

**HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**DROITS HUMAINS,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT**

Supporting young people and their organisations: Tools, instruments and strategies of the Council of Europe Youth Department

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Youth Department



Council of Europe

- Intergovernmental political Organisation, founded on three main values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law
- Established on 5 May 1949 (Treaty of London) by 10 states
- Comprises 46 member states today
- Headquarter in Strasbourg (France) with external offices in Ankara, Baku, Belgrade, Bucharest, Chisinau, Kyiv, Podgorica, Sarajevo, Skopje, Tbilisi, Tirana, Venice and Yerevan.
- Key Documents (i.a.):
 - European Convention on Human Rights & Protocols
 - European Social Charta
 - Istanbul Convention
 - Lanzarote Convention

“Enabling young people across Europe to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe’s core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law”

Co-management

Youth policy

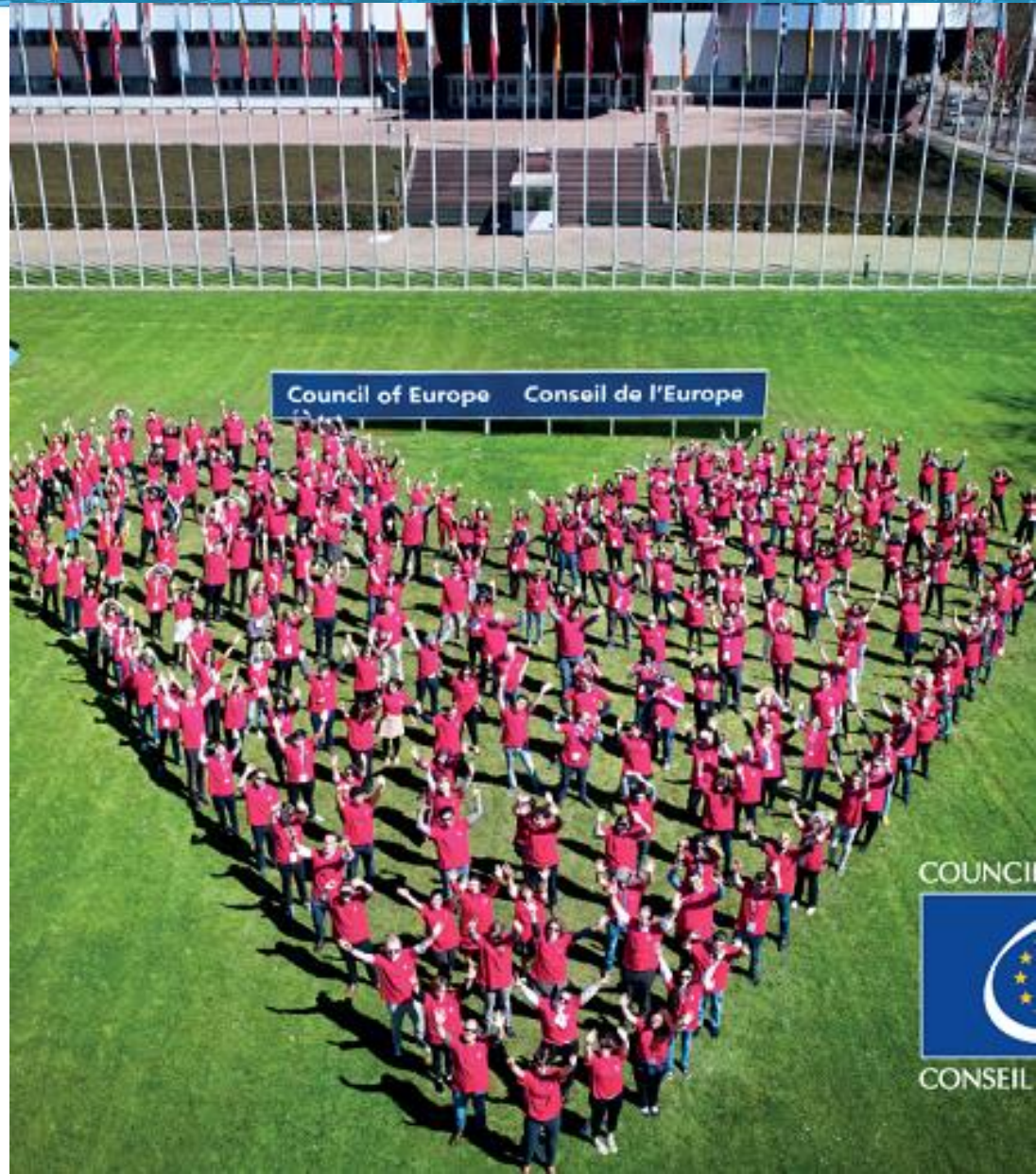
European Youth Foundation

European Youth Centres

Education, Training and Cooperation

Youth Strategy 2030

- Revitalising pluralist democracy
- Access to rights for young people
- Living together in peaceful societies
- Youth work
- Youth policy



COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND YOUTH



Co-Management of the activities and budgets of the Council of Europe Youth Department exists and has been developed since 1972



Sharing power and responsibility between governments and young people as rights holders



Fostering participatory democracy through democratically organised, representative youth organisations

Co-Management

Committee of Ministers
Ministers for Foreign Affairs of
member States



Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)
CCJ + CDEJ



European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)
48 governmental representatives



Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)
30 youth representatives



Programming Committee on Youth
8 Governmental + 8 non-governmental representatives



Relevant Standards and Policies (incomplete selection)

Committee of Ministers

- [CM/Rec \(2025\)3 on the social, economic, and political participation of rural youth](#)
- [CM/Rec\(2024\)6 on young people and climate action](#)
- [CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma youth participation](#)
- [**CM/Rec\(2022\)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes**](#)
- [CM/Rec\(2015\)3 – Access of Young People to Rights](#)

Parliamentary Assembly

- [Resolution 2619 \(2025\) on youth movements for democracy](#)

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- [European Charta on the Participation of young people in local and regional life](#)
- [Resolution 442 \(2019\): Social Rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities](#)

10th Conference of Ministers responsible for youth

- [Final declaration](#)

European Youth Foundation

« partnership – not just a donor »

- provides financial and educational support for European youth activities
- Annual budget of around 4 million
- supports European youth activities organised by non-governmental youth organisations and networks



There are five kinds of grants open to different types of organisations:

International activities (open to all except local NGOs)

Annual work plans (only open to international NGOs/networks, can include pilot activities)

Pilot activities (open to local, national, regional NGOs/networks)

Structural grants (open to international and regional NGOs/networks).

Education & Training

- Study sessions at the European Youth Centres in Budapest & Strasbourg
- E-Learning Platform
- Training Courses
- Consultative meetings
- Publications & Educational resources
- Partnership with Quality Label for Youth Centres
 - WannseeForum
 - Europäische Jugendbildungsstätte Magedburg



[Download](#)

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Council of Europe Youth Centres *Strasbourg & Budapest*

- Permanent centres supporting the Youth for Democracy Programme
- Provide residential, educational and meeting facilities for international activities
- Host study sessions, training courses, seminars and statutory meetings
- Offer inclusive, safe and accessible spaces for youth participation and intercultural learning
- Enable co-creation, exchange and competence development for young people across Europe



[European Youth Centre Strasbourg](#)



[European Youth Centre Budapest](#)

How to stay in contact:

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