

## **Youth Partnership**

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



### **Call for editors**

## **Youth Knowledge Book on political participation of young people**

Deadline for applications: 30 August 2020

The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership is looking for four editors for the Youth Knowledge Book on political participation of young people.

The editors will, by the end of 2020:

- Develop a concept note and a call for abstracts, based on the main themes, priorities and trends relating to the political participation of young people in the current context, and in line with the priorities identified by the expert group for the study on youth political participation and the selected themes across the EU and the Council of Europe member states
- Disseminate the call among their networks
- Conduct a selection of abstracts and liaise with authors on submission of chapters

The editorial work on the book is expected to continue in 2021.

#### **Expertise and profile of the editors:**

- A good understanding and knowledge of youth political participation
- Understanding political participation of young people within the context of the EU and the Council of Europe member states
- Excellent research, writing, reviewing and editing skills in English
- Previous experience in editing complex publications will be considered an advantage.

## Background information

In 2019, the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership organised a [symposium “The future of young people’s political participation: questions, challenges and opportunities”](#), with more than 120 participants from across Europe, to explore the landscape of young people’s political participation in a changing world and produce knowledge relating to the observed and anticipated trends, their reasons and consequences. In March 2020, an online expert group meeting was held in order to identify the research needs and priorities of the youth sector in the area of political participation of young people. The concept note, methodology and the research plan for the study on youth political participation were prepared, and the work on the study, focusing on conventional and nonconventional types of participation, has been launched, with first results expected in autumn of 2020. Youth Knowledge Book on political participation of young people aims to take the focus on this topic further, by looking at the various themes of relevance to young people today, but also youth participation within the current context.

The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership broadly defines political participation as “any activity that shapes, affects, or involves the political sphere” (EU-Council of Europe youth partnership, 2019). This refers to every opportunity and space where young people have influence on anything that affects their lives- politics, decisions, relationships, or active engagement of young people in their communities. This broad definition highlights that political participation has many diverse forms. It can be conventional and unconventional, including activities such as voting, being members of political parties, serving on a local youth council, engaging through a youth organisation, or taking part in online political activism, boycotts or a protest movement. All these activities are aimed at influencing political decisions.

Political participation today is taking place within the context of a shrinking space for civil society, the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on movement and mass gatherings, rapid digitalisation, advancement of populist ideologies, increased inequalities, and a rise of global youth movements. Young people seem to be more interested in joining loose interest groups rather than NGOs and political parties, and they use social media and digital tools to organise and share information. They mobilise around issues such as climate change, violence and social injustice. Contemporary forms of young people’s political participation may not always be recognised as legitimate. Effective ways to encourage and strengthen voices of those young people who are “invisible” and to build bridges between youth voices and authorities need to be better understood and further promoted.

## Previous work on the topic of youth political participation

The knowledge gathered and produced throughout 2019 ahead of and as a follow up to Symposium includes: the [literature review](#) on political participation, young people’s [Visions of the Future](#), the Compendium of practices, [report](#) from the Symposium, [videos](#) and [animated videos](#), infographics and webinars. This is also complemented by a range of publications on the topic from the previous years, including EU-Council of Europe youth partnership’s [Revisiting youth political participation - Challenges for research and democratic practice in Europe](#), Council of Europe’s [New and innovative forms of youth participation in decision-making processes](#), European Youth Forum’s [YOUTH & POLITICAL PARTIES: A Toolkit for Youth-friendly Politics in Europe](#), and a 2018 publication from the SALTO-YOUTH

Participation & Information Resource Centre (SALTO PI) [“Closer to the edge of participation and activism”](#).

In order to build up on the wealth of the knowledge and resources already available, the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership continues its work on this topic through a new research study and Youth Knowledge book. Collaboration will be sought with further reflections on the phenomenon of a shrinking space for civil society within the Council of Europe youth sector and overall [Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) and [EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#).

**The Youth Knowledge book aims to explore the following questions:**

- What is the current state of play when it comes to youth political participation?
- How do young people engage in politics and at which levels?
- What are the main themes/topics or areas of youth political participation today (e.g. gender activism, climate crisis, social inclusion and inequality, health, mental health and well-being)
- How does political participation of young people take place in different contexts? What are the ways of political participation and youth activism in the time of COVID-19 pandemic?
- What is the future of youth political participation?

**Fee**

The editors will be offered a total fee of 800-1500 EUR per person, depending on the final distribution of tasks during 2020. The fee will also include the participation in the first editorial meeting, to be held in Brussels in September, or online, depending on the travel and meeting restrictions. The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth will cover the costs of travel and accommodation for the meeting.

**Applications**

Please submit your application to [ana.pasic@partnership-eu.coe.int](mailto:ana.pasic@partnership-eu.coe.int) by 30 August 2020. Applications should include:

- A curriculum vitae
- A short motivation letter highlighting the relevant expertise and past experience of the applicant

If you have any questions regarding the submission process, or would like to receive additional information, please contact us on [youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int](mailto:youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int).