



European Heritage Days
Journées européennes
du patrimoine

DGII/PAT/JEP(2026)006

YOUTH VOICES FOR HERITAGE

European Heritage Days – Youth Advisory Group

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (2026–2028)

The Council of Europe, through the [European Heritage Days \(EHD\)](#) joint programme with the European Union, invites applications from young heritage professionals working or actively participating in the cultural heritage sector and involved in organising European Heritage Days events to take part in Youth Voices for Heritage, a three-year pilot project aimed at strengthening youth participation in European cultural heritage governance.

This pilot will establish a **Youth Advisory Group** connected to the EHD programme, providing young professionals with a structured opportunity to contribute to strategic discussions, including the development of future [EHD annual themes](#), a Youth Vision for Heritage report and youth engagement approaches within the Council of Europe framework. By amplifying youth perspectives, the initiative supports the broader cultural and youth engagement priorities of both the Council of Europe and the European Union, while embodying the democratic values set out in the [New Democratic Pact for Europe](#).

Background

European Heritage Days is one of the continent's leading cultural programmes, co-funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe. It engages millions of people across Council of Europe member States every year. Recognising young people as essential actors in the future of heritage, Youth Voices for Heritage seeks to bridge grassroots heritage practice and institutional decision-making in accordance with the New Democratic Pact for Europe's principles for youth empowerment, participation, and co-creation.

Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe



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The programme will support young professionals who are already actively engaged in EHD at local or national level, enabling them to:

- exchange experience with peers across Europe;
- contribute to EHD strategic development; and
- help shape sustainable models for youth participation in heritage governance.

Objectives of the Pilot

The Youth Voices for Heritage pilot aims to:

- establish a Youth Advisory Group to contribute to the work of the EHD Assembly of National Coordinators;
- integrate youth perspectives into the development of EHD annual themes;
- co-create a Youth Vision for Heritage report and a Youth Engagement Toolkit for wider use;

Provisional programme (2026–2028)

June 2026: Preparatory workshop (online, one full day)

October 2026: Youth and Heritage Forum at the Council of Europe (in person, three full days, Strasbourg). The Forum will include workshops and structured dialogue with EHD stakeholders and will culminate in the drafting of a Youth Vision for Heritage document.

March–September 2027: Online consolidation meetings (monthly online meetings, one full day per meeting). These meetings will result in the finalised Youth Vision for Heritage document and the first draft of the Youth Engagement Toolkit.

October 2027: Finalisation of the Youth Advisory Group report

November 2027: Presentation of outcomes at [the Steering Committee for Culture and Heritage \(CDCULT\)](#) of the Council of Europe. Participants will select one representative to intervene at the meeting of the Steering Committee for Culture of the Council of Europe.

February 2028: New call for young heritage professionals

March 2028: Publication of the Youth Engagement Toolkit

May 2028: Preparatory workshop for the renewed Youth Advisory Group



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Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

- be aged between 23 and 32 years at the time of application (born between 9 February 1994 and 23 March 2003 including);
- be a heritage professional, or actively engaged in the cultural heritage sector (e.g. heritage management, conservation, museums, archives, cultural mediation, research, education, or related fields);
- be actively involved in organising European Heritage Days events at local, regional or national level (have organised at least one EHD event within the last three years);
- demonstrate strong motivation to contribute to EHD development beyond their local context;
- be available to participate for the full duration of the programme activities; and
- be proficient in English or French.

Please note:

This call is currently open only to EHD event organisers. Applicants who have not yet organised an EHD event are encouraged to contact their National EHD Coordinator for information on how to become involved.

Selection Criteria

Participants will be selected by a jury composed of representatives of the EHD Secretariat and youth and heritage experts, based on:

- motivation and commitment to the objectives of the pilot;
- relevance of experience within European Heritage Days;
- ability to contribute to advisory and collaborative processes; and
- geographical balance and diversity of backgrounds.

Application Process

Interested candidates are invited to complete the online application form.

The application includes:



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- confirmation of involvement in organising EHD events (by the National Coordinator);
- age verification;
- details of the most recent EHD event organised (date, country, location);
- motivation letter or video;
- curriculum vitae (CV).

Applicants are therefore requested to contact their [National European Heritage Days Coordinator](#) in advance in order to obtain the required letter of confirmation.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application deadline: 23 March 2026

Selected applicants will be informed by email.

Practical Information

Participation in the Youth and Heritage Forum and official programme activities will be supported by the organisers. All related expenses (international travel, accommodation, local transportation, meals and visa fees) will be covered by the Council of Europe as the organiser. Further details regarding travel, accommodation and logistics will be communicated to selected participants in due course.