



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS:
Easter Seminar "Open Society"
of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)
in Pécs, Hungary
19-25 March 2016

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the Easter Seminar "Open Society". The event will take place in Pécs, Hungary and is hosted by Gemeinschaft Junger Ungarndeutscher (GJU). It is supported by German Federal Ministry of the Interior and the European Youth Foundation.

If you are interested to participate, please fill in the application form, and send it to buro@giu.hu.
Deadline for the application is the 28th of February 2016.

About the Seminar:

We are very glad to invite you to this year's Easter Seminar which will take place from 19 till 25 of March 2016 in Pécs in Southern Hungary.

The city has approx. 150,000 inhabitants and is located close to the Mecsek Mountains in Southern Hungary, some 30 km north of the Croatian border. Pécs is more than 2000 years old. Due to its historical and cultural monuments the downtown of Pécs has been declared as "UNESCO World Heritage". The climate is Mediterranean and ideal for viticulture. In the south of the city is located one of the sunniest wine regions in Hungary. Thanks to the diversity of the minorities living here and their rich cultures, and thanks to the tourism Pécs is the centre of Southern Hungary.



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This year we want to focus on two **main topics: Youth participation as well as language and multilingualism** – both core elements of the “YEN White Paper on Minority Rights”.

We have chosen the topic of **participation**, because especially for minorities it is important to stand up actively for their rights, and to acquire knowledge and skills required for this purpose. In times of the internet and social media it is crucial to inform young people about possibilities how these instruments can be used in an effective way in order to give minorities a voice within the majority population. An effective campaign and the online presentation of the own work are increasingly important.

Language and multilingualism we have chosen, as both are essential for the identity and culture of minorities. We want to set a particular focus on regional and minority languages in Europe. However, knowledge on this topic is very low. Did you know, for example, that every second week a language is dying? Therefore, we want to use the seminar to sensitize you and the local population on the issue of languages.

During this year's Easter Seminar you will have the possibility to deepen your knowledge and skills with regard to new trends in youth participation, deal with campaigns, learn more about languages and multilingualism as well as the hosting minority. Another aim is to strengthen your self-confidence and inter-cultural dialogue between the participants. In order to acquire this, following workshops will be provided to you:

1. *Grass-root journalism and online-campaigning*
2. *E-youth participation*
3. *Motivating and Activating young People 4 action*
4. *Multilingualism and language diversity*
5. *Identity and culture of the Germans in Hungary (in German language only)*

1. Grass-root journalism and online-campaigning

This workshop deals with the basics of citizen journalism, online-campaigning tools and social media strategies. You will learn the basics of online journalism, blogging and how to develop a coherent social media visibility of our networks activities. Guiding question will be: “How can I use social media for promoting my minority?”. Furthermore you will get introduced into tools of online campaigning and train your skills by working on online and offline campaigns which are focusing on the promotion of human and minority rights, like the YEN campaign #Diversity Connects.

2. E-youth participation – New ways for Inclusion and Democracy?

The second workshop will consider e-youth participation (e = electronical) from a more **political perspective**. Guiding question will be: “Which institutions and processes are existing in European youth and minority politics? How can I participate in society and politics? How can I use new media as a decision-making tool?”. We will explore current trends of e-participation by young people and discuss the benefits and challenges e-democracy tools have on decision-making process in the youth field. This workshop aims to empower you to active citizenship and include

online tools into your organizations work. The aim is to come up with a recommendation defining online tools we want to include in decision-making process of our network.

3. *Motivating and Activating young people 4 action*

Despite of the fact that there are much more participation possibilities today, the number of active young people on all levels is decreasing. Therefore, our third workshop aims to equip you with skills on how to motivate others to get active within your organization. Using non-formal educational techniques we want to think of how to convert classical meetings, e.g. plenaries and board meetings, into innovative and interesting gatherings. We also want to analyse internal communication-process and recognition and see where it can be improved in order to facilitate the interaction/work of the organizations. Together we will explore methods of creative thinking and find ways how to think “out of the box” in order to develop new event formats. In the end we like to come up with a motivation and activation-strategy which can be used by all our members and YEN.

4. *Multilingualism and language diversity*

In this workshop we want to introduce you to the topic of languages and the benefits of multilingualism. You will learn how to pass on your knowledge in an interactive and playful way. The second part of the workshop will take place in schools. During several classroom visits at regional schools we will present the benefits of multilingualism and promote language diversity. A special focus will be set on regional and minority languages. This is why the workshop group should consist of as many different language groups as possible, in order to present “living language examples” to the school students.

5. *Identity and culture of the Germans in Hungary (in German language only)*

In this workshop we would like to introduce you the identity of the Germans in Hungary. The aim is to show how their culture looks like and how people live it today. You will also discuss the challenges of the preservation of a minority and its culture and traditions. In a practical part you will visit several Hungarian-German villages in order to talk to older and younger members of the minority.

Additional activities

- **#DiversityConnects:** At the Easter Seminar we want to include the YEN campaign in the workshops and also do various public actions. #DiversityConnects aims to unite diverse minority voices to fight against stereotypes, prejudice, and all kind of discrimination towards ethnic and national minorities. The campaign gives the majority a clear understanding of our cultures and the advantages of autochthonous minorities for the society.
- **Exchange market:** Please bring info material about your minority organization and promotion material, as this is the main goal of the exchange market. Please also bring specialties from your region/minority.

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- **Excursion:** We are going to discover the culture of the Germans from Hungary by making an excursion to Mohács, Székelyszabar und Villány – approx. 50 km away from Pécs.

Profile of the participants

- Young members of minorities involved in their minority youth organisation, aged 16-30.
- Able to work in English.
- We can accept 3 members per full member organisation and 2 per associated member organisation. However, there will also be a waiting list and the free places will be given to those who are on the list after the deadline.

Travel reimbursement

Travel expenses will be 70% covered for Eastern European participants and 50% for Western European participants. Travels by car will be reimbursed by a rate of 0.10 € per km up to a limit of 150 € per car.

Travel costs will be reimbursed only when original tickets will be presented and sent to the office and participants provide all needed justificatory documents of travel and expenses (invoices, boarding passes, train or bus tickets...). Taxi costs cannot be reimbursed! Additionally, the reimbursement form needs to be duly filled in. Once these are collected, controlled and accepted by YEN, the Vice-President for finances will order the reimbursements to the **sending organization** via bank transfer as soon as we have the confirmation from the European Youth Foundation that the documents are well in order and they have accepted the final report.

Participation fee

The participation fee is 80 € for Western European participants and 50 € for Eastern European participants. It covers food and accommodation for the entire seminar, as well as excursions and required materials during the event.

If you have to cancel your participation 2 weeks prior to the event and there will be no replacement, we will have to ask you for the participation fee.

Accommodation

The seminar will take place in Pécs in the Hotel Laterum. The hotel is close to the city center. It is easily accessible by public transport.

www.laterumhotel.hu

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please fill in the application form and email the file via your minority organisation to the following address: buro@giu.hu

The application deadline is **28th of February 2016**.

Please note that **all applicants must be proposed by an organisation**. Applications sent by individuals **will not** be considered. After the deadline, applicants will be informed whether they are selected or placed on a waiting list.

Make sure that you choose the cheapest and eco-friendly way of travelling to the venue.

Please book your tickets right after you get the official confirmation from the YEN office!

Arrival: Saturday, 19.03.2016

Departure: Friday, 25.03.2016

Additional information will be sent to you after your participation is confirmed by the office. If you have any question about the seminar, please contact us at the below mentioned email addresses.

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We are looking forward to your participation!

GJU and YEN organizer team



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