

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



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

POOL OF EUROPEAN YOUTH RESEARCHERS (PEYR)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. Introduction

The Partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth is seeking researchers for a new Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) to provide research advice and perspective on youth policy strategies and approaches when requested by the partner institutions.

The pool will be constituted by 12-20 members who will be selected on the basis of the applications received by the deadline of 1st October 2010.

2. Context

The establishment of this new pool of researchers corresponds to the new medium-term youth strategies of both the European Union and the Council of Europe which aim at:

- promoting better knowledge and understanding of young people in Europe;
- supporting a knowledge-based youth policy.

The strategies are based on the following documents:

- Council of Europe: [Declaration “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020”](#)¹ (adopted in autumn 2008) and [Resolution \(2008\)23 of the Committee of Ministers on the youth policy of the Council of Europe](#)².
- European Union: European Commission [Communication on the new EU youth strategy \(2010-2018\) entitled “Youth: Investing and Empowering”](#)³ (April 2009) and the [Resolution of the Council of the European Union of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field \(2010-2018\)](#)⁴.

¹ http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/docs/YP_strategies/Policy/Agenda2020_Declaration_EN.pdf

² http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/docs/YP_strategies/Policy/CM_Res_2008_23.pdf

³ http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/docs/YP_strategies/Policy/LexUriServ.pdf

⁴ http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/docs/YP_strategies/Policy/doc1648_en.pdf

3. Objectives

The objectives of PEYR are to:

- actively contribute to youth research and knowledge development;
- provide a research perspective, critical and forward looking, on European youth policy development;
- enhance evidence-based policy making;
- constitute a “task force” through exchange between its members, engagement with the wider youth research community and with structures of youth policy and practice at the European level;
- ensure responsiveness to changes in the conditions of young people in Europe and offer the partner institutions a flexible support structure in responding to them.

4. Role of PEYR

Members of the Pool will be asked to:

- contribute to information exchange inside the Pool on **contemporary youth research** carried out at both national and cross-national levels;
- provide a voice, through research data, for less organized and **more marginalized young people** who remain unrepresented in youth organizations and whose needs are therefore not always taken into consideration;
- inform about the existing needs and advise on formulating corresponding future directions of **youth policy**, in particular within the Council of Europe and the European Commission, by providing feedback on drafts of policy documents;
- advise and advocate on the future direction of **youth research policy** by contributing in setting the agenda of the two institutions in this field;
- support implementation of **thematic workshops, seminars and other relevant events** organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership, through providing advice on themes, formulating calls, evaluating abstracts and research papers, supporting organisation of the events and preparation of the follow-up publications;
- collaborate closely with the national correspondents of the **European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy** (EKCYP) in providing better knowledge on priority topics of the EKCYP and support the national platforms of youth knowledge, where the EKCYP correspondents are involved;
- actively contribute to the **dissemination of youth research and knowledge** to national networks of youth research in cooperation with EKCYP correspondents
- provide an **interface with broader research themes** (family, generation, childhood research etc.) by being informed about the developments in those themes, key for the research on young people, and incorporating the knowledge into the work of PEYR;

- provide an **interface with other structures and operational groups**, (cf Youth Working Party, CDEJ, Advisory Council, the National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres of the European Commission's Youth in Action programme, the European Youth Forum, trainers' pools etc.) by exchanging information, contributing as needed and requested to evidence-based policy and practice formulated by those structures (advising on drafts of policy papers, programmes, proactively making proposals etc.);

- be open minded, **crossing over conventional sectoral barriers** between research, practice and policy making.

5. Practical aspects

Membership of the Pool will initially be for two years but subject to prolongation.

The members of the research group are expected to ensure availability to devote 5-10 working days a year to the tasks designed by the EU-CoE youth partnership. In return, the researchers will be granted a standard expert daily fee for the working days requested and the reimbursement of costs related to their participation to meetings, seminars etc.

The Pool of European Youth Researchers will meet twice a year and/or when the European Commission or the Council of Europe request their expertise.

The members of PEYR will be expected to actively prepare and participate in a larger meeting of European youth researchers and other relevant stakeholders from the youth field that will be organised approximately every 18 to 24 months in the format of a "Youth Knowledge Forum".

The Pool of European Youth Researchers may choose to elect a Chairperson or a contact person from among its members for a period of one year. The Chair will be the 'natural' invitee to participate in other youth activities of the EU-CoE youth partnership and the European institutions, but may also suggest a substitute in consultation with network members.

The working language will be English.

The first meeting of PEYR will take place in Brussels at the end of November or the beginning of December 2010. When applying, please consider your availability to attend this meeting. The final dates will be agreed at a later stage, in communication with the selected experts.

6. Application process

We welcome applications from researchers with the right expertise from all Council of Europe member states, who are motivated and committed to actively contribute and advise on youth policy matters and developments.

If you would like to become a member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers, please fill in the [online application form](#)⁵ by **1st October 2010**.

⁵ http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/seminars/seminar_9.html

7. Selection process

The selection of participants in the Pool will be based on clear selection criteria:

- relevance of professional background (youth research experience gained through both academic and applied approaches),
- experience in contributing to evidence based policies,
- high general level of knowledge about youth issues in Europe.

In addition, the following aspects will be considered:

- balance between EU and non EU countries,
- age, gender, geographical and professional diversity.

An effort will be made to have both senior and junior members in the Pool.

The selection will be made by a panel of representatives of the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership and of the youth research field.

The panel will select between 12 and 20 candidates to form the PEYR. The final number of members will be decided on the basis of the quality and complementarity of their profiles.

Applicants will be informed of the selection results by e-mail in the third week of October 2010.

Any query about the role of the Pool, the selection criteria, procedure and conditions of membership should be addressed to youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int

8. Useful links

[European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy EKCYF](#)⁶

[Council of Europe – Youth](#)⁷

[European Commission – Youth](#)⁸

⁶ <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index>

⁷ www.coe.int/youth

⁸ www.ec.europa.eu/youth