

Call for expression of interest for European youth organisations to become members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group

The Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) is calling for expressions of interest for European youth organisations to join the EU Youth Stakeholders Group ('the Group'), announced in the [Communication on the European Year of Youth](#).

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1. Objectives and tasks

The aim of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group is to engage European youth organisations, national youth councils, youth researchers, representatives of Member States and other EU institutions in the implementation of the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022 and the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy, and to facilitate exchanges and youth consultations on forthcoming EU policy initiatives.

The EU Youth Stakeholders Group is an informal 'special group'. It does not qualify as a 'Commission expert group' or 'other similar entities' in the sense of Commission Decision C(2016)3301 establishing horizontal rules on expert groups, as its primary role is not to provide advice and assistance to the Commission.

The Group will:

1. exchange knowledge and good practices in engaging, connecting, and empowering young people and in implementing the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy and its instruments, including the EU Youth Dialogue;
2. facilitate consultations with young people, youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders in the framework of the Commission's 'youth check' process¹;
3. help improve understanding of the needs and concerns of young people and youth organisations, in their diversity and at multiple levels and

¹ [EUR-Lex - 52024DC0001 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

4. serve as a sounding board and an incubator of ideas and actions leading towards joint initiatives to the benefit of young people.

2. Why should you apply?

Members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group will have the opportunity to:

1. receive firsthand pertinent information about ongoing developments in European youth policy cooperation, initiatives, and campaigns relevant for young people and youth organisations,
2. contribute to policy-making and the Commission's 'youth check' process by amplifying the voice of young people and youth organisations at the EU level,
3. get involved in specific initiatives of the European Commission, such as the European Youth Week.

3. What is expected from member organisations?

Members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group are expected to:

1. represent the position on youth issues of their organisation and their member organisations in meetings (2-3 meetings per year, including maximum one in-person meeting in Brussels),
2. share insights about the views and perspectives of young people in their membership network,
3. help disseminate information on EU opportunities, initiatives and campaigns of interest to young people to their members and networks.

Members will be asked to agree on a code of conduct and ethics (to be provided before the first meeting of the Group).

Members of the Group shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Travel and accommodation expenses incurred by participants, in the activities of the Group shall be reimbursed by the Commission, within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources. Daily allowances will not be paid.

4. Composition and membership criteria

The EU Youth Stakeholders Group will be set up in an inclusive and transparent manner ensuring broad policy fields representation. It will be composed of approximately 100 members.

Following this call for expression of interest, at least 30 European youth organisations will be selected to become members. In the expression of interest form, applying organisations can indicate their interest to stay informed about future opportunities to contribute to European youth initiatives organised by the European Commission. The Commission may draw upon this list of European youth organisations and invite them on ad hoc basis to attend specific meetings or activities of the Group or other initiatives where their expertise is relevant.

In addition, each EU Member State will be invited to nominate a national representative to the EU Youth Stakeholders Group.²

Moreover, each national youth council of EU Member States can nominate one representative to the EU Youth Stakeholders Group. EU Member States will be responsible for this invitation and will communicate to the Commission the names of the persons, who will represent the national youth council in the Group.

The European Commission wishes to create alignment and synergies between the EU Youth Stakeholders Group, the 2019-2027 EU Youth Strategy, the Erasmus+ Regulation as well as the long-term co-operation partnership programme between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

The Commission will therefore invite the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, the Pool of European Youth Researchers, the Ray network and the Eurodesk network to become members of the Group.

Finally, EU institutions will also be invited to nominate representatives to the Group.

5. Eligibility criteria

European youth organisations will be considered eligible for selection to become members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group if they meet all the following formal criteria by the deadline for applications:

1. being youth-led³ or having a youth advisory structure⁴, which contributes to the decision-making process,
2. operating as non-profit organisations based in the EU,
3. having members from and/or operating in at least six EU countries,
4. being able to demonstrate representativeness (i.e. number of members) and capacity to reach a wide number of diverse young people,
5. demonstrating alignment to [EU values](#): human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights.

Should your organisation not meet one or more of the criteria above, your application cannot be further considered for the selection procedure.

6. Selection criteria

The European youth organisations which are considered eligible will be assessed against the following criteria:

- policy area expertise,
- representativeness (i.e. number of members) and capacity to reach a wide number of diverse young people,
- motivation.

² Member States where youth policy is within the competence of different communities may request to nominate representatives from each community.

³ To be considered youth-led, organisations will need to demonstrate that young people under 30 occupy the majority of their decision-making positions, or that the majority of the members who make decisions on the working plan are young people under 30.

⁴ A youth advisory structure usually consists of a group of young people selected to engage in a dialogue on youth-related issues and provide a youth perspective on policy, projects or processes.

Priority will be given to those European youth organisations, which actively contribute to the EU Youth Dialogue and which are youth-led⁵.

The European Commission will strive to ensure, as far as possible, balance of geographical coverage, policy area expertise and diversity.

7. Selection procedure

Applicants interested in becoming members of the EU Youth Stakeholders Group have to submit an expression of interest via [this EUSurvey form](#). The deadline to submit expressions of interest is 31 July, 2024 (midday CET).

The list of selected organisations will be published on the European Youth Portal and communicated to the selected applicants in autumn 2024.

Representatives from European youth organisations will be appointed for a three-year period starting from the date when the selection results are published on the European Youth Portal unless a new call for interest is issued before then. Their membership may be renewed or ended in case of inactivity or breach of the code of conduct, or if they no longer fulfil the eligibility criteria. The selected European youth organisations can terminate their membership at any time by informing the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (contact: EAC-YOUTH@ec.europa.eu).

Contact for more information: EAC-YOUTH@ec.europa.eu

⁵ To be considered youth-led, organisations will need to demonstrate that young people under 30 occupy the majority of their decision-making positions, or that the majority of the members who make decisions on the working plan are young people under 30.