

Call for projects "Europe: now more than ever!"

With the coronavirus, Brexit, populism, nationalism, and climate change: there is no respite for Europe. How is Europe and its youth holding up at the beginning of this new decade? How are German, French and European young people experiencing the Corona crisis and what do they think about a Europe in which borders have turned into obstacles? How can young people commit themselves to a united Europe?

For young people, Europe is a future promising concept and a unique opportunity for their personal and professional development. The majority of young people living in the European Union (EU), such as in France and Germany, perceive the EU positively. Throughout Europe, the political commitment of young people to protecting the environment has grown immensely over the past years. Every fifth teenager living in the EU took part in a protest for climate justice last year. However, in Germany, France and all over Europe there is an increasing number of young people who are not convinced of democracy being the best form of government. Meanwhile, the socio-economic effects of the current crisis are affecting young Europeans in a very particular way. More than ever, young people in Germany, France and Europe need a say in society and support.

On the occasion of the German EU Council Presidency, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) would like to strengthen the encounters, the empowerment and participation of young people from Germany, France and all of Europe. Bilateral or trilateral¹ projects can hence be financially supported with a funding of up to €15,000 within this call for projects "Europe: now more than ever!" which is supported by the European Youth Forum by means of a communication partnership.

FGYO's "Europe: now more than ever!" aims to promote exchanges on Europe and its future among German, French and European youngsters. The format of the funded projects is not determined, which means it can either be implemented as a physical exchange, a digital encounter or a mixed encounter with both, an online and a physical exchange. A digital "hangout" can therefore be promoted just as much as a work camp, an educational seminar, sports meetings, conferences, discussion rounds, tutorials or classic exchanges. The current health situation and regulations must always be observed and respected.

¹ Besides Germany and France, partners from the following countries can participate in trilateral projects:

- European Union: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain + United Kingdom
- Southeast Europa: Albania, Bosnia-and-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia,
- Eastern Europe: Belarus, Georgia, Moldavia, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine

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1 General framework: objectives, formats and themes

1.1 Objectives

The "Europe: now more than ever" call for projects aims to support projects to:

- Continue to foster European exchanges on one or multiple European topics either in a digital or physical manner;
- Enhance intercultural competences of young people in Germany, France and Europe in order to develop new perspectives for youth exchange;
- Strengthen young people's commitment to Europe.

It addresses applicants who are active in the field of education, training, youth work and vocational training in Germany, France or another European country.

Each project adopted may receive support to the maximum value of € 15,000, both Franco-German or trilateral projects. The project is to be carried out by **15 December 2021**.

1.2 Chosen themes

An eligible project should address one or more of the following key topics

1.2.1 The future of Europe from the young people's perspective. How to go on after the Brexit and the corona crisis?

Brexit, the health crisis as well as the crisis of multilateralism, present the European Union with historic challenges. How do young Europeans imagine the future of the European unification project?

1.2.2 The corona crisis as a European experience and challenge

The current crisis is shaping a generation of young Europeans. It puts our democracies, our health systems, our education systems, our economy, and the freedom of travel, but most of all social solidarity to the test. How do young people experience the crisis and how can they strengthen the European integration? Will our democracies emerge stronger from this crisis?

1.2.3 Vocational training, entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence

The issues at stake in innovation raise questions from an economic, social-political, scientific and ethical viewpoint. The current crisis and the economic challenges it poses also mean that education must be rethought. Young people are challenged to adapt their skills to a constantly changing world. How can we strengthen lifelong learning? What significance does artificial intelligence have for the future of Europe? What incentives does Europe offer young people to set up start-ups and to engage in social and ecological economic activity?

1.2.4 Sustainable development and environmental protection

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There is no planet B. The European Commission is putting sustainable development and environmental protection at the centre of its priorities, thus responding to a demand from young people: How can ecological issues be responded to against the background of the current health crisis? How can young people get involved in the protection of environment and climate throughout Europe?

1.2.5 Sports and culture

In the post-war period, encounters in sports and culture were the beginning of the German-French youth encounters for a united Europe. During the corona crisis, a great number of sports events and cultural projects had to be cancelled or postponed. How can we strengthen the European encounter and exchange with sports and cultural events?

2 Criteria for participation, selection and implementation

2.1 Project organizers

Project organizers may be non-profit associations, local or regional authorities, organisations and federations in the field of informal education of children and teenagers, culture, science, media and sport as well as schools, universities, vocational schools and town twinning.

2.2 Target groups

This call for proposals is intended to foster meetings and discussions on European issues. It is directed more specifically at young people involved in or hoping to become involved in civil society at local level. The FGYO particularly encourages the participation of young people with limited access to mobility to become involved.² There should be diversity and an even gender balance among the participants.

3 Implementation, outcomes, assessment and communication

3.1 Implementation, participation and innovation

The projects should meet the above-mentioned criteria, stand out for innovative approaches and foster creativity in the young participants, for example in their use of digital tools and in the debates and online discussions. The project sponsors are responsible for preparing the content and the logistics of the projects, along with their implementation and their assessment. The young people should be actively involved in designing and carrying out the projects. The project should lead to a concrete outcome. Their impact and their sustainability should be illustrated by a variety of media, such as publications, blogs, articles, videos or pod-

² This includes, for example, young people experiencing great difficulty finding employment, young people who are geographically distant from mobility options, young people with a less advanced level of training and young people with a disability.

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casts, virtual exhibitions, online games, applications, presentations or talks, and by concrete monitoring projects.

3.2 Communication and visibility

The project should include a public communication (involving social networks, the media, leaflets, posters, etc.). There should be an explicit mention of the FGYO's support and its logo must appear on all of the project's communication documents. The photos and/or videos relating to the projects may be made available to the FGYO, which may present the selected projects on its website or at events. Moreover, the leaders of the selected projects undertake to inform the local or regional media and, in the event of a trinational project, the embassies' cooperation and cultural action departments, and the French Institutes and Goethe Institutes of the countries involved in the project.

3.3 Languages

French and German should preferably be used as the project languages; in trilateral projects, English may be used as the language for communication. The languages represented are to be used for all of the working material and for the communication media.

4 Financial support

Each project may receive support to the value of up to € 15,000.

For projects that rely on physical meetings, online meetings and meetings with people living in the same country, the following expenses may be subsidised:

- *Programme expenses:*

Expenses incurred for the rental of technical or computer equipment, or the rental of digital tools for a limited duration; connection costs if necessary; professional fees (such as the remuneration of the supervisory team, or interpreting services), training material and other consumables (such as office supplies).

- *Travel and accommodation expenses*, in the event of face-to-face meetings of participants living in the same country (in accordance with FGYO Directives and its temporary general dispensations). Note that, in the event of intergenerational meetings, only the expenses incurred for young people up to the age of 30 included will be subsidised by the FGYO.

Investment costs, such as the purchase of IT equipment (camera, film camera, computer, printer, etc.), cannot be reimbursed.

Up to 80 % of the subsidy will be transferred on confirmation of the project's selection. The remainder will be paid on receipt and examination of the requested purchase receipts. The latter should be sent to us as soon as possible and, at the

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latest, two months after the end of the project. For projects carried out between 15 November and 31 December, the receipts must be sent to us by 15 January 2021 at the very latest.

5 Submission of applications and selection of the projects

For each project, **either the German or the French partner** (from among the project sponsors mentioned in point 2.1) is to submit a **standard subsidy application**, using the **online application form, that you can find here in German and here in French**.

The full application is to be sent, by email only, to the "Region, Europe and Neighbourhood" Unit (europe@ofaj.org).

The application form must be accompanied by a provisional programme. Incomplete applications will not be taken into consideration.

Applications will be examined on a monthly basis, with a view to flexible implementation in the second half of the year:

- They may be submitted by the 30th of each month until the month of October included.
- A jury then meets on a monthly basis and decides on the selection of projects within the framework of the funds available by the FGYO-Unit "Regions, Europe and Neighbourhood" and according to the established criteria.

Project promoters shall be informed of their decision as soon as possible.

6 Contact information

For further information:

Email: europe@ofaj.org

For Franco-German projects: +33 1 40 78 18 05

For trinational projects: +33 1 40 78 18 85

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