



**Call for 20 Candidates**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE -**  
**2016-2017**

**DEADLINE: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 23:59 (CET)**

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**In brief**

The European Youth Forum would like to invite Member Organisations to nominate candidates for the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, for the period 2016-2017. The elections will take place during the Council of Members (COMEM) of the European Youth Forum on 17-18 April 2015. The COMEM will elect 13 INGYOs and 7 NYCs to nominate members of the Advisory Council.

In the last election, Advisory Council places were allocated to Member Organisations and not individuals from any particular organisation. For this election Member Organisations will nominate individuals to be elected to the Advisory Council on a mandate from the European Youth Forum to represent the interests of all youth organisations during their mandate.

We strongly encourage individuals who are currently part of the current Advisory Council and who want to continue their engagement, to apply again in order to contribute to knowledge transfer and to the smooth continuation of the work from the previous to the next Advisory Council.

Each nominated person to the Advisory Council should ideally take part in the European Youth Forum's COMEM in April 2015 where elections will take place and which will offer an opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership of the European Youth Forum. During the plenary the Chair will introduce all the candidates with the video presentation of each of them.

Please note that presence of candidates is not mandatory to be eligible for elections, but we strongly encourage them to attend the COMEM. They would need to be registered on time in the database as official or extra delegates.

**Background**

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe is ruled by the co-management system, characterised by the existence of different structures allowing young people to participate to decision-making in the field of youth. One of these structures, the Advisory Council on Youth (AC) is made up of representatives of the non-governmental youth sector in the co-management system. It has the task of formulating opinions and proposals on any question concerning youth, dealt with within the Council of Europe. Co-management also allows the Advisory Council to work on an equal footing with government representatives in the framework of the Joint Council on Youth (JC), as well as in the Programming Committee of Youth (PC).

• *Joint Council on Youth*

The Joint Council on Youth brings together the governmental representatives from the Council of Europe Member States (from the European Steering Committee for Youth) and the Advisory Council. It usually takes place in relation to other statutory meetings. The Joint Council is the body establishing the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budget envelopes. Its decisions influence the direction and mandate of the Programming Committee.

• *Programming Committee*

The Programming Committee is composed of 8 governmental representatives and 8 representatives of Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, elected from among the members of the Advisory Council at its first meeting.

The Committee is responsible for establishing, monitoring and evaluating the programmes of the European Youth Centres and the allocation of grants of the European Youth Foundation in line with the policy guidelines agreed by the Joint Council and adopted by the Committee of Ministers. It also monitors the programme's implementation.

Within this framework, the European Youth Forum has a unique role. According to the statutory composition of the Advisory Council, it is the recognised permanent youth NGO representation in the Council of Europe youth sector, as enshrined in the terms of reference of the body, and adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

### ***Composition***

The Advisory Council is composed of 30 members, 20 of which are nominated, upon a democratic election procedure, by the European Youth Forum; the 10 others are nominated by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The 20 elected individuals will represent two thirds of the youth representation in the Advisory Council. The representatives of youth organisations constitute a group, with the mandate to promote youth participation and the European Youth Forum's policies towards the Council of Europe. Furthermore, they have an advisory role in the policies and processes of the European Youth Forum towards the Council of Europe.

During its first meeting, the Advisory Council elects its Bureau from among its members. This Bureau is composed of 5 representatives. It prepares the meetings of the Advisory Council, and, in co-operation with the Bureau of the European Steering Committee for Youth, the meeting of the Joint Council. The Bureau also oversees the implementation of policy and programme decisions.

### ***Responsibility of nominating organisation***

Individuals elected to the Advisory Council act on a mandate from the European Youth Forum and should represent the interests of all Member Organisations during their mandate. As they are elected by a statutory body of the European Youth Forum, they are accountable to the General Assembly and Council of Members.

The nominating organisation should ensure that the individual representing each organisation nominated is able to take on the full responsibilities of the position. Individuals must be able to attend scheduled meetings linked to their functions as Advisory Council members.

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe ratifies the list of nominated individuals elected to the Advisory Council. In case of a resignation of a member of the Advisory Council, the nominating organisation must nominate a replacement and ensure an adequate handover, thus allowing effective continuity of the work.

### ***Responsibility of the representatives***

The individuals nominated by the European Youth Forum to the Advisory Council are responsible to bring forward the core values of the European Youth Forum, as well as the strategic priorities of the platform. The Board of the Youth Forum is in charge to determine and implement the specific priorities.

Advisory Council members elected by Youth Forum should:

- Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the Forum's position and policies and willingness to update this knowledge throughout the whole mandate;
- Actively participate in the Advisory Council, Joint Council and Programming Committee (if elected as Programming Committee member) as well as in the meetings of the Youth Forum's members of the Advisory Council and in the follow-up between meetings;
- Actively participate in the Forum' processes within the Council of Europe;

- Establish a strong and balanced representation of the various interests of the European Youth Forum in the committees;
- Contribute to the good exchange of information between the Advisory Council and the European Youth Forum;
- Actively contribute to spreading information related to the work of the Advisory Council and the Council of Europe to the membership of the European Youth Forum.

#### *Responsibility of the European Youth Forum*

The European Youth Forum is responsible towards the Advisory Council and the Forum's membership to:

- Organise democratic elections for the 20 individuals nominated by the Forum;
- Closely follow the work of the Advisory Council and ensure a proper coordination among the two bodies;
- Share its expertise and information with the Advisory Council members and support their work in between the meetings;
- Hold meetings gathering its representatives in the Advisory Council in connection to the Advisory Council meetings in order to update the members on the latest processes within the European Youth Forum and to jointly prepare for forthcoming meetings and other processes.
- Disseminate and promote the work of the Advisory Council and the Youth Department to the Youth Forum membership.

For more information about the work and functioning of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, please go to:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/default_en.asp)

#### **Nominations**

According to the European Youth Forum's statutes (art. 3,3), only full Member Organisations have the right to present candidates for external structures and delegations. Therefore, only full Member Organisations of the European Youth Forum with their full membership rights can present candidates to run for the elections. **Please note that Member Organisations that have not paid the membership fees of 2014 by the end of 2014 or have any previous debt, don't have the right to nominate candidates for the AC elections.**

#### **Profile of the ideal candidates and nominating organisations**

- Be nominated by a Full Member Organisation of the European Youth Forum (with membership fees of 2014 paid before the end of 2014);
- Be committed to ensure a strong and balanced representation of the various interests of the European Youth Forum in the committees;
- Have been active in working on the priorities of the Council of Europe Youth Sector and/or the European Youth Forums strategic priorities;
- Demonstrate organisational knowledge and understanding of the Council of Europe bodies and processes, and highlight their contribution, in particular in the field of youth, through activities with the Council of Europe Youth Sector, European Youth Foundation, European Youth Centres and/or other bodies within the Council of Europe;
- Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the European Youth Forum's positions and policies and be able to demonstrate an organisational ability contribute to the work of the Advisory Council;
- Nominating organisations should be committed to support their representative during the whole mandate, ensure their participation in all meetings of the Advisory Council, the Joint Council and the Programming Committee on Youth, should they be elected to this body.

Election procedure

Individuals nominated by Member Organisations will be elected during the COMEM of April 2015.

For any election or nomination where more than 60% of the candidates are from the same sex the call for additional candidates of the underrepresented sex will be opened for 10 calendar days.

**For each candidate the following documentation should be submitted to the YFJ Secretariat:**

- A letter on official headed paper from the organisation nominating the candidate, stating the position(s) for which the candidate is being nominated, with a stamp of the nominating organisation;
- A letter from the candidate officially certifying that they accept the nomination(s);
- A letter of motivation from the candidate, answering the questions below;
- Curriculum Vitae of the candidate
- A letter of motivation of the nominating organisations answering the questions below.

**All documents must be submitted to the Youth Forum Secretariat by post or by email (to [governance@youthforum.org](mailto:governance@youthforum.org)) in doc and/or pdf format.**

**Questions to be answered in the motivation letters:**

- What is your/the organisation's motivation to become a member of the Advisory Council?
- What is your/the organisation's experience in working with the Council of Europe in general and with its Youth Department in particular?
- What are the main areas of focus of the organisation and how do they relate to either the priorities of the Council of Europe Youth Department or the European Youth Forum membership?
- If elected to the Advisory Council, what would be the main topics you would like to work on?
- How will the organisation provide support for their representatives and what mechanisms are in place to ensure quality representation of all of the European Youth Forums membership?
- The motivation letter should highlight the Member Organisation's vision for the Advisory Council, how it foresees to contribute to the Advisory Council's work and its commitment to represent all Youth Forum organisations in the Council of Europe's youth sector.

The European Youth Forum will compile the applications and send them in the COMEM mailing at the latest on 18th March 2015. The European Youth Forum shall allow limited space for presentation of each nominated individual at the COMEM in April.

**Deadline**

Applications should be **submitted to the Youth Forum Secretariat by post or by email (to [governance@youthforum.org](mailto:governance@youthforum.org)) in doc and/or pdf format before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 23:59.**

Please note that all candidates are also entitled to send a 20s video presenting their motivations for the Plenary presentation before 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 23:59