Youth Law and National Youth Strategy, every five years the Ministry of Youth and Sports develops the National Youth Programme, which is considered as an important tool for creating national youth policy. The programme defines specific actions for achieving each of the aims defined in the National Youth Strategy. Some of them encourage the development of youth work in Bulgaria, such as:

Action 1.1.3: Development and recognition of youth work in Bulgaria

Action 3.1.1: Introduction and support of effective practices for work with young volunteers, their training, development, monitoring and evaluation of their work, as well as recognition of their achievements.

Action 5.1.1: Introduction of detached or mobile methods of youth and social work for young people from small towns, villages and remote areas.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports issues an annual action plan with a list of activities directed to reaching each of the aims, as defined in the National Youth Strategy. (The plan for 2016-2020 is available with this [link](#).) These action plans aim to improve considerably the situation of young people in Bulgaria.

In addition, we have the official “Statement (Position) of the Bulgarian National Youth Forum on Youth Work and Youth Workers” (13 December 2015). This is not a legislative document, but rather a call for action to the main stakeholders – the government (the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, the Ministry of Education) and NGOs to foster the process of creating standards and recognition for youth work in Bulgaria.

This statement provides more detailed analysis of the topic – it suggests definitions of the terms “youth work” and “youth worker”, as well as the following list of skills needed for this profession and area of work.

Youth work – Youth work is an intersectoral activity, connecting different structures and sectors that support young people and are involved in youth matters connected to the real problems of youth communities and young people. By playing its main role, it empowers young people so that they can grow as independent, responsible, active and critical citizens. The aim of youth work is to support the personal, social and civic development of young people and to create safe spaces for expanding their potential, acquiring competences and discovering new opportunities. The main principles on which youth work is based are: voluntary participation, tolerance, altruism, co-operation and networking, adaptability, responsibility and fun. Youth work takes place where the young people are, involving them in a dynamic, unusual and creative process. It is an interdisciplinary activity, which uses the methods of non-formal learning.

Youth worker – The youth worker is a person who works directly with young people to reach the main goal of his or her work – development of their personal capacity. The youth worker's profile is developed based on three main components: functions, competencies and requirements.

The youth worker's tasks can be divided into three main groups:

1) They contribute and stimulate the personal growth of young people by motivating them, consulting and encouraging them, and it prevents their social exclusion from the community. The youth worker promotes the development of new opportunities for young people thanks to his or her activity: motivation for inclusion in additional training in order to develop new skills, opportunities for network extension, growing individualisation, etc.

2) The functions regarding the organisation and co-ordination of his or her work, targeted for collection and analysis of the information needed, monitoring of the actions, gathering and management of resources, organisation and use of resources, trainings and campaigns.

3) Providing a dialogue with the institutions, and advocacy for the interests of youth and often she or he (the youth worker) is the active side in the development and improvement of youth policies and services for youth.

The full text of the document (in Bulgarian) is available here – http://nmf.bg/positions/position_Youth_Worker_13.12.2015.pdf

3. Recognition

In the text of the National Youth Strategy, youth workers are defined as a “necessary resource for implementation of the strategy. These are the specialists, prepared to support the personal, social and economic development and stimulating the young people to fully participate in the society, in a way appropriate for their age. They (the youth workers) fulfil the duties of professional consultants for the young people, responding their needs and interests and are present at youth, therapeutic and consulting centres, schools, etc., helping by providing advice and directing the youngsters to solve various issues. The role of youth workers is particularly important for assuring special support for personal, social and economic development and empowerment of young people in order to assure their full participation in society, in accordance with their age.”

Since 2015, “youth worker” is included in the Official List of the Professions in Bulgaria. It is therefore an official profession and labour contracts for this position can be signed by employees. This is a very important step, as those youth workers who are employed and get paid for this job usually have the position of “project co-ordinator” or “specialist/expert”.

In addition, there are activities undertaken by the National Youth Forum (an umbrella organisation of youth organisations in Bulgaria) in order to make the profession of youth worker more recognised, both by the government and society. One example of this, the seventh annual National Meeting of the Youth Organisations in Bulgaria, which took place in Varna from 24 to 28 June 2015, was dedicated to this matter (youth work and youth workers). There was even a Facebook campaign “I am a Youth Worker” – youth workers from all over Bulgaria were invited to upload a photo of themselves on the official Facebook page of the event, so they could show who youth workers are and where they work.

Some European initiatives to support youth work are present in Bulgaria. For instance, the Bulgarian city of Varna was the European Youth Capital for 2017, which had a great influence on the development of youth work in the whole country.

Bulgaria has an Erasmus+ National Agency (or Human Resources Development Centre) and there is a variety of youth projects, funded by Erasmus+. According to the statistics of the Human Resources Development Centre, the total numbers of youth workers who have received Youthpass certificates upon their participation in projects, funded by the Erasmus+ programme, each year are, as follows:

2014 – 1 170 youth workers

2015 – 511 youth workers

2016 – 758 youth workers

(This is the number of certificates issued. The total number of participants in such projects is a bit higher, as some of the participants might have participated in training programmes without requesting a certificate.)

The agency is also responsible for the implementation of the new initiative European Solidary Corps that creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects, in their own country or abroad, that benefit communities and people around Europe. The young people, up to the age of 30, who participate in the European Solidarity Corps all agree to and uphold its mission and principles and start a project. European Solidarity Corps participants can join a wide range of projects, such as helping to prevent natural disasters or rebuilding afterwards, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities. Taking part in such projects can be a significant achievement for any young person. It will be an asset when applying for a job and it will help young people when they apply for higher education. The European Solidarity Corps is a new opportunity to engage in a meaningful activity which could prove to be a stepping stone into employment.

In the context of the National Youth Strategy, special attention is given also to the introduction and exploitation of European tools (such as Europass, EKP, ECVET) for validation of youth workers' skills gained through different forms of formal and non-formal education.

In Bulgaria there are four youth centres under the programme “Children and Youth at Risk”, which is financed through the financial mechanism of the European

Economic Area 2009-2014. Two of the centres – in the cities of Plovdiv and Stara Zagora – hold the Council of Europe Quality Label. The youth centre is a place where young people are the driving force that leads to social change; a place which works towards establishing international co-operation in the youth sector and fosters intercultural dialogue, while respecting the Council of Europe's values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Together the four centres created a National Network of Youth Centres in October 2016 by signing a co-operation agreement between the managers of the four Bulgarian youth centres – Vratsa, Dobrich, Plovdiv and Stara Zagora. The main goal of the network is to advocate for the recognition of youth work at national level and to work towards common quality standards. A number of joint activities have taken place, including a nationwide training programme on the topic of human rights and an international youth expo entitled "Create Your Future".

4. Funding youth work

NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME (2016-2020)

The National Youth Programme (2016-2020) is one of the tools used to implement the priorities of national policies for young people. It is based on the needs of young people in the country and is in line with the priorities of European youth policy. The programme fulfils the objectives of the National Youth Strategy (2010-2020). It focuses on the acquisition of key competences and integration of young people into the labour market by developing their personal and professional potential through non-formal training and counselling. The National Youth Programme (2016-2020) was designed on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of the previous National Youth Programme (2011-2015) and the results of studies and analyses of the state and needs of young people in the country. In the evaluation of the previous programming period, measurable indicators to determine the concrete results of the current programme have been identified and examined. The duration of the current programming period is five years – from 2016 to 2020. The necessary funds for the implementation of the programme during the programming period (2016-2020) shall be provided within the framework of the ministry budget for the respective year and according to the spending ceilings in the three-year budget forecast. The national co-ordinator for the programme is the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The national co-ordinator shall approve the conditions for the drafting of project proposals under the programme, including the requirements of the applicant organisations and the projects they submit.

The main vision of the programme is to improve the quality of life for young people by creating and implementing sustainable mechanisms for investing in youth as a significant social capital that contributes to the socio-economic development of Bulgaria as a member of the European Union. The strategic objectives of the programme are the following:

1. facilitating access to quality services to support the full personal and social development of young people in accordance with their needs and interests;

2. promoting healthy lifestyles for young people;
3. development of youth volunteering as a driving force for personal development, mobility, learning, competitiveness, social cohesion, intergenerational solidarity and civic self-awareness;
4. creating an attractive environment for young people's personal development in small settlements and rural areas;
5. creating a favourable, encouraging and supportive environment for quality professional advancement for young people in Bulgaria.

The National Youth Programme is divided into two sub-programmes:

SUB-PROGRAMME 1: DEVELOPMENT OF A NETWORK OF YOUTH INFORMATION AND CONSULTANCY CENTRES

Since 2007, the work of these centres is entirely focused on the young generation of Bulgaria, providing free services based on non-formal education, including information services, consultancy services and training programmes. Their activities over the last 12 years have not undergone any significant change. In order to adapt to the changing needs of youth, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is looking for new methods and ways to improve their work.

SUB-PROGRAMME 2: NATIONAL YOUTH INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS

Sub-programme 2 focuses on funding the implementation of project proposals by non-governmental organisations working in the youth field as well as by informal youth groups in six thematic areas covering main directions for promoting civic positioning and participation in campaigns and initiatives of young people and youth workers in Bulgaria.

- Thematic area 1 – Youth volunteering and participation in volunteer initiatives
- Thematic area 2 – Development and recognition of youth work
- Thematic area 3 – Promoting healthy lifestyles for young people
- Thematic area 4 – Activation of young people living in small communities

- Thematic area 5 – Youth entrepreneurship

NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES UNDER ARTICLE 10A OF THE GOVERNMENT GAMING LAW

The main priority of the programme is to provide a supportive environment for the personal, professional and social realisation of young people in the country by encouraging socially responsible behaviour and prevention of various forms of dependence and/or aggression, thereby improving quality of life and the environment in which young people live. Eligible applicants under the programme are organisations authorised under the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act to carry out public benefit activities. The funds for the implementation of the programme are provided by the State Gambling Commission and represent 2% of the contributions that the organisers of gaming bring to the state budget to carry out their activities. In 2018, the amount reached BGN 2 million (one million euros) which was distributed to the following three directions:

DIRECTION 1: Active impact on young people in the country.

Its estimated budget is BGN 700 000 and the applicants can develop project proposals for organising and conducting national information campaigns on the following topics: promoting a healthy lifestyle – with a budget for the project proposals up to BGN 100 000; prevention of different forms of addiction – with a budget for the project proposals up to BGN 220 000 and prevention of aggression among young people – with a budget for project proposals up to BGN 280 000.

DIRECTION 2: information, publicity and popularisation of the objectives of the programme and of attracting and engaging the attention of young people and society

It has an estimated budget of up to BGN 250 000. The activities should take place within six months. Acceptable activities include raising public awareness of the scope and objectives of the programme as well as promoting socially responsible behaviour among young people. The activities should also engage civil society on problematic issues for the younger generation and the responsibility of the stakeholders to overcome them. The projects aim to disseminate and/or promote good practices from previously implemented projects under the programme in 2017.

DIRECTION 3 has been developed as a measure to influence and change the behavioural patterns of young people in relation to the objectives of the programme.

Direction 3 has an estimated budget of up to BGN 1 050 000 and each project proposal should be up to BGN 40 000. Participants in project activities should include at least 10% of disadvantaged young people and the activities should be implemented within three to five months.

Eligible activities are promoting healthy lifestyles, prevention of addictions and/or aggression by carrying out initiatives that build skills to recognise the types of addiction and/or aggressive behaviour; within the project there should be development and purposeful distribution of information materials and the holding of discussion forums, round tables and other means of reaching the target group. The procedure for the evaluation of project proposals includes the following stages.

- Stage 1 – Administrative compliance
- Stage 2 – Qualitative assessment
- Stage 3 – Financial compliance
- Stage 4 – Ranking of project proposals

5. Structures, stakeholders and levels in youth work provision

5.1 State structures/public authorities deciding on or providing youth work

Youth policies in Bulgaria have a horizontal approach. The institution that is responsible for youth policy is the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria.

<http://mpes.government.bg/Default.aspx>

The Youth Policies Directorate within the ministry has two units:

1. National and European Youth Policies and Information

Head of Unit – Peter Mladenov Peter.Mladenov@mpes.government.bg

2. Youth Programmes and Projects

Head of Unit – Monika Yanakieva
Monika.Yanakieva@mpes.government.bg

You can find more information about the Youth Directorate at <http://nism.bg> and or by contacting the unit at: youth.policy@mpes.government.bg.

In Bulgaria there is a national agency that is responsible for Erasmus programmes and the European Solidarity Corps. You can find more information about the work of this agency [here](#).

5.2 National or local youth councils

At the national level, there is the National Youth Forum, which is an umbrella organisation for the youth organisations in Bulgaria, representing its members (about 50 youth organisations from around the country) at the national and international levels (full member of the European Youth Forum).

At the local level, in some of the municipalities (for instance, in Varna) advisory councils of youth are created, representing the interests of young people and taking part in the policy-making process at municipal level.

5.3 Youth and youth work NGOs

In Bulgaria, there is no youth work NGO as such (a professional organisation or trade union).

6. Forms and examples of youth work in your country

Non-governmental organisations are the main providers of youth work in Bulgaria. With the support of national and European funding, they organise different seminars, training programmes and round tables for the implementation of youth work.

7. Quality standards

Taking into account the dynamics in the youth field and the need for a competence framework guiding the youth policies in Bulgaria, from 2018 the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria has developed a project under the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources. The main objective is to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and quality of youth services by developing, implementing and validating quality standards and developing objective performance indicators, taking into account the final result for the young person. The project will develop standards for youth services ensuring the quality in delivering services leading to real knowledge, skills and competences, building an effective system for evaluation and control. By establishing a long-term and unified organisation, the project will introduce flexible models of funding and evaluating youth services. Validation of standards and their implementation in the legal framework regulating services will be provided to young people aged 15 to 29 and will improve the processes of planning, management and updating of youth policies. After a process of approbation with the participation of all stakeholders the standards will be available for youth services.

In addition, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is also a partner in the project INCLUDE – Building Capacity for Inclusion in Bulgaria under the EEA/NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014-2021. The project includes a wide range of activities in the education and youth sectors. Our youth activities will address national policy challenges and needs and will create relevant policy instruments for the sustainability of the field, such as a national quality label for youth centres and a competency framework for training youth workers. The project will help build the capacity of the youth centres that will be selected within the open call for proposals under Programme Outcome 2 through a long-term training programme. Within the project, a series of Council of Europe materials on youth work will also be translated into Bulgarian and adapted to the national context, and will also be used in capacity-building activities. These activities will contribute to a definition of standards for the profession of youth worker in Bulgaria, along with standards for training youth workers, with a focus on social rights and working with youths from disadvantaged backgrounds. The project will thus respond to current national priorities in the field of

youth and will contribute to the implementation of Bulgaria's National Youth Strategy and Youth Act.

The project will also support the national implementation of the Council of Europe [Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)4 on youth work](#), will contribute to the development of the [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres project](#) through the development of a national system of certification for youth centres and will further support the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendations CM/Rec(2016)7 on [young people's access to rights](#) and CM/Rec(2015)3 on [access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights](#). The project is also complementary to the [Roma Youth Action Plan \(2016-2020\)](#). Bulgaria is involved in all these developments as a Council of Europe member state and the current project serves both the country and the international community by piloting policy developments and innovations at national level. For youth activities, the main target groups are youth workers involved in youth work at national and local levels and staff of youth centres as well as youth policy decision makers, youth organisations and Roma mediators involved in the work of youth centres.

The educational institutions that provide education for youth workers set their educational standards for the knowledge, skills and competences which their students are expected to have after completion of the course. For example:

- Master's degree programme in [socio-pedagogical work with youth](#), offered by the The University of Veliko Tarnovo "St. St. Cyril and Methodius";
- Bachelor and Master's degree programmes in [non-formal education](#) offered by the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski";
- Master's degree programme in [youth activities and sport](#), offered by the National Sport Academy "Vasil Levski".

8. Knowledge and data on youth work

Youth work is included as a job classification in Bulgaria. There are working youth mediators at local level that provide information and opportunities for young people to find appropriate jobs in their region. However, most of the youth work in Bulgaria is voluntary and is provided by different organisations, NGOs and state institutions.

9. The European and international dimension of youth work in the country

European policies on youth work have a strong influence on the national youth policy. Bulgaria has been a member of the Council of Europe since 1992 and joined the European Union in 2007.

At the beginning of 2018, Bulgaria took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and one of the overall priorities during these six months was the future of young people in Europe. Part of the 6th cycle of the structured dialogue was the EU Youth Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria in April 2018 that brought together more than 250 participants: young people, youth policy makers and other stakeholders from the youth field, including representatives from the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries. High Representatives from UNFPA and UNICEF also took part in the process. The UNSG's Special Envoy on Youth and UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights were special guests for the first time in Bulgaria and shared their wisdom with European youth. They all worked together in order to represent the young people's opinions and willingness to shape the youth policy and to improve the youth–adult partnership and show how youth empowerment is done. As a result, 11 European Youth Goals were created and they are now part of the EU Youth Strategy (2019-2027).

Throughout the entire European Youth Conference in Sofia, translation in sign language was provided. Bulgaria considers the translation in sign language in international and Bulgarian language as a good practice in this kind of events as it ensures social inclusion and youth participation of deaf youth. Keeping this in mind, the aim is for sign language to become a practice at the national and international levels and an integral part of youth work, as every young person can and should be part of the decision-making process.

During these six months, the Bulgarian Presidency worked within the Youth Working Party of the Council of the European Union on adopting two Council conclusions. The first conclusion is focused on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe. The rationale behind the document is that, today, young people under the age of 25 form almost half of the world's population, which is a sign of their enormous role in all sectors of the society. It is

important to develop policies and instruments that foster youth development in a meaningful way, which later may have a positive impact on this and future generations as agents of peace and prosperity in Europe. However, in recent years we have unfortunately become witnesses to increased aggression, violent radicalisation and even terrorism. We recall the recent terrorist attacks across the EU and similar atrocities in the past, as well as the rise in incidents of hate speech, hate crime, propaganda and violent xenophobia in Europe, which call for an urgent need for contributions from all sectors in society, especially the youth sector. Support to young people and the youth sector through different capacity-building activities as well as through formal and non-formal education, including education for democratisation and human rights, enables the new generation to fight these negative tendencies and to promote European values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. The Youth, Peace and Security agenda cuts across the EU's internal and external policies on counter-terrorism, preventing violent extremism, migration and sustainable development.

The second Council conclusion is focused on the role of youth in addressing demographic challenges in the European Union. It acknowledges the impact of learning mobility on personal and professional development; it supports intercultural understanding and expands young people's horizons fostering cohesion and respect for equality society. Learning mobility can further strengthen young people's understanding of active citizenship and solidarity, their rights and responsibilities, their recognition and respect for democratic values and cultural diversity and their access to freedom of expression and belief. The conclusion stresses that youth work and non-formal and informal learning should help young people maximise their potential and support them in achieving and sustaining fulfilling and productive personal, social and working lives, regardless of whether they decided to stay in the host country or return to their native region. The conclusion invites member states to encourage cross-sectoral partnerships and opportunities in order to provide, as appropriate, effective inclusion and/or integration of young people in the host country, or when they return home, and foster the contribution of youth work and working for and with young people in developing young people's life skills, including communication and language competences, to facilitate their participation in civic and civil life in a European context.

The Human Resource Development Centre has been nominated by the national authorities and the European Commission as the Bulgarian Erasmus+ national agency. It provides training and project opportunities within Erasmus key action 3 “Support to policy reform”. Projects may last from 3 to 24 months and do not need a partner from another country unless transnational meetings are organised. Young people should lead and participate in the activities at all stages of the project from preparation to follow-up. The typical project activities include:

- national meetings and international seminars providing opportunities for the exchange of information, debate and active participation of young people in dialogue with policy makers on structural dialogue and the EU Youth Strategy;
- national meetings and international seminars to prepare the official youth conferences organised during each rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union;
- events that promote debate and the exchange of information on youth policy related issues and activities organised during the European Youth Week;
- consultations with young people to identify their needs related to participation in democratic life (online consultations, surveys, drillings, etc.);
- meetings and seminars, information events or debates between young people and policy makers or experts in the field of youth on the topics related to participation in democratic life.

Who can apply?

- Not-for-profit organisations, associations, NGOs, European youth NGOs, or public institutions at local or regional level that are established in a programme country.

Who can participate?

- Not-for-profit organisations, associations, NGOs;
- European youth NGOs;
- Public institutions at local or regional level.

Eligible participants

- Young people between 13 and 30 years of age from the countries involved in the project.

Number of participants

- A minimum number of 30 young participants is required.

How to apply

- An existing EU login is necessary.
- A valid PIC Registration on the Participant Portal is necessary.
- All necessary documents of the organisation have to be attached in the Participant Portal.
- You must fill in and submit an electronic form, together with all applicable attachments.
- You must submit the application form and its accompanying documents in paper form by mail.