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## Resolution CM/Res(2020)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 22 January 2020  
at the 1365<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

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The Committee of Ministers,

Having regard to the declaration and action plan adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw in May 2005, which, in particular, states that “the Council of Europe will further develop its unique position in the youth field”;

Having regard to the declaration adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 129<sup>th</sup> Session in Helsinki in May 2019 on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe, which, in particular, states that “European unity is required more than ever to face also new challenges, which threaten our societies. It is vital for the Organisation to respond rapidly and efficiently to emerging issues in member States. (...) Towards that end we commit to enhance the unique role of the Council of Europe as an effective framework for pan-European co-operation”;

Having regard to the same declaration, in which the authors also recognise “the key role of civil society” and commits “to a meaningful and transparent dialogue with civil society at all levels of our engagement”;

In this perspective, stressing the importance of the Council of Europe’s co-management system in the youth field as a living example of participatory democracy, combining the voices of young Europeans and those of public authorities responsible for youth issues in the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ);

Having regard to the European Cultural Convention and the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;

Having regard to the Declaration of the 8<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, entitled “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020”, and adopted in Kyiv in October 2008, and to Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 25 November 2008;

Bearing in mind the achievements and lessons learned from Agenda 2020;

Recalling the need to preserve and enhance the Council of Europe’s main *acquis* in the field of youth policy, including Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood, Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work, Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people’s access to rights, Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Recommendation Rec(2006)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on citizenship and participation of young people in public life, Recommendation Rec(2004)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of young people in local and regional life, Recommendation Rec(2003)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people, and the Declaration Decl(29/05/2019) by the Committee of Ministers on the legacy of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign;

Bearing in mind the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021), the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy (2018-2023), the Council of Europe Disability Strategy (2017-2023), the Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019), Recommendation 1805 (2007) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on blasphemy, religious insults and hate speech against persons on grounds of their religion, and the Council of Europe work in the field of internet governance and artificial intelligence;

Bearing in mind the Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the member States meeting within the Council on a “framework for European co-operation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027”, which, in particular, stated that, “Further synergies with the work carried out by the Council of Europe in this area should be encouraged”;

Bearing in mind United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and the United Nations youth strategy “Youth 2030: Working with and for young people”;

Acknowledging the importance of achieving coherence and synergy with the work of all relevant international stakeholders in the youth field, in particular with the European Union and the United Nations;

Recalling that the sustainability of any democratic society relies on the creativity, dynamism, social commitment and competences of its young people;

Reaffirming the unique geographical scope and role of the Council of Europe youth sector and its instruments, including the co-management system, the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, the European Youth Foundation, and the partnership with the European Commission in the field of youth in engaging young people with Europe and the values of democracy and human rights;

Bearing in mind the necessity for the Council of Europe to invest purposefully in young people in a coherent way through an opportunity-focused approach, notably by assisting member States in developing youth policy according to the Council of Europe’s standards;

Considering the persistent challenges young people face, both in terms of the lack of opportunities offered to them and an increased risk of precariousness, but convinced nevertheless of their considerable potential and therefore fundamental role in promoting the Council of Europe’s core values;

Underlining the specific contribution of the Council of Europe youth sector since 1972 to the objectives of the Organisation and its capacity to develop appropriate responses to new situations and challenges, for instance in the fields of climate change, artificial intelligence and internet governance;

Stressing the importance of setting up a new strategic framework 2020-2030 in this context;

Taking note of the background document on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030, adopted by the Joint Council on Youth in October 2019;

1. Resolves that the Council of Europe youth sector should aim at enabling young people across Europe to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe’s core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, notably by:
  - strengthening young people’s access to rights, so that these young people and all forms of youth civil society can rely on an enabling environment for the full exercise of all their human rights and freedoms, including concrete policies, mechanisms and resources;
  - deepening youth knowledge, so that young people’s democratic engagement is supported by communities of practice that produce knowledge and expertise;
  - broadening youth participation, so that young people participate meaningfully in decision-making, on the basis of a broad social and political consensus in support of inclusion, participatory governance and accountability;

2. Resolves that the following should be regarded as the thematic priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030 and should inform its work until 2030:

- a. revitalising pluralistic democracy, with special emphasis on:
  - increasing the capacity of youth civil society to advance participatory democracy and democratic citizenship within and beyond their memberships;
  - conducting more policies and governance processes in a meaningful, participatory manner, involving diverse groups of young people and their representatives/organisations;
  - strengthening youth policy and youth work in removing barriers to youth participation;
  - improving institutional responses to new developments in democracy, such as the changing participation patterns of young people, digitalisation or internet governance;
- b. young people's access to rights, with special emphasis on:
  - furthering progress in the implementation of the Council of Europe's standards on young people's access to rights;
  - increasing capacity building and resources for youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders to provide human rights education and advocate access to rights;
  - improving institutional responses to emerging issues affecting young people's rights and their transition to adulthood, such as, but not limited to, the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, artificial intelligence, digital space, increased mobility and new forms of employment;
- c. living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, with special emphasis on:
  - better equipping stakeholders to tackle both the challenges of building inclusive societies through policies, programmes and projects that embrace diversity and of effectively monitoring and countering discrimination, violence and exclusion;
  - allowing young people, including those experiencing any form of discrimination and exclusion, to benefit from opportunities that develop their commitment to and exercise of democratic citizenship;
  - embedding key foundations, such as European unity, global solidarity, peace, diversity, intercultural and intergenerational dialogue and environmental sustainability, more prominently in policy, practice and research within and beyond the youth sector;
  - strengthening young people's capacities, agency and leadership to prevent violence, transform conflict and to build a culture of peace through substantial support for funding, building networks and recognising the full diversity of young people and their ways of organising themselves;
- d. youth work, with special emphasis on:
  - strengthening, recognising and advancing youth work policies and practices by embedding youth work within youth policy frameworks, notably through a European youth work agenda and its implementation, in close co-operation with the European Union;
  - improving the quality of youth work delivered by both volunteer and paid youth workers;
  - extending the access and attractiveness of youth work and non-formal education/learning for the benefit of wider populations of young people;

3. Resolves that the above priorities should be underpinned by the following principles, through which the Council of Europe engages with young people: mutual respect and trust, inclusiveness, sustained commitment, participation, equity, transparency and collaboration;

4. Resolves that the above priorities should be implemented through:

- intergovernmental co-operation at pan-European level on the preparation and implementation of youth policy, based on Council of Europe standards;
- assistance to youth policy development in member States through bilateral and multilateral support measures;
- capacity building of young multipliers (youth leaders and youth workers), notably through the European Youth Centres and their education and training programmes;
- good governance and youth participation, notably through the co-management system bringing young people and government representatives together to take decisions, which should be the main platform for the development of Europe-wide consensus, legitimacy and multilateral ownership in the field of youth, as well as a space for political and interinstitutional co-operation;
- financial support to the development of youth civil society, notably through the European Youth Foundation;
- innovation in youth work, youth policy and youth research;
- co-operation between policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the field of youth;
- quality development and standard setting in the field of youth policy;
- co-operation with the European Union and partnerships with other stakeholders and services involved in areas which are relevant to the Council of Europe youth sector;
- youth mainstreaming and cross-departmental co-operation inside the Council of Europe;
- proactive outreach to and engagement of young people experiencing disadvantage;
- anticipating future trends, challenges and opportunities;

5. Resolves that the present strategy should be deployed through the following instruments of the Council of Europe youth sector, which are interconnected and interdependent:

- the relevant co-managed bodies of the Council of Europe youth sector, which should develop programmes of activities based on the present resolution and, where appropriate, submit proposals for standards to the Committee of Ministers;
- the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation, which should continue to be supported in their role of developing and enhancing European youth co-operation based on the core values of the Council of Europe;
- the partnership with the European Commission in the youth field, which should continue to be supported as an example of good co-operation between the two partners;

6. Resolves that the present strategy should be put into action and periodically assessed through the successive programmes and budgets of the Council of Europe up to 2030, and that the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) should take stock of its implementation accordingly.