

EYCA YOUTH PANEL

WHAT IS THE EYCA YOUTH PANEL?

The EYCA Youth Panel is the direct result of the recommendations put forward by European Youth Cardholders involved in the co-design programme at the 2017 EYCA Conference in Belgrade 2017.

The aims of the Youth Panel are:

- To provide the EYCA Board with a direct connection with young people from across Europe, offering insights into their key issues and ideas.
- To act as EYCA Ambassadors promoting the European Youth Card and its values amongst their peers.

The Youth Panel is in line with EYCA's mission and values. Youth Panel members will have the opportunity to meet young people from other countries, work alongside them to help EYCA improve its services to the benefit of millions of young Europeans, and develop their personal and professional skills for the future.

The Youth Panel is in line with the network's efforts to have young people involved in the design of services provided through the European Youth Card. At the same time, the Youth Panel does not overlap with members' initiatives at national levels.

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE

Youth Panel composition

- The EYCA Youth Panel will consist of up to ten cardholders aged 18-29. It will be gender balanced; diverse and with representatives of different life experiences and stages.
- There will be two young people selected from each EYCA members' groups so that all groups are represented equally.
- The Youth Panel will have a two-year mandate.

Principles

The Youth Panel must be

- **Inclusive** – offering equal opportunities to all cardholders, regardless of their gender identity, social, economic, political or religious background, or any other physical barrier which may impede their participation;
- **Diverse** – being truly representative of the community of cardholders across Europe;
- **Participatory** – offering all members the possibility to meaningfully participate in the Youth Panel's activities and have their voice heard.

Procedure

Every two years, in September, the EYCA Office will open a call for Youth Panel membership. The call will be disseminated by EYCA member organisations.

Cardholders will be encouraged to film a two-minute video about themselves explaining why they want to be on the EYCA Youth Panel, how they can help EYCA promote opportunities to young people across Europe, what issue they feel passionate about and want to work on, how they think this experience will help them and what they expect from it.

Applicants will send their videos to the EYCA Office via an application form. After the application period is over, a selection panel chaired by the EYCA President will shortlist the entries. If necessary, this Panel will meet/convene virtually. The selection panel will also include the EYCA Director and one of the young people who put forward the idea of an EYCA Youth Panel at the Conference in Belgrade. In the second edition of the Youth Panel, this young person will be replaced by a former member of the EYCA Youth Panel.

The shortlisted videos will be made available to EYCA members. EYCA members will then have the chance to vote for their favourite applicants, with the final decision being made by the Board in February. The EYCA Board will then take into account the members' votes and the recommendations of the current Youth Panel generation before making the final decision – taking account of inclusion and diversity requirements.

Selection criteria

Eligibility

- All applicants must be aged 18 – 29 and European Youth Cardholders. Panellists must not be over 31 during their mandate;
- A good command of English is mandatory.

Quality criteria

- Strong motivation to be part of the EYCA Youth Panel;
- Creativity;

- How relevant for EYCA is the issue they want to focus on and how passionate they are about this issue;
- Applicants with no previous European experience or involvement in youth organisations will be given priority;
- Since the Youth Panel is a learning experience for young people, no particular skills will be required. Enthusiasm and curiosity should be prioritised in the selection.

ROLES

Members of the Youth Panel will take on several roles:

- **Sharing insights about the lives of young people from across Europe**
The Youth Panel will share their experiences of the needs, problems and interests of young people to the EYCA Board.
- **EYCA Ambassadors**
Youth Panel members work as EYCA Ambassadors and:
 - Promote EYCA and the cross-cultural benefits of the European Youth Card amongst their peers;
 - Represent EYCA at events such as the European Youth Week;
 - Have a strong social media presence, posting EYCA-related content on social networks and on the EYCA Youth Panel blog;
 - Support active citizenship initiatives and disseminate information to encourage young people to engage in society.
- **Help to select the EYCA representative to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth**
Youth Panel members will nominate one person from amongst themselves to be the EYCA representative to the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth. Their nominee will then be interviewed by the EYCA President and Director and confirmed by the EYCA Board.

DRAFT ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2018-2019

During their mandate, EYCA Youth Panel members will have 5 meetings where all panellists will be present: the initial training, two EYCA Conferences and two EYCA Board meetings.

In addition, each member of the Youth Panel can decide to attend other European, regional or national events with support from EYCA.

<p>September 2018</p> <p>Call launched at the beginning of the month</p> <p>Applications open</p>	<p>October 2018</p> <p>Applications open</p>	<p>November 2018</p> <p>Applications closed on 30 Nov</p>
<p>December 2018</p> <p>Preselection – by 9 Dec</p> <p>Vote open for members</p> <p>Members vote</p>	<p>January 2019</p> <p>Members vote by 10 Jan</p> <p>Confirmation by 15 Jan</p>	<p>February 2019</p> <p>EYCA Youth Panel kick-off training</p> <p>EYCA Youth Activation Campaign for EU elections 2019 – kick-off training</p>
<p>March 2019</p> <p>CoE Advisory Council and CDEJ meetings</p> <p>EU Youth Conference (March or April)</p>	<p>April 2019</p> <p>EU Youth Conference (March or April)</p> <p>European/national/regional events</p>	<p>May 2019</p> <p>Regional meetings</p> <p>European Youth Week Brussels</p>
<p>June 2019</p> <p>EYCA Conference: 1st insights workshop, joint meeting with the EYCA Board</p>	<p>July 2019</p> <p>European/national/regional events</p>	<p>August 2019</p> <p>PA seminar/summer university</p> <p>European/national/regional events</p>
<p>September 2019</p> <p>Board meeting: 2nd insights workshop</p>	<p>October 2019</p> <p>CoE Advisory Council and CDEJ meetings</p> <p>European/national/regional events</p>	<p>November - December 2019</p> <p>European/national/regional events</p>

In addition to having a valuable European experience at events, they will take part in **four insight workshops across 2 years** and share their input and experience about life as a young person in Europe. The written output from these workshops will be shared with the EYCA Board so that it can be actively considered in decision-making.

At the EYCA Conference, the Youth Panel will formally meet with the EYCA Board to specifically discuss the EYCA strategy and work plan. There will be a two-hour session as part of the Board meeting, and the session will be co-chaired by a young panellist and the EYCA President.

Members of the EYCA Youth Panel will receive support from the EYCA Office in all their activities.