



Decolonise Together – Advocating for Youth Engagement Workshop in Brussels / Belgium Call for participants

Workshop dates: Monday, 14th July to Friday, 18th July 2025
Arrival on Sunday, 13th July, 2025
Departure on Saturday, 19th July, 2025
Place: Brussels/Belgium

Are you passionate about international volunteering and want to advocate for advancing diversity, global solidarity and decolonization? Then find out more about our advocacy workshop.

The International Cultural Youth Exchange (ICYE) is inviting motivated young activists to participate in our Advocacy Workshop from 14th to 18th July 2025. The aim is to gain skills, knowledge and confidence to advocate for social change and address existing barriers for youth engagement and inclusion and to build a common advocacy agenda.

Join an inspiring network of young changemakers and make your voice heard.

Background to the workshop

In the Decolonise IVS project, young people have developed two policy and one position paper, identified key stakeholders and first activities to engage different stakeholders. We want to build on that work and empower the workshop participants to meet with members of the European Parliament and/ or with decision makers working for the European Commission.

ICYE's Youth Engagement Committee's working group on decolonising IVS is also contributing to the on-going advocacy work both internally and with external stakeholders.

About the workshop

The workshop will be divided into three parts:

- A preliminary training in June to establish the work methodology, the contents and the distribution of tasks with the participants.
- The five-day workshop in Brussels
- 2 advocacy actions led by the participants.



Tentative workshop programme

Day 1: Building our advocacy team, overview of the advocacy work 2023-2024, analysing the priorities of the EU regarding youth,

Day 2: Analysing the previous social media campaign, learning about social media and visual storytelling as advocacy tools, defining what it means to advocate for change, YEC proposals for Decolonise glossary and podcast

Day 3: Developing our advocacy activities, understanding the stakeholders we want to address, preparing the meeting with policymakers

Day 4: Meeting first members of the European Parliament/ and or European Commission, analyse and evaluate the meetings,

Day 5: Potential additional meetings, next steps, evaluation of the workshop

Who can participate?

We are looking for:

- Members of the ICYE Youth Engagement Committee (YEC).
- Members of the CCIYS Youth Committee (currently based in a Council of Europe country).
- Young people actively involved in advocacy work (currently based in a Council of Europe country).
- Representatives from ICYE member organizations and other IVS organizations (Board members, youth committee members, staff, coworkers, etc.), especially those from minority groups (currently based in a Council of Europe country).

ICYE Federation is committed to embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion into everything we do. We welcome applications from all sections of society and actively encourage diversity to drive innovation, creativity, success, and good practice. We positively welcome and seek to achieve diversity in our workshop, ensuring equal and fair treatment regardless of background or personal characteristics. These include (but are not limited to) socio-economic background, race, gender identity and expression, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or nationality.

Please note: We will ask for a **€ 50 participation fee**, which will be deducted from your travel reimbursement.

If this amount is difficult for you or your organisation to cover, please let us know — we are able to waive or reduce the fee where needed. If your organisation is in a position to contribute, we kindly ask that the fee be covered as a small gesture of shared responsibility.



Eligibility Criteria:

All participants should be

- interested in advocacy work and youth engagement.
- committed to promoting inclusion, diversity, and decolonization.
- enthusiastic for long-term involvement in ICYE or similar networks.
- aged between 18 and 30 years.
- able to communicate in English.
- based in a Council of Europe country (if not a YEC member).
- able to attend for the whole five workshop days.

The main working language will be English.

Practical information

The training will take place in Brussels from [Generation Europe Youth Hostel](#), **Rue de l'Eléphant, 4, 1080 Brussels, Belgium.**

You will be hosted in shared rooms of 4 or 5. The hostel is fully equipped and each room has a shower and toilet. **You will need to bring your own towel.**

Breakfast is served from 07.00 to 09.00 AM.

There is free internet access at the hostel and the training venue.

Venue: We will use the meeting room in the youth hostel for most of the days. Some activities are foreseen in other venues. More info on that will follow closer to the dates of the workshop.

Food: all meals are covered by the project. We will have breakfast and lunch at the youth hostel but we will try to have a few dinners out in the evenings to change the environment a bit.

You can make our coffee breaks more interesting! Bring a food item from your village, city, family, community, region or country to share with the others during coffee breaks.

Diets, nutritional specialties? If you have any specific intolerances, allergies or diets you would like to make us aware of please do so in the application form.



How to apply

Please make sure that we receive your applications latest by 5th May 2025. We are looking forward to receiving your expressions of interest!

For the registration, we kindly ask all potential participants to **fill out the registration form**:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKIIARztncJr3vayCUX6JW5aSZxslyLT1oxfG_ieFyx9rshw/viewform?usp=sharing

For inquiries, please contact: Courtney Kelner

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