

## Call for projects "Our Europe, our Future!"

The Élysée Treaty, signed on 22 January 1963, forms the basis for joint future work in and on a united, democratic and peaceful Europe. However, the European Union (EU) does not seem to be at peace: war and war crimes prevail on the continent; questions of energy security as well as rising inflation are essential concerns that preoccupy young people in particular. At the same time, environmental damage and global warming are causing the living conditions of future generations to deteriorate on a daily basis. Even if the restrictions of the pandemic are easing, young people face the feeling of "lost years" and the uncertainty of what the future has to offer. This is a dangerous breeding ground for populist, nationalist and right wing extremist movements.

In 2023, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) will therefore contribute more than ever to mutual understanding and exchange in Europe. International youth encounters, European education and peace building go hand in hand. They enable European youth to stand up for the protection of human rights and democracy and to react to what is happening around them. What do young people think about the role of Europe today? What fears do they have and what drives them? What do they think about war as a political tool and as a political response? Are they aware of their role and influence as both, peacemakers and peacebuilders? How can young people get involved in a united Europe, its values of solidarity, democracy, and peaceful coexistence?

Many young people in Germany, France and the EU member states, as well as its neighbourhood, have a positive perception of Europe. For them, Europe is a promise for the future, a unique opportunity for personal and professional development and a chance to participate in society. Although the political commitment of young people has grown in recent years, especially in the area of environmental protection and for peace in Ukraine, they still express their mistrust in politics. In line with the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on "Youth, Peace and Security", the FGYO supports the important role that young people can play in preventing and resolving conflicts and encourages them to become active through its programmes. After all, it is they who are affected by the future of a peaceful European community and who aspire to be part of it.

This call for tender aims to support exchange, engagement and participation of young people from Germany and France or from Germany, France and another European country. Bilateral projects can be funded with a maximum of 15,000 € and trilateral projects (cf. 2.1) with up to 20,000 €.

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## 1 General framework

### 1.1 Aims

The call for tender aims to support projects that:

- support pedagogically challenging, intercultural peace education that teaches young people skills for engagement in democratic structures and inclusive political processes,
- promote young people's commitment to a democratic, free and peaceful Europe,
- promote discussion on one or more European issues,
- help young people understand the functioning of European and other decision-making political institutions (at local, regional, national and international level)
- promote the inclusive representation of young people in decision-making processes, implement measures to strengthen their role in peace initiatives and counteract the marginalisation of adolescents
- facilitate access to education, health, employment and integration among all young people, including those with difficult access to mobility and young refugees,
- strengthen young people's intercultural competence and solidarity.

### 1.2 Types of projects

The following project types are eligible for funding:

- **French-German or trilateral youth exchanges** in Germany, France and possibly another country in face-to-face format.
- **Further training for professionals** in a face-to-face format
- **Digital exchange:** Participants discuss with the help of digital tools in one or more bi- or trilateral (small) groups in order to work together on a project and create a joint output,
- **Mixed formats:** 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. A digital meeting can take place before or after a face-to-face meeting.

The DFJW provides you with pedagogical tools and materials for the implementation of (digital) youth encounters and trainings.

### 1.3 Key topics

An eligible project should address one or more of the following priority themes.

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### **1.3.1 Europe's Future**

The EU is a promise of peace and a future. However, the war in Ukraine, energy dependency and inflation, the coronavirus crisis and climate change present historic challenges. How do young Europeans envision the future of the European unification project? How supportive would young people be of the accession of new states to the EU and what do they think about it? How can young people stand up for the fundamental values of the EU (rule of law, freedom of speech, protection of minorities) and strengthen European cohesion? Tolerance and diversity are European values, gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights are taken into account, as well as combating anti-Semitism, islamophobia, xenophobia and racism. What sources of information are available to young people on the European elections? How to increase their participation in European elections? This also applies to young people's access to information, social and traditional media.

### **1.3.2 Youth and peace**

The founding idea of the FGYO is based on the conviction that good cooperation and peace between countries can only be built with the help of young people. For the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Élysée Treaty and the FGYO's existence, a particular focus is therefore placed on the political and social engagement of young people against hatred and violence. What forms of youth engagement are there? What methods can support young people? What conditions must be created at local, regional, national and European level to support them in their commitment to peace?

### **1.3.3 Professional training and entrepreneurship**

Innovation issues raise diverse questions for young people in the fields of economics, social policy, science and ethics. Education and training must take these issues into account. Young people face the challenge of adapting their skills to a new labour market. How can we give craft professions the necessary and well-deserved appreciation? How can people in relevant apprenticeships contribute at this very moment? What is the significance of professions in the field of climate and environmental protection or artificial intelligence and digitalisation for the future of Europe? How to facilitate the learning of new professional fields? What incentives does Europe offer adolescents to set up start-ups and social or ecological enterprises? Moreover, to what extent do welfare and financial independence contribute to stability and security as well as participation in a united Europe?

### **1.3.4 Sustainable development and environmental protection**

There is no planet B. The FGYO places sustainable development and environmental protection at the centre of its work and thus takes up young people's demands. How can and must we respond to ecological challenges? How can young people get involved in environmental and climate protection through exchanges?

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What specific projects and measures do they want to implement within the framework of a youth exchange?

### 1.3.5 Culture and sports

Culture is inseparable from our societies and identities. The cultural sphere and artistic expression are a binding link between all people and promoting mutual understanding. Culture is also a factor of personal development that creates affinities, affirms differences and contributes to the European version and body of thought through freedom of speech. It enables individual or collective strengths and talents to emerge; it strengthens self-confidence and promotes the formation of one's own opinion. Additionally, it makes an important contribution to information and education, can denounce and question. However, it should never be instrumentalised, disregarded, or endangered as Europe's tangible and intangible heritage. What influence does culture have on the young generation? How to ensure artistic licence and cultural expression in its full diversity? How to protect them exercising their function and role freely? What is its impact on political and European consciousness? How does it contribute to living and protecting Europe and democratic principles?

Sports promote values, strengthen social relationships and encourage commitment. At the same time, sport is increasingly criticised for its negative impact on the environment, corruption and the instrumentalisation of major events by regimes that violate human rights. How can we spread the values of sports, such as fairness, respect and team spirit once again? Can the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the various championships play a political role and promote social progress by respecting and conveying various global values?

## 2 Conditions of participation, selection and implementation

### 2.1 Project Management

These may include non-profit associations, local or regional authorities, organisations and associations in the field of informal education for children and young people, culture, science, media and sports, as well as schools, universities, vocational schools and town twinning schemes.

Alongside applications for French-German projects, trilateral projects can also involve one of the following countries, in addition to France and Germany:

- **European Union:** Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus

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- **South Eastern Europe:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia
- **Eastern Europe:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and if possible Ukraine

For legal reasons, the application can only be submitted by a structure based in Germany or France.

## 2.2 Target groups and participants

The call for tender aims to reach young people under the age of 30 who are involved or would like to be involved in civil society: children, pupils, young trainees, students, young job seekers or employees. The FGYO particularly encourages the participation of young people who have limited access to mobility programmes.<sup>2</sup> Diversity and a balanced gender ratio among the participants is desired.

Further training for multipliers in youth work receives support if they provide offers of conception of international youth exchange encounters as well as offers of acquisition of specific methods or contents for this purpose.

## 2.3 Pedagogical criteria and obligations

The **pedagogical concept** is in line with the questions raised on the application form. A **preliminary programme** for the physical encounters and/or the digital work will complement the concept.

The following aspects are taken into account in the project selection and are to be included in planning:

- **Raising awareness for European peace and solidarity:** Contributing to European commitment in terms of European values, strengthening Europe an identity or promoting commitment to the Europe of tomorrow.
- **Intercultural learning:** Sensitisation to the topic and work in binational and trilateral groups.
- **Critical use of media:** Raising awareness of fake news, shaping a critical opinion and obtaining information from different sources.
- **Environmental and climate protection:** Are environmental protection issues taken into account in the content of the encounter or implemented within the framework of the project implementation and organisation itself (e.g. reduction of CO2 emissions in logistics; promotion of commitment to the environment and climate protection within the framework of the encounter)?

<sup>1</sup> The indications concerning the Kosovo do not refer to its status. They are in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) of the UN Security Council and the decision of the International Court of Justice on the Declaration of Independence of Kosovo.

<sup>2</sup> Young people with special needs are, e.g., young jobseekers, young people who have difficult access to mobility for socio-economic or geographical reasons, or young people with disabilities.

- **Participation:** The participants should be actively involved in the project design and implementation as well as in the results.
- **Resonance:** The project should produce a concrete result<sup>3</sup> and appeal to people beyond the circle of participants.
- **Language awareness:** Sufficient space for the languages represented in the project is strongly recommended. Language animation and group interpretation can help. The use of English as a language of communication is permitted if there are participants involved who do not speak German or French, and the languages represented have their place in documents and information materials.
- **Communication and visibility:** A communication strategy for the media and social networks should be planned, including the dissemination of information to cooperation services and cultural departments of embassies and consulates as well as municipal and regional institutions. The support of the FGYO shall be mentioned and the FGYO logo is displayed on communication materials. Selected projects are presented by their organisations, e.g. on the FGYO Facebook groups or pages. Help is available in the FGYO communication kit.
- **Evaluation:** Evaluate the programme within the team and with the young people to know if their expectations were met and what should be improved for a future encounter. Help is provided by i-Eval.

The applicable coronavirus regulations in the project-related countries must be taken into account and complied with by the participants.

### 3 Financial support

Each Franco-German exchange phase can be funded with a maximum amount of up to 15,000 €, trilateral projects with up to 20,000 €. The projects must be implemented (if possible) by 15 November 2023.

For online encounters and hybrid projects, the FGYO may fund the rental of technical equipment, IT materials and digital tools for a limited period of time. Connection costs, fees, limited planning materials and consumables (such as office supplies) may fall under eligible programme costs.

For physical projects and hybrid encounters, travel and subsistence costs may be funded in accordance with the FGYO guidelines.

Investment costs are not eligible for funding. This includes, e.g., the purchase of equipment (camera, computer, printer, external hard drives, etc.).

60 % of the grant can be transferred after the funding approval. The remaining amount will be paid after receipt and examination of the requested evidence.

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<sup>3</sup> E.g., publications, blogs, videos, plays or texts, radio contributions, exhibitions, presentations or panel discussions as well as specific follow-up projects or newly founded initiatives.

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These must be submitted as soon as possible and no later than 2 months after the end of the project.

#### 4 Application and project selection

For each phase of the project, a **single grant application** must be submitted by one of the partners (Project Management mentioned in point 2.1) using the relevant application form.

For legal reasons, the application can only be submitted by a structure based in Germany or France.

The application must be sent **via e-mail** to [europa@dfjw.org](mailto:europa@dfjw.org). A **preliminary programme** must be enclosed with the application form. It is possible to supplement it with additional information. Applicants who have never received FGYO funding in the past are required to submit the **statutes of their structure**. **Incomplete documents will not be considered in the selection process.**

#### 5 Contact for further informations

Email: [europa@dfjw.org](mailto:europa@dfjw.org)

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