



Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network

TERMS OF REFERENCES

(Adopted by the 24th European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 11 April 2021)

Article 1: Background

The European Youth Network was established in 1975. It brings together young volunteers from the 53 National Societies within the Europe and Central Asia Region. It facilitates the sharing of good practices, exchange of experiences and advocates on behalf of its members within the organization and beyond. The platform functions as a tool from which everyone can benefit through active participation.

At this moment the following National Societies are members of the European Youth Network: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Article 2: Context

Young people are key drivers in humanitarian action and development. Being meaningfully engaged as today's and tomorrow's leaders, volunteers, and members of affected communities, they foster community resilience. As contributors to the IFRC's vision to prevent and alleviate human suffering and promote and protect human dignity and peace, they enable the targets of the Agenda for Humanity and the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved.

The population of young people has consistently risen over the last decade and they have become a growing constituency of communities affected by humanitarian crises. Their specific needs, rights, and potential are however often overlooked and even more so, they are missing at the decision-making tables where the communities they live in are being shaped.

The IFRC recognizes meaningful youth engagement as a strategic vehicle for transforming institutional cultures that directly and positively impacts the Red Cross Red Crescent operational capacity to deliver on our humanitarian mission. Hence, adequate investments in meaningful youth engagement are inevitable for the transfer of experiences, leadership renewal, and progress overall.¹

¹ IFRC Youth Policy, 2017



Article 3: Definitions

Networking is a process of meeting people, making contacts, forming informal, mutual relationships, and utilizing them as required.

Networks are structures that harness the process of networking to articulate and attain goals of benefit to member organizations over a period of time.

By the term “networks” we refer herein to formal networks which are planned and managed, as opposed to the ad hoc and personal networks that also flourish within the IFRC. In this context, the networks are not supposed to be seen as permanent structures.

RCRC Youth networks are formed on regional and sub-regional levels and operate and are structured horizontally with varying degrees of institutionalized formality.

Youth networks, within the IFRC, are established and maintained for the primary benefit of National Societies’ (NS) youth actions targeting vulnerable groups in local communities.

Youth networks are led by youth leaders who apply peer to peer approaches in sharing, coordination, and partnership building for common goals of generating knowledge, collecting experiences, and recording lessons learnt and best practices of both individuals and National Societies.

Ownership of RC RC Youth networks should be shared between youth leaders and National Societies’ leadership.²

Article 4: Mission of the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network

The European Youth Network (EYN) provides a space at the regional level for actions, aimed at empowering young people to be a strategic resource in the member National Societies and the Movement, to bridge the gap between senior and youth structures to ensure the full and meaningful participation of youth at all levels. The EYN exists so that National Societies can inform each other of their activities, promote good practices, discuss common concerns and carry out relevant joint activities. The member National Societies have identified three cross-cutting areas of focus for all actions and decisions of the Network:

4.1 Knowledge management - supporting and strengthening knowledge through:

1. Facilitating the exchange of good practices, experiences and areas of improvements between National Societies
2. Contributing to the training and support of youth leaders on a local, national and international level
3. Ensuring that information from the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the IFRC Youth Commission and other relevant actors is disseminated to all members of the Network

² *IFRC Guidelines for Red Cross Red Crescent networks (2009); RCRC Youth Networking Guidelines, 2013*



4.2 Advocacy - strengthening the advocacy role of the National Societies and the Network itself through:

1. Contributing to the enhancement of youth-led advocacy within National Societies
2. Supporting National Societies in empowering youth to be actively and effectively involved in decision-making processes
3. Representing the voice of youth from member National Societies
4. Providing and ensuring open channels of communication between member National Societies, the IFRC, the IFRC Youth Commission and other relevant stakeholders
5. Contributing to the implementation of the IFRC Youth Policy and the IFRC Youth Engagement Strategy in National Societies

4.3 Cooperation – fostering cooperation and strengthening capacities through:

1. Fostering the exchange of support and expertise
2. Enhancing the sense of ownership of the Network among members, based on common and shared values
3. Promoting cooperation and facilitating partnerships with other Youth Networks, Youth Organizations and other relevant actors
4. Facilitating informal meetings of members at international events of the Movement
5. Enabling and facilitating relevant common actions, campaigns or joint activities

Article 5: Organization

5.1 Membership

The members of the Network are the National Societies from the Europe and Central Asia region that are part of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The members, through their representatives:

1. Approve the Terms of Reference and any subsequent amendments, the Rules of Procedure (RoP); which are a part of the ToR, as well as any other relevant documents
2. Identify goals, objectives, activities and priorities for the network;
3. Review progress of activities against agreed objectives;
4. Identify policy and practice matters that have a European dimension. Support relevant trans-national projects;
5. Promote the objectives of the EYN by seeking to maximize the involvement of National Societies and other components of the RC/RC Movement in the EYN
6. Participate based on individual knowledge and expertise in delegated activities

5.2 Observers

Observers of the Network are:

1. Recognized National Societies
2. The IFRC
3. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
4. The members of the IFRC Youth Commission
5. Other Red Cross Red Crescent Networks



6. Other partner organizations

5.3. Meeting

The members of the Network meet once every two years at the “European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies” (EYCM).

5.3.1. Aims and tasks of the EYCM:

1. To define priorities for the following two years
2. To review and evaluate the work carried out by the members and the European Youth Coordination Committee (EYCC) over the previous two years
3. To host the EYCC elections
4. To elect the Drafting/Reporting Committee of the EYCM, upon proposal of the EYCC. The Drafting/Reporting Committee ensures that the report of the EYCM is compiled
5. To provide updates to and receives updates from the IFRC Youth Commission members
6. To promote Working Groups’ creation, to support their ideas and coordinate their implementation (see the RoP)

5.3.2. In the EYCM each member (NS) has one mandate to vote.

5.3.3. The quorum for the EYCM is 51% of the membership.

5.3.4. The EYCM is organized by the EYCC, with the support of the IFRC, and hosted by a member National Society.

5.3.5. National Societies can co-host the EYCM, following the procedure of application outlined in the ToR and RoP of the Network.

5.3.6. The process to identify the host member, the criteria of selection, and other questions regarding the organization and tasks of the EYCM are described in the RoP.

5.4. European Youth Coordination Committee

5.4.1. During the EYCM the elections for the EYCC take place.

5.4.2. The EYCC consists of seven members (including its Chair) elected during the EYCM by participating members. Nominations must be endorsed by the nominee's National Society before submission.

5.4.3. The EYCC mandate is two years. It runs until the end of the next EYCM.

5.4.4. The EYCC Chair is elected at the EYCM for a term of two years.

5.4.5. The Chair and the members of the EYCC elect a Vice-Chair at their first meeting during the EYCM they were elected at.

5.4.6. The EYCC meets at least twice a year. The EYCC counts on the support of the IFRC European Regional Office (ERO) for assisting with necessary resources. Other National Societies and members of the Network might be approached for financial assistance if needed.



5.4.7. National societies may offer to host an EYCC meeting. The EYCC may request an NS to host their meeting, taking into consideration the costs and sub-regional representation. Whenever possible the hosting NS could provide financial support for the meeting.

5.4.8. The EYCC decides the location of their meetings.

5.4.9. Additional meetings can be held using different communication tools.

5.4.10. The Chair or the Vice-Chair convenes EYCC meetings.

5.4.11. IFRC Youth Commission members and IFRC staff members are invited to EYCC meetings.

5.4.12. The desired profile of the candidates for EYCC is described in the RoP.

5.4.13. The EYCC is obliged to report to the members of the Network on its activities once every 6 months. Other means of informal regular updates should also be considered by the EYCC.

5.5. EYCC election

5.5.1 The members of the European Youth Network elect the EYCC.

5.5.2 Elections take place during the EYCM.

5.5.3 A clear and accessible invitation to nominate candidates is sent to members in a timely manner.

5.5.4. Nominating National Societies must send their candidates' motivations and supporting documents at least a month before the EYCM. The EYCC will send the information to all EYN members no later than two weeks before the EYCM.

5.5.5 A person is not entitled to more than two mandates as an EYCC member.

5.5.6. Each participating member can vote once.

5.5.7. Each participating member can vote for seven candidates (express seven preferences).

5.5.8. Each participating member can vote for one candidate for the Chair Position (express one preference).

5.5.9. The procedures related to elections are set out in the Rules of Procedure of this document.

5.6. Election Committee

5.6.1 The Election Committee is chaired by one of the members of the previous EYCC, not standing for re-election. The EYCC appoints the Chair of the Election Committee.

5.6.2 The Election Committee consists of one or two representatives of the NS hosting the EYCM, except if the situation outlined in Article 5.6.3 arises, and an observer from the IFRC.

5.6.3 Candidates cannot be part of the Election Committee. In case of the situation where the members defined by the article 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 are running for the elections, the EYCM, upon the proposal of the EYCC, elects an Election Committee from among the member's representatives that are not running



5.6.4 The Election Committee defines the deadline to present the candidacies and the time for the elections and communicates it to the participating members during the EYCM.

5.6.5 The Election Committee is responsible for overseeing the elections and for counting votes. Results are announced to the EYCM participants during a designated session, as soon as the counting of votes is completed.

5.7. Withdrawal of an EYCC member

5.7.1 If an EYCC member withdraws and the EYCC decides a replacement is needed the candidate with the next highest number of votes replaces the person withdrawing.

5.7.2 In an event where there isn't a remaining candidate, or if they are no longer available, the NS of the withdrawing candidate shall replace the EYCC member. The EYCC shall validate this proposal.

5.7.3 The new EYCC member has the same mandate as the other EYCC members.

5.7.4. The withdrawing member should prepare handouts for the replacing member to ensure a smooth transition of work.

5.8 Exclusion from the EYCC

5.8.1. An exclusion procedure should be considered if one or more of the following occurs:

5.8.1.1. If an EYCC member has been inactive for two months, and all possible means have been used by the EYCC to get in touch with them without any response.

5.8.1.2. If an EYCC member acts against the Principles or the Code of Conduct.

5.8.1.3. If an EYCC member is not providing meaningful contributions to the work of the EYCC and is not following up on their responsibilities.

5.8.2 At least four of the EYCC members must vote in favour of the exclusion procedure.

5.8.3. The EYCC member should be given the opportunity to defend their position.

5.8.4. If an exclusion procedure is taking place, the members of the Network should be informed and regularly updated on that.

5.8.3 Following an exclusion, the new candidate should be elected following the procedures under article 5.7 of this document.

Article 6: Language

6.1. The working language of the EYN is English.

6.2. Whenever possible, through working groups, volunteers or other means, the working documents of the Network should be translated into other EYN languages.



Article 7: Finance and funding

Member NS and observers are expected to meet the costs of participation of their nominated representative/s at EYCM, as well as for their elected EYCC members. The member National Societies are strongly encouraged to provide funding for EYCC meetings and activities. The EYCC, the Federation Secretariat and the Europe Regional Office will actively seek funding for activities.

Article 8: Revision of the Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference can be amended every two years. A review of the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure is suggested every four years. Amendments and revisions to the Terms of Reference must be agreed upon by member NS.