



Strasbourg, 25 June 2024

Enhancing international youth co-operation in times of war
Study visit to Lviv, Ukraine
Capacity building on project management and youth co-operation
(Lublin, Poland)

Call for participants

BACKGROUND

The full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine is a daily threat to life of Ukrainian people. As a consequence, about 2 million young people became internally displaced, and more than 2 million were forced to leave Ukraine, more than 106 facilities of youth infrastructure were affected, of which 38 were completely destroyed or damaged.

The Reykjavik Declaration and Principles for Democracy identifies the importance of young people and of youth policy, and calls “to support the participation of young persons in democratic life and decision-making processes, including through education about human rights and core democratic values, such as pluralism, inclusion, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability”. This point is especially pertinent in the context of Ukraine, where youth, men and women alike, is fighting in the military to protect Ukraine and all of Europe from the Russian aggression, sacrificing their well-being, health and their lives. Despite monumental and multifaceted challenges, young people are overwhelmingly willing to participate in the recovery of the country.

The cooperation between the relevant authority responsible for youth policy in Ukraine and the youth sector of the Council of Europe dates back to the late 1990s. With the beginning of the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, cooperation was adapted and expanded through framework cooperation programmes and technical assistance projects, to address the emerging needs of young people in the war and post-war periods. In 2021 the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine signed a five-year [Framework Programme](#) for Cooperation in the field of Youth Policy with three main priorities of action: education for human rights and democratic citizenship, strengthening youth work policies and practices, and improving the quality of youth work in youth centres, supporting the development of youth centres. Among of its priorities for cooperation in 2024, the Ukrainian side highlighted the importance of quality youth projects and non-formal learning activities with young people in Ukraine based on standards of the Council of Europe. The Framework Programme correlates with the project “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine” a part of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine, which focuses on participatory youth policies, recognition of youth work in wartime, and support of youth centres and youth organisations as platforms of civic activity and democratic participation.

In October 2022, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) launched a special call for projects by youth organisations in support of young people from Ukraine. The special call is open and foresees support both for projects with local impact and a European dimension, and for international youth activities. By June 2024, 34 projects were supported, 30 of a local-national nature and 4 of an international nature. These projects reached over 3200 young people. The projects have diverse formats and focus, with the overall goal of responding to the needs of young people within the overall framework of the Council of Europe priorities.

Additionally, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe has had a long-lasting co-operation with the [European Youth Forum](#), especially in relation to reaffirming the role of and support for youth organisations. Within this co-operation, the European Youth Forum has taken steps to connect the European Youth Capital project, especially in relation to Lviv European Youth Capital 2025, with more international youth activities. A clear interest has been affirmed to use the occasion of the Lviv European Youth Capital 2025 to renew co-operation between youth organisations from Ukraine and from other Council of Europe member states.

During the recent period, the need for more connection between youth organisations from Ukraine to youth organisations from other member states has been affirmed by key stakeholders of the youth sector. Furthermore, the need for more capacity building for accessing EYF funds was identified as a priority. The fact that Lviv is the 2025 European Youth Capital creates an opportunity for reinforcing international youth co-operation.

THE ACTIVITIES FOR ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CO-OPERATION

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe aims to enhance international youth co-operation among youth organisations in and outside of Ukraine, through two main actions:

1. **Study visit to Lviv**, for up to 10 youth organisations active in international youth co-operation with the aim of connecting with the aspirations and realities of the youth sector in Ukraine and learning more about the needs and activities foreseen in the framework of the Lviv European Youth Capital.
2. **Capacity building event in Lublin on project management and international youth co-operation**, involving up to 15 representatives of youth organisations from Ukraine and up to 15 youth organisations from other Council of Europe member states, particularly interested in international youth co-operation with Ukraine.

The main expected results of these two actions are:

- Strengthen the skills and capacities of representatives of youth organisations to carry out projects in the area of the priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector
- Strengthen the partnerships between youth organisations from Ukraine and from other member states and provide space to develop joint initiatives in the framework of Lviv European Youth Capital 2025
- Promote the values, principles, tools and resources of the youth sector of the Council of Europe among youth organisations
- Increase the outreach of the EYF special call in support of young people from Ukraine.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Study visit to Lviv, Ukraine

9 October 2024: Travelling to Lviv

10 and 11 October 2024

Opening of the study visit, getting to know each other

Situation of young people from Ukraine and in the Lviv region

Visits to different youth organisations in Lviv

Lviv European Youth Capital 2025 programme

Discussions on the co-operation opportunities among youth organisations

12 October 2024: Travelling to Lublin

Capacity building event in Lublin, Poland

13 October 2024

Opening the training course, getting to know each other

Getting to know more about the needs of young people, including young people from Ukraine

Possible areas of co-operation

14 October 2024

Project management cycle, project management skills building

Lviv European Youth Capital 2025

Networking

15 October 2024

Learning more about the Council of Europe, its co-operation with Ukraine and EYF special call

Workshops on the main topics of the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe

Planning future projects and initiatives

16 October 2024: Departure of participants

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Study visit to Lviv, Ukraine

From the international level, the study visit will involve up to 10 representatives of international youth organisations and national youth organisations interested in co-operation with Ukrainian youth organisations. The international participants attending the study visit will then also attend the capacity building event in Lublin. From Ukraine, the study visit will involve several organisations from Lviv and, when possible, also other youth organisations from other parts of Ukraine.

Capacity building event in Lublin, Poland

The capacity building event in Lublin, Poland is an international activity designed for youth organisations from Ukraine, not only from Lviv, but also from other regions as well as youth representatives from other Council of Europe member states. International participants attending the study visit in Lviv can also attend the event in Lublin. Participants can opt for attending just the capacity building event in Lublin.

Participant profiles

Participants are expected to be volunteers, members of board, staff of national youth organisations from other member states of the Council of Europe and from international youth organisations and networks. They should be mandated by their organisation to seek co-operation partnerships with youth organisations from Ukraine, and in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the activities to their organisations. Participants are also expected to have some previous experience with international youth co-operation.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30 (justified exceptions are possible)
- Be committed to attend for the full duration either (a) the study visit and the capacity building event, or (b) only the capacity building event
- Be able to work in English.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Lviv and Lublin will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe.

Security considerations

The Council of Europe reserves the right to cancel or modify the programme to ensure that it does not pose a risk or threat to the safety of participants.

By applying to participate in this study visit, candidates acknowledge that they will be travelling to the territory of Ukraine. Participants must comply with all applicable laws and regulations of Ukraine, as well as any guidelines or directives issued by the team of organisers. Candidates must agree that their participation is entirely voluntary and that they assume full responsibility for their safety, within the Council of Europe framework. The Council of Europe ensures that all participants travelling to Ukraine will have an appropriate insurance and their transport will be organised by the Council of Europe.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Interested candidates must apply online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LvivLublin> by **15 July 2024, 23h59 CET**.

Applicants will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list. Candidates must attach a support letter from their organisation to the online application.

For any questions, please write to eyf@coe.int