

Call for projects "Our Europe, our future!"

War in Ukraine, nationalism, coronavirus, climate change and Brexit: there is no respite for Europe. How are Europe and its youth holding up? How do young people in Germany, France and other European countries react to the images of war and violence? What do young Europeans think about a Europe in which war returns as a means of politics? How can young people commit themselves to a united Europe and to European solidarity? How can they protect democracy, peace and European values?

For young people and their future, Europe is a promising concept and a unique opportunity for their personal and professional development, opening up to social participation. Many young people in Germany, France and the member states of the European Union (EU) perceive the EU positively. Throughout Europe, the political commitment of young people has grown over the past years, especially concerning climate change and the protection of the environment, and currently for peace in Ukraine. However, an increasing number of young people are not convinced of democracy being the best form of government. Meanwhile, the socio-economic effects of the corona crisis are affecting young Europeans in a very particular way. Social rights issues as well as the question of European and inter-generational solidarity become urgent. More than ever, young people in Germany, France and Europe need a say in society and support, especially when it is to engage for Europe.

On the occasion of the European Year of Youth as well as the French EU Council Presidency, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) would like to strengthen encounters, the empowerment and the participation of young people from Germany, France and/or another European country. We might support bilateral projects with a funding of up to €15,000, trilateral (see 2.1) projects with up to €20,000.

The call for projects "Our Europe, Our Future!" follows on from the Franco-German youth consultation of the same name, which took place as part of the conference on the future of Europe.

1 General framework

1.1 Objectives

The "Our Europe, Our Future" call for projects aims to promote the commitment and exchanges for and on Europe among young people from German, French, as well as another European country. The FGYO's call for projects aims to support projects which

- promote young people's commitment to a Europe of democracy, freedom and peace,
- promote European exchanges on one or more European themes,
- strengthen young people's intercultural competence and solidarity.

The projects must meet the criteria listed below, stimulate the participant's creativity and give them a proactive part in the project.

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2 / 5

1.2 Project types

Funding of €15,000 or 20,000 is possible for the following project types:
We will prioritize international youth exchange or training programs taking place **in presence**. Nonetheless, the FGYO will consider the current evolutions of the pandemic in its selection process.

- **Franco-German or trilateral youth exchange programs** in Germany, France and/or in another country (taking into account the current sanitary situation),
- Further **training for professionals** (taking into account the of the current sanitary situation),
- **Blended Learning**: online preparation or evaluation of a physical exchange,
- **Digital exchange**: Participants discuss using digital tools in one or several groups. They work together on a common project and try to achieve specific and concrete outcomes,
- **Mixed**: in parallel to the digital meeting with participants from all participating countries, a national face-to-face meeting with people from the same country can take place. Ideally, a meeting phase in face-to-face format should follow.

1.3 Key topics

An eligible project must deal with at least one of the following key topics:

1.3.1 Europe's future

The European Union is a promise of peace and a future, but at the same time, the war in Ukraine, the corona crisis, but also climate change confront the EU with historic challenges. How do young Europeans imagine the future of the European unification project? How can young people stand up for the fundamental values of the EU (rule of law, freedom of expression, protection of minorities)? How can young people strengthen European cohesion? What concrete measures (relief actions, work camps, demonstrations) can we carry out and support with them in order to show solidarity and set an example against violence and expulsion? How can young people be sensitized to digital media and learn to question information critically and reflectively? Gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights are important issues, as is the fight against anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism.

1.3.2 After the pandemic: The corona crisis as a European experience and challenge

The current crisis is shaping a generation of young Europeans. It puts our democracies, our health and education systems, our economy, the freedom of travel, and social solidarity to the test. How do young people experience the corona crisis? Will our democracies emerge stronger from the crisis? How can we enable young people to experience Europe again?

1.3.3 Vocational training and entrepreneurship

The issues at stake in innovation raise questions from an economic, social-political, scientific and ethical point of view. We need to rethink education and training. Young people face the challenge of adapting their skills to a new job market. How can we strengthen learning in new sectors and at the same time increase the needed appreciation of artisanship? How can people trained in relevant contribute and help? What significance do artificial intelligence, as well as jobs in climate and environmental protection, have for the future of Europe?

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3 / 5

What incentives does Europe offer young people to set up start-ups and social and green companies?

1.3.4 Sustainable development and environmental protection

There is no planet B. The European Commission is putting sustainable development and environmental protection at the center of its priorities, thus responding to young people's demands: How can ecological issues be responded to? How can young people get involved in the protection of environment and climate throughout Europe?

1.3.5 Sports and culture

Sports function as a vector of social link and commitment; culture creates common places, unveils differences and participates to the European imaginary. This is why the FGYO supports these sectors particularly. In the current situation, how can we strengthen the European encounter and exchange with sports and cultural events? How can we assure that they will have benefits and positive outcomes for young people (spelling mistake in German: die jungen Menschen) and for the entire European population? Why do children, teenagers and young adults need these social spheres and how can young people get involved today?

2 Criteria for participation, selection and implementation

2.1 Project organizers

Project organizers may be non-profit associations, local or regional authorities, organizations and federations in the field of informal education of children and teenagers, culture, science, media and sport as well as schools, universities, vocational schools and town twinning.

Besides bilateral French-German projects trilateral projects may include partners from one of the following countries:

- **European Union:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and Spain
- **Southeast Europa:** Albania, Bosnia-and-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia,
- **Eastern Europe:** Belarus, Georgia, Moldavia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine

For legal reasons, only partners with an office registered in France or Germany may submit the candidature.

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4 / 5

2.2 Target groups and participants

This call for projects targets young people under 30 involved in or hoping to get involved in civil society: children, pupils, apprentices, students, young job-seekers or employees. The FGYO particularly encourages the participation of young people with limited access to mobility to get involved¹. There should be diversity and an even gender balance among the participants.

We may support training seminars for people involved in youth work only if they include offers for international youth exchange's concept methods and if they focus on specific methods or content.

2.3 Pedagogical criteria and obligations

Based on the questions in the application form, applicants need to elaborate a **pedagogical concept**. You must join a **provisory program** for the physical exchange and/or digital work to your application.

The following aspects will serve as criteria for the project selection and shall be part of the preparation:

- **Raising awareness of European peace and solidarity:** contributing to European commitment in terms of European values, strengthening European identity or promoting commitment to the Europe of tomorrow.
- **Intercultural learning:** Sensitization for the subject and work in binational or trilateral groups.
- **Sensitization for languages:** The languages represented must have an adequate place in the meeting; we recommend using linguistic animation and interpretation if necessary. English might be the language for communication if the projects include participants not speaking French or German.
- **Critical use of media:** Sensitization for fake news, critical formation of opinion and getting information from different sources.
- **Environmental protection:** How will you consider questions of environmental protection during the exchange or during the realization and organization itself (for instance CO2-reduction concerning logistics)?
- **Outcome:** The project should lead to a concrete outcome² and address people beyond the participants.
- **Participation:** Young people should be actively involved in designing and carrying out the projects.
- **Communication and visibility:** The project should include a public communication involving both print media and social networks. There should be an explicit mention of the FGYO's support and its logo must appear on all of the project's communication documents. You may refer to the FGYO's communication kit.
- **Evaluation:** Evaluate the program internally and together with the participants in order to know if the project met their expectations. You should also think of improvements for upcoming projects.

¹ This includes, for example, young people experiencing great difficulty finding employment, young people who are geographically distant from mobility options, young people with a less advanced level of training and young people with a disability.

²For instance publications, blogs, videos, theater plays or texts, radio reports or podcasts, expositions, presentations or public discussions as well as concrete follow-up projects or new-founded initiatives.

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5 / 5

Participants must respect the current rules outlined in the project-related countries' pandemic policy.

3 Financial support

Each bilateral French-German project may receive support of up to € 15,000, each trilateral project up to € 20,000. All projects must ideally entirely take place before November 15th 2022.

In addition to physical exchange projects, you may also apply with digital and hybrid projects. In this case, the FGYO supports you for the rental of technical or computer equipment, or the rental of digital tools for a limited duration. We may also subsidy connection costs if necessary: professional fees, training material and other consumables (such as office supplies).

For physical and hybrid exchange projects, we may also support travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with the FGYO's Directives. Investment costs, such as the purchase of IT equipment (camera, film camera, computer, printer, etc.), cannot be reimbursed.

We will transfer up to 80 % of the subsidy on confirmation of the project's selection and the remainder on receipt and examination of the requested purchase receipts. You should send the latter to us as soon as possible and, at the latest, two months after the end of the project.

4 Submission of applications and selection of the projects

For each project, **either the German or the French partner** (from among the project sponsors mentioned in point 2.1) is to submit **a sole standard subsidy application using the application form in German or French.**

The full application is to be sent, by email only, to europe@ofaj.org. You must **join a provisional program** to the application. You may add additional information. If your organization or structure has never received any support by the FGYO, you must also join its **statutes. We will not consider incomplete applications.**

We will examine applications as quickly as possible. However, we ask partner organizations to allow a realistic time frame for processing. We will not accept projects that have already started or that will take place within a week of submission.

5 Contact information for further information

Email: europe@ofaj.org

For Franco-German projects: +33 1 40 78 18 05

For trilateral projects: +33 1 40 78 18 85

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