



Dear members of the European Youth Forum!

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) nominates our former president and board member Matic Germovšek Ž. as our candidate for the Advisory Council mandate 2018-2019. As the only youth organisation in Europe representing national and ethnic minorities in Europe we want to keep up our strong contribution to the work of the European youth sector.

YEN is a dynamic and active network of 39 youth organisations all over Europe with such diverse members as the Vlach minorities in Albania, Romania and FYROM, the Carinthian Slovenes, the Roma minority in FYROM or the Germans in Russia. We work for the preservation of the rights of minorities and ethnic groups in order to keep the big diversity of our continent.

YEN supports and lives the principles of the CoE: Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law. We have been a partner of the Department of Youth of the Council of Europe (DYS) for many years now. We took part in conferences, are partners of the No Hate Speech Movement and ran a Study Session on minority languages.

In times of crisis as we see more and more nationalism in Europe, may it be the Pegida movement that is spreading or the right-wing parties that proclaim a Europe of different nations rather than a united Europe. Especially in those times, we witness bigger resentments towards minorities, hard fought for rights get eroded. We as YEN fight for a diverse and united Europe, as our campaign is #DiversityConnects!

In our White Paper on Minority Rights we set clear goals how to live the values of Europe and what we can do to further improve the lives of young people all over Europe. It is made up of four main chapters that we consider relevant for young people belonging to minorities, but it embraces all young people in Europe. They are: Social Inclusion, Education and Language, Solidarity with the Roma and Volunteering. On 55 pages we have analysed the current situation and came up with recommendations how to improve the situation of young people in Europe. We will feed this input via the Advisory Council into concrete politics.

We will feed all our experience of the last mandate into the work of the Advisory Council. With our Minority Rights and Politics Working Group we can support Matic in his work for the AC and, if this might be necessary to replace him during a meeting. Our office has the experience in working with the AC, JC and PC, too and can support the work of our representative when needed.

The Advisory Council has to be the driving force in the Council of Europe to come up with flag ship projects, to remind the established structures that the youth is still there and ready to fight for their rights. We have to be visible in the Council of Europe and in the Joint Council, to be creative and to be effective in order not to get lost in the paper. Matic will be there as a Carinthian Slovene in the name of YEN to represent the interests of all young people in Europe and the European Youth Forum.

Therefore, we ask for your support autochthonous, ethnic and national minorities, YEN and Matic for our candidature during the COMEM.

Roman Kühn
Secretary General

