

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

EU YOUTH SOUNDING BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

What is the EU Youth Sounding Board for International Partnerships?

The European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) is responsible for formulating the EU's international partnerships and development policy. Under the leadership of Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, DG INTPA is working together with partner countries across the world to achieve sustainable development and reduce poverty, promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world.

Created in 2021 with a two-year term, the current cohort of the Youth Sounding Board (YSB) of DG INTPA is composed of 25 young people coming from across the world and with a deep commitment to youth engagement and empowerment.

The YSB advises the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships and DG INTPA on youth participation and empowerment in EU external action. YSB members also exchange and advise on EU external action in areas such as employment, education, training and entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, human rights and democracy, peace and security, digitalisation and technology, gender, social inclusion and health, peace and security, culture, arts, media and journalism.

The YSB creates opportunities for young people to express their views, connect and exchange. It allows young people to have an influence on EU external action and international partnerships and thereby contributes to make EU action more participatory, relevant and effective for young people in EU partner countries.

The continuation of the YSB is one of the institutional commitments foreseen in the Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action to step up meaningful youth participation. Adopted in October 2022, the YAP is putting forward a vision and partnership with young people as essential actors of change for more democratic, equal, inclusive and peaceful societies.

With the mandate of the current cohort of the YSB ending in July 2023, the European Commission's DG INTPA is launching a new call for candidates to renew it.

How will the YSB work?

The YSB will be composed of 25 young people from across the world (EU and non-EU countries) with practical experience on youth participation processes, youth policies, or engaged in youth organisations and/or youth-led initiatives.

YSB members will participate in their individual capacity and serve a mandate of two years. They will engage in activities aiming at:

- providing advice to the Commissioner and DG INTPA on policies related to youth and especially on youth participation and empowerment through international partnerships;
- supporting DG INTPA in the implementation of the Youth Action Plan in EU External Action

For this purpose, the YSB members will, among others:

- participate in at least three YSB plenary meetings per year, both in person in Brussels and virtually
- be involved in the implementation and dissemination of the EU Youth Action Plan
- discuss and contribute to ad-hoc issues or requests
- build links with similar structures and existing youth initiatives at international, regional and country level, both in the EU and in the partner countries
- take part in capacity-building activities in relation to their mandate

Members of the YSB are expected to engage for approximately 25 days per year (including the meeting days). The exact number of days will depend on the work plan created and agreed by the YSB and DG INTPA covering the above objectives and related activities.

The mandate is unpaid, but travel and meeting costs are covered for participants in line with DG INTPA rules and regulations. In addition, a monthly allowance for the coverage of data costs will be provided.

How can I become a member of the YSB?

The YSB aims to be diverse and inclusive. It wants to bring together a range of opinions and experiences from across age groups, areas of interest and expertise, gender, socio-economic background and countries/regions (with specific attention to the regions in which DG INTPA is active like Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and the EU, including diaspora communities). **To ensure diversity, all motivated young people are welcome to apply, including those with less experience. Candidates with special needs, disabilities, in situation of vulnerability or from minority groups are encouraged to apply.**

All candidates must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- be between the age of 18-30 at the end of the application period (26 April 2023);
- be available to devote at least 25 days per year to the YSB;
- have a good command of English;
- hold the nationality of, or be a resident in one of the eligible countries. Please find the list of eligible countries [on our website](#).

Candidates can choose one of the following two options:

Option A. INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION

Individual candidates can apply to become members of the YSB. They will be selected based on:

- Experience in youth participation and youth empowerment;
- Outreach and youth engagement skills and experience, including work with youth organisations or youth-led initiatives and experience with youth that are in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations;

- Communication skills including language skills and experience with traditional and social media
- Creativity and motivation, including ideas for YSB functioning and activities.

Option B. NOMINATION BY AN ORGANISATION

Youth organisations can nominate two individuals, preferably with a diverse profile both in terms of age and gender, to become members of the YSB. Each nominated candidate must apply individually. Candidates will be requested to upload a pdf-scan of the signed nomination letter and provide further information about their organisation. Please find the nomination letter template [on our website](#).

The selection will be based on two aspects:

(1) the profile of the organisations, taking into account:

- Experience in strengthening youth participation and contribution to policy processes (consultations, advocacy)
- Potential for outreach to youth (membership base, networks, possibility to reach vulnerable and marginalized youth)
- Geographical coverage (the organisation should be active in the eligible countries, with priority given to international youth organisations/ networks active at regional and/or global levels. Please find the list of eligible countries [on our website](#).)

(2) the profile of the nominated candidates, based on the same criteria as described under option A.

What is the timeline?

Applications have to be submitted **in English** online by 23:59 CET on **26 April 2023** [via EUSurvey](#).

The selection process will be conducted in two stages according to the following indicative timeline:

First stage: all candidates will be informed of the outcome of the first stage (shortlist) of the application at the latest by **30 May 2023**

Second stage: shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews between **1- 20 June 2023**.

Final results: all shortlisted candidates will be informed of the final results by **30 June 2023**.

First (virtual) meeting of the YSB: **summer 2023**

Meeting in Brussels: **October 2023 (tentative)**

What else do I need to know?

Should you have any question or enquiry at pre-application stage, please contact ysb-application2023@khey.eu.

Receipt of applications will be confirmed on the application page. Please be aware that no confirmation e-mail will be sent. As we expect a high number of applications, we advise you to apply well in advance of the deadline in order to prevent potential technical issues. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

DG INTPA might ask for further documentation and proof of information provided in the application form in the course of the selection process from the shortlisted and selected candidates (e.g. social media handles, CV, etc.). The selected candidates will be requested to provide a copy of their identity document to prove they meet the eligibility criteria. DG INTPA will draw up a reserve list of candidates.

What were the activities and results of the previous YSB cohort?

The [2021-2023 cohort of the YSB](#) was engaged in the process of co-creation of the Youth Action Plan. The YSB drafted a report '[Meaningful Inclusion of Youth: A Promising Future](#)', prepared in the context of consultations for the Youth Action Plan in EU external action. In the report, young people from around the world voice their opinions, share thoughts about the challenges they face and propose solutions.

The YSB members have also worked on their own long-term projects (LTPs) on four topics: **diversity and inclusion, intergenerational dialogue, leadership and community-building and outreach to young people**. The outcomes of the LTPs informed the design of INTPA actions and programming on youth.