

Call for projects: CEE Special Fund 2022 (Central and Eastern European countries)

Since its inception in 1963 following the signature of the Élysée Treaty, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) has been supporting youth exchange programmes between France and Germany. These exchanges are the main thrust of our action and the meetings we support are aimed at promoting the idea of unity, mutual understanding and cooperation throughout Europe in a democracy at peace. This is the spirit that prompted the FGYO to broaden the scope of its action to include trilateral programmes.

Mobility experiences, exchanges and cooperation among European youth foster democracy, human rights and solidarity across the continent, ensuring prosperity and peace in a diverse Europe. They give tangible form to those fundamental values that guide and support young people in their construction as active stakeholders in society and in European cooperation. It is thanks to this emphasis on educating youth about citizenship and peace that the participants learn to uphold the democratic processes at work, shoulder responsibilities and commit to these ideals.

The FGYO's trilateral programmes take place in France, Germany and another country. They give young people an opportunity to interact in a broader international and intercultural context, to learn from each other but also together, and to progress in the construction of not only their own personal future but also their future as members of the community and the workforce. These newly-acquired skills are an important key in young people's training paths as they embark on life. They are also a positive force for democracy, human rights and solidarity.

The diversity and the fundamental values that young people experience over their lifetime as members of society and of European cooperation can be lived out and firmly anchored through their experiences of mobility and the underlying dialogue and cooperation. These skills are especially valuable in the current context – at a time when the European Union's values are being put to the test in certain regions – because they help guarantee prosperity and peace.

Through the CEE Special Fund, to which the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs contribute equally, the FGYO has been devoting particular attention to this key region for over 30 years in its commitment to Europe. The trilateral projects with European Union Member States but also with the countries of the Eastern Partnership and the Council of Europe stand out for their **innovative character** and **strong European focus**.

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

2 / 8

1 Overall framework

1.1 Objectives

In accordance with Article 3.5.6 of its Directives, the FGYO works through this call for projects to support trilateral youth exchange programmes and training courses involving France, Germany and a third country. These meetings must be **innovative** and relate to a **current sociopolitical situation**. The exchanges must also put forward **new teaching approaches and methods**, encourage **young people to become actively involved**, include **new target groups** and produce **concrete results**.

1.2 Types of projects

Priority should be given to international youth exchanges or training courses for multipliers in the form of **face-to-face meetings**, while factoring in the current health situation.

Under the circumstances, projects can also be proposed in the following formats:

- **Hybrid format:** the phase of face-to-face meetings with the group is prepared, continued or evaluated online.
- **Digital meeting:** the participants in one or more trilateral working groups use digital tools to discuss their work on a project together and produce either specific results for each group or a joint output. The content of these online meetings must be justified by the intended learning outcome.
- **Mixed format:** face-to-face meetings with people living in the same country are possible if they are held in conjunction with an online meeting with the participants from all three countries. Ideally they should be followed by a phase of trilateral, face-to-face meetings. These meetings must be justified by the intended learning outcome.

When a grant application is submitted for a face-to-face project, it is essential to indicate whether the project could, if necessary, be carried out in a different format! The FGYO provides information about the [tools](#) and the [teaching materials](#), along with an [explanatory video](#) on holding digital meetings and digital training sessions for young people. All of the necessary resources can be accessed through [this link](#).

1.3 Main themes

The projects must address at least one of the following themes. A balanced appreciation of the challenges raised by the current health crisis and its repercussions will be received with interest within the projects.

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

3 / 8

A Civic education to strengthen the role of young people and civil society

Freedom of expression, human rights and democracy are under threat in some Central and Eastern European countries, whether they are members or neighbours of the European Union. The FGYO is therefore keen to support projects that help strengthen democracy and good governance through the intercultural awareness and learning generated by trilateral projects. Against this background, issues such as freedom of opinion and freedom of the press and the media play a major role. Awareness training in how to use the new media with a critical, thoughtful approach to the information received can be incorporated into the discussions. Gender equality and the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community and other minorities are also key issues, as are combating anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia and racism.

The FGYO is also keen to foster greater civic engagement among youth in society and encourage young people to make their voices heard. Youth participation is a vital pillar of open societies. Young people should be able to get involved in associations, federations, twinning committees, youth councils, trade unions and political parties. They should be able to make their voices heard as stakeholders who are respected in their own right, both now and in the future.

FGYO-supported projects may also network with relevant civil society stakeholders (at local, national or European level) or provide young people with the tools they need to be an active member of the community.

B The future of the European concept and citizenship

Europe, democracy and the rule of law cannot be taken for granted. In some EU Member States, populism, nationalism and fake news are challenging the very concept of the European Union, even though the latter is regarded the world over as a unique model of successful regional integration. How can Europe be explained in an educational approach? How does Europe work today? What role does the European Union play in the world and how can young people influence and forge Europe going forward? Where is cooperation at EU level working? What experiences gained from the pandemic should be retained or consolidated, and where should we be responding as a matter of urgency? How can we fight burgeoning Euroscepticism? How can we make Europe and the EU accessible to young people? How does the Council of Europe operate and what has it set out to achieve?

C Youth remembers

Few regions have been as deeply marked by the "century of extremes" as Central and Eastern Europe. Extreme violence and genocides were particularly marked there during the Second World War. For decades, Cold War dictatorial regimes quashed human rights, freedom of expression and mobility. We owe the implosion of the dictatorships and the end of divided Europe in large part to Eastern European civil society. Central and Eastern Europe in particular hold the keys to our

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

4 / 8

understanding of not only contemporary European history but also the present-day conflicts of memory. The FGYO intends to support these themes by building them into projects so that the young generations can come to grips with the necessary work on history and memory, and, in so doing, be better equipped to embrace the future.

D Vocational training and sustainable entrepreneurship

Quality training, opportunities for professional mobility and access to continuing education are among the decisive factors in economic prosperity, social cohesion and the elimination of inequalities. They are the bedrock on which democratic societies work. This is why the FGYO favours meetings on the theme of vocational training, and between vocational training establishments, young people in training, young people in employment and jobseekers.

The aim here is to fuel discussion on work practices, finding a job, and social and environmental entrepreneurship. For many years, the programmes run by the FGYO and its partner organisations have been supporting the traditional trades and jobs in the social sector. Following the trial schemes conducted last year, the FGYO supports inter-university exchanges and research programmes in the field of renewable energies, digital and new technologies, and health.

E Environmental protection in the face of the climate emergency

Environmental pollution and climate change are posing a growing threat to the means of subsistence of each and every one of us and, in the long term, to human prosperity and peace in Europe and its neighbouring regions. International climate debates and environmental movements are raising public awareness of these common risks for the future. The FGYO supports projects that spotlight the way in which young people approach and respond to environmental issues, particularly with regard to sustainable development, one of the main challenges of the twenty-first century. During youth meetings, international volunteering projects and training sessions, young people can talk about the measures they consider most necessary and urgent at European level, the ways in which they can contribute to environmental protection from their own homes, or the practical ways in which they can get involved. The FGYO may also support exchanges that investigate the links between health and environmental factors.

2 Criteria for selection and financial support

2.1 Project sponsors and organising team

The applicants mentioned in Article 4.2.1 and Appendix 8 of the Directives may act as project sponsors. Project sponsors may be non-profit associations, local or regional authorities, organisations and associations in the sector of non-formal education for children and young adults, culture, science, the media and sport. The project may also be sponsored by schools, universities and vocational training establishments, or by twinning committees.

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

5 / 8

Apart from the project sponsor from France or Germany, at least one organisation from each of the other two countries must be involved in organising and carrying out the project.

2.2 Target groups and participants

The target group consists of young people between the ages of three and 30. Meetings supported within the framework of the special fund are intended specifically for young people actively involved in civil society. This means children, pupils, and young people doing an apprenticeship, in higher education, looking for a job or in employment, in particular in the youth sector. The FGYO particularly encourages disadvantaged youth¹ to get involved.

Training courses for multipliers in the youth-work field must be supported by offers on designing international youth exchange meetings and the acquisition of specific methods or content.

We are also striving for diversity among the participants, including gender parity, and a balanced number of participants per country (one third of the participants for each country). The total number of people involved, including the leadership team, must not exceed 60. For all other information, including the number of subsidised leaders, please refer to the FGYO Directives in French or German.

2.3 Project location and duration

Under the principle of reciprocity, a project consists of three phases of meetings, one in each country. Each phase consists of between four and 21 nights and may be spread over a period of one to three years. Separate applications should be submitted for each phase of the meeting and are valid only for the parts of the cycle taking place within the budget year from January to December 2022. A set start and finish date must be specified for the purpose of calculating the grant. The meetings may only be held in one of the participating organisations' countries.

2.3 Third country

All of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe may apply. This includes the EU Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia), certain countries belonging to the EU's Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Moldavia, Georgia, Ukraine) and Russia. In 2022, priority will be given to projects involving countries in the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). Belarus, Russia and Ukraine will also take priority.

¹ Official European Commission terminology. You will find a definition of this group on pages 83-85 of the Directives. Please remember to inform young people with a disability of the existing offers and include them in the projects.

6 / 8

Regional cooperations (subsidised beyond the three participating countries) are possible only in exceptional cases justified by the content, and require a regional geographical and/or historical reference. Youth meetings are possible with other regions or countries, such as South-Eastern Europe, provided they satisfy the requirements for regional cooperation.

2.5 Educational criteria and obligations

Applicants are to present the project's **educational concept** by answering the questions on the application form. They should also present a **provisional programme** for the face-to-face meeting and/or the digital communications.

The following aspects must be addressed and will be examined during the project selection process:

- **Intercultural learning:** the target groups are introduced to the question and work in mixed, trilateral groups;
- **Introduction to foreign languages:** The languages represented must be given adequate airtime during the meeting; it can be helpful to use the language to facilitate the meeting or to use a group leader as interpreter. English can be used as the language of communication;
- **Critical use of the media:** the project raises participants' awareness of fake news and helps them forge their own opinion by asking them to vary and check their sources of information;
- **Environmental protection:** to what extent does the project proposal factor in, or contribute to, environmental protection (such as CO₂ emissions)?
- **Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** in what way does this project support one or more of the 17 [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)?
- **Outcomes and impact:** the project should produce a concrete outcome² and reach people outside the circle of participants;
- **Participation:** the participants should be actively involved in designing and carrying out the project and its outcomes.
- **Communication and visibility:** The project should include a communication strategy for the press and social media, which should also be notified to the embassies' cooperation and cultural action departments. The FGYO's support is to be acknowledged and its logo displayed on all communication documents. The selected projects should be presented by their organisation in the [regional Facebook group](#). The [FGYO communication kit](#) will also prove useful.

3 Grant

The FGYO subsidises the projects selected in accordance with Article 3.5.6 of its Directives, with the help of funding from the French Ministry of Europe and Fo-

² Publications, blogs, videos, plays, radio broadcasts, exhibitions, presentations, debates, along with concrete projects and fresh initiatives.

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

7 / 8

reign Affairs (MEAE) and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The grant may amount to a **maximum of €20,000 per meeting phase**. It is advisable to **contribute to the grant** and to seek additional **third-party funding**.

This call for projects may also include online projects (with preparatory phases involving participants living in the same country). If so, the connection costs, professional fees, teaching equipment and any other consumables (such as office supplies), or the cost of renting technical or IT equipment or digital tools for a limited duration, may be included in the programme costs.

In the case of face-to-face meetings, the travel and accommodation expenses may also be subsidised in accordance with the FGYO Directives.

Capital costs such as the purchase of cameras, video cameras, computers, printers and hard disks are not eligible for support.

60 % of the grant will be transferred one month before the project phase begins. The balance will be paid afterwards, once a breakdown of how the funds were used has been received and checked. These documents are to be submitted as soon as possible and, at the latest, two months after the end of the project. For projects that took place between 15 November and 31 December 2022, the deadline for presenting the itemised breakdown of expenditure is the 15 January 2023.

4 Submission of applications and selection of the projects

The **German or French project leader is to fill in the dedicated online application form** in [French](#) or [German](#) and submit separate applications for each phase of the project (preparatory meeting, phases 1, 2 and 3) by **1 November 2021**. Further details of the online meetings can be provided at this stage. Project phases that will take place only in two years' time may not be submitted until the year before they will be carried out.

The application is to be sent **by the French or the German partner organisation by e-mail to trilateral@ofaj.org**. We are unfortunately not allowed to transfer subsidies to another country than France or Germany. A legitimate partnership and joint organisation of the exchange programme are nevertheless important prerequisites. The application form must be accompanied by a **provisional programme**. It may be accompanied by any additional information deemed necessary. Applicants who have never received a grant from the FGYO must submit the **status of their association**. Incomplete documents will not be included in the selection process.

All project leaders who submit their application through a **central partner office** of the FGYO undertake to **inform** this organisation **of their participation in the call for projects beforehand** and to **abide by the current decentralised procedure**.

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org

8 / 8

The selection of the projects lies with a jury. Projects that are not selected may be put on a waiting list. Projects that are declined may nevertheless be subsidised by one of the competent offices of the FGYO and should submit a grant application in accordance with the FGYO Directives.

5 Contact details

Florence Gabbe
"Trilateral Programmes" Project Manager
+33 1 40 78 18 85
trilateral@ofaj.org

51 rue de
l'Amiral-Mouchez
75013 Paris
Tel.: +33 1 40 78 18 18
www.ofaj.org

Molkenmarkt 1
10179 Berlin
Tel.: +49 30 288 757-0
www.dfjw.org

Am Ludwigsplatz 6/7
66117 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49 681 947 492 34
www.dfjw.org