



February 2014

DJS/G (2014) 3 E

**Criteria for Activities
to be held in Co-operation with the
European Youth Centres**

Revised by the
Programming Committee on Youth
at its 30th meeting (December 2013)

Criteria and guidelines for activities to be held in co-operation with the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest

The European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg and Budapest, were set up to support youth participation in Europe and to provide support - through education and training – to associative networks and projects interested in sharing the Council of Europe’s principles and priorities in the youth field.

In addition to their own programme of education and training activities, the European Youth Centres carry out a yearly programme of study sessions and other activities held in co-operation with non-governmental and governmental youth partners. The study sessions, symposia and other similar activities reflect the principles of co-management and partnership with young people and their organisations that are at the heart of the youth policy of the Council of Europe.

These activities - of which the most visible are the study sessions – are based on co-operation between the partner organisations and the Council of Europe’s Youth Department. The programme is based on applications submitted twice a year and decided upon by the Programming Committee on Youth.

These activities are totally or partly financed by the Council of Europe according to modalities available at the Secretariat.

1. Eligible applicants

- a. European/International non-governmental youth organisations with partners or branches in at least 8 European countries
- b. European formal or informal networks of youth organisations and other non-governmental youth structures bringing together partners from at least 8 European countries
- c. Sub-regional networks of youth organisations and/or national youth councils and structures involved in youth work, bringing together at least 5 neighbouring countries

Applicants should be involved in areas of youth work relevant to the Council of Europe’s youth policy and interested in contributing to the work priorities and principles of the Council of Europe’s youth field.

2. Eligible activities

- a. Study sessions
- b. Symposia
- c. Special projects

3. Non-eligible activities

The following activities are not eligible for support in co-operation with the European Youth Centre:

- a. those dealing mainly with internal affairs of the organisation, such as statutory meetings, general assemblies, congresses, etc.
- b. activities with a predominantly competitive character
- c. activities that are part of a school or university programme
- d. activities with uniquely a vocational training character
- e. profit-making activities.

4. Criteria applicable to all activities

All activities must:

- a. conform to the principles laid down in the Statutes of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Centre and, specifically, show a commitment to a European society respectful of human rights and fundamental freedoms, cultural diversity and social cohesion and the participation of young people
- b. aim to develop synergies and have a multiplying effect, on local, regional, national and/or European level
- c. relate to problems and concerns of young people and seek to involve young people as a resource
- d. be an experience in participation and planned intercultural learning processes
- e. involve participants residents from at least 8 member states of the Council of Europe
- f. strive to secure a balance of the geographical origin of participants among all the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
- g. secure a balanced representation of both sexes among the participants, except in the cases of single-sex partner youth organisations and of activities that are specifically planned for single-sex groups and this is specifically explained and requested in the application form.
- h. be documented and its results made available to a wider public
- i. be prepared, run and evaluated by an international multicultural planning team in co-operation with the Centre's educational staff
- j. make good use of the European Youth Centre from an institutional and educational point of view.

5. Specific criteria applicable to study sessions

- a. study sessions must address an issue of contemporary European societies from the point of view of young people, or matters affecting young people and their organisations across the member states of the Council of Europe
- b. the theme of the study session is proposed and developed by the applying organisation and should contribute to development of the work priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector
- c. study sessions must have aims and objectives that can be pursued or attained in one activity or session. Applications for study sessions comprising multiple activities over one or several years, will not be accepted unless they are part of special projects.

- d. study sessions must have a minimum duration of 4 working days and a maximum of 8 working days – exceptions to the maximum duration may be granted if justified in the application
- e. study sessions must bring together a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40 participants, including the preparatory team (with the exception of double study sessions)
- f. participants coming from one country must not exceed 20% of the total number of participants. Up to 15% of all participants may come from non-member countries.
- g. the majority of participants must be under 30 years of age – with a maximum of 25% over the age of 30
- h. the participants must be able to act as multipliers and contribute to the follow-up of the activity within their own context and organisation. The recruitment of the participants is the sole responsibility of the partner organisation/s
- i. the programme of the study session and the methodology must be prepared and implemented by a multicultural team of facilitators or trainers provided by the partner organisation and by an educational advisor provided by the Council of Europe
- j. the preparatory team – including the educational advisor of the Council of Europe - must meet at least once at the latest six weeks before the beginning of the study session
- k. study sessions may normally be held in two working languages with simultaneous interpretation. Exceptions to this rule are possible when justified in the application and accepted by the Programming Committee
- l. the partner organisation must produce a written report of the activity and make it available within 2 months after the end of the session.

Priorities

In the selection of applications for study sessions the Programming Committee will give priority for activities that:

- a. can provide an input to, or benefit from the programme of work priorities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, and are complementary in terms of the theme, approach or target groups to the rest of its programme of activities
- b. promise to be innovative in terms of method, approach, target group or intellectual output
- c. are the result of collaboration between two or more applicants
- d. can most benefit from the Centre's institutional and educational support
- e. reach target groups / young people who could not so far benefit from or have been less involved in the activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

Priority *cannot* be given to applications submitted by organisations that have not provided a written activity report of their last study session within the deadlines or have not provided a satisfactory activity and financial report on grants received from the European Youth Foundation or reimbursed to the EYF any outstanding sums due.

Double study sessions

- Double study sessions are activities that concern several of the organisations or partners of the Youth Department and involve more participants than a single session
- Double study sessions can only be applied for by at least two applicants
- Double study sessions must bring together a minimum of 40 participants and a maximum of 70 participants, including the preparatory team
- Double study sessions have a maximum duration of 5 working days, exceptions can be made, if justified
- Double study sessions may benefit – when justified – from interpretation into three working languages.

6. Symposia

Symposia are activities addressing themes and matters of common concern and interest for both the governmental and non-governmental partners of the Youth Department. Symposia are aimed at knowledge production and contributing to the youth policy development of the Council of Europe.

The symposia are decided upon by and run under the supervision of the Programming Committee on Youth on the basis of the following guidelines:

- Applications may be submitted by 4 co-operating partners (unless agreed by the Joint Council on Youth in the annual programme of activities)
- The participants are recruited from the wide circle of governmental and non-governmental partners of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- The secretariat and administration of symposia is secured by the Secretariat of the European Youth Centre. The recruitment of participants is made by the Secretariat; the selection of participants should be done together with the preparatory team
- The symposia are prepared by a preparatory team comprising representatives of the applicants, Secretariat and, where appropriate, representatives of the statutory bodies.

7. Special projects

Special projects are activities of an innovative character which fall outside the scope of the study sessions and symposia.

Such projects should provide benefits for the organisation, network or youth structure concerned and have a wider application in the programme of the Youth Department. Consultation with the EYC Secretariat is recommended before applications are submitted.