



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Kick-Off Seminar “Think equally” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) and the Organisation of young Germans in Hungary (GJU) in Csolnok/Tscholnok, Hungary 10th–16th of February 2020

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the Kick-Off Seminar “Think equally”. The event will take place in Csolnok/Tscholnok (close to Budapest), Hungary and will be hosted by the Gemeinschaft Junger Ungarndeutscher; GJU (the youth organisation of Germans in Hungary). It will be supported by the European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe.

About the Seminar:

For some years now, the Kick-Off-Seminar is an integral part of our work plan and a great way to start with the new year, full of activities and fight for the minority rights!

YEN’s year 2020 will be under the slogan: “Think diverse! Minority youth in a Changing World”. Together we want to reflect on the position, role and reality of young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities in the light of current developments, challenges and opportunities. Therefore, we want to look at globalization and changing political and social realities and think about how they influence youth from minorities. As a next step we want to find ways to navigate these changes while also supporting and preserving the identity, culture and language of minorities.

Having used the slogan “Minority Rights are Human Rights” for some time, during the **Kick-Off Seminar** we want to take a closer look at human rights, human rights education and activism. The Workshop will begin with a reflection on the different parts of one’s identity and offer room to talk about personal experiences of rights being violated or secured. After looking at the different realities of minority and human rights around Europe we want to find opportunities for own engagement and activism for human rights, collecting strategies, methods and ideas.

Participants should arrive on the 10th and depart on the 16th of February. The workshop will be in English. However, if you don’t feel confident, we will find the way to communicate, just let us know!

This event is supported by:





About the Hungarian-Germans and the Hosting Organisation GJU:

The German minority is the second largest of the thirteen recognized minorities in Hungary, after the Roma minority. According to the national census of 2011, 185 696 Hungarian-German People live in the country. Hungarian-Germans live scattered in over 400 towns throughout the country: most of them in the "Schwäbische Türkei" (County of: Baranya, Tolna, Somogy), the „Batschka" (south part of the country Bács-Kiskun), the Buda Mountain territory near the capital, in Veszprém country, Komárom-Esztergom county, and in the region of West Hungary.

The first Germans came to Hungary around 1000 following the Bavarian Princess Gisela, wife of the first King Saint Stephen. A strong German city civilisation appeared in the Middle Ages in Transylvania (today Romania) and the Spiš (today Slovakia) or in West Hungary (Sopron/Ödenburg). After the Turks were driven away, German cities reappeared (the current capital, Pécs, Győr) with a blossoming German-speaking culture in the 18th and 19th centuries (theater, press, musical life). The middle class citizens, however, were dissolved in "Magyarism" until the First World War.

After the Turkish occupation, the House of Habsburg and the Hungarian landlords brought German farmers into the country that preserved the German language, values, and customs in closed settlements despite a strong policy of assimilation in the period up until the 2nd World War. After the war, many Germany in Hungary were brought to the Soviet Union for forced labour (about 65.000 people), 1946-1948 half of the German population (about 180.000 people) was driven away, and almost all of the intellectuals left.

Only after "The Turn" could the Hungarian-Germans have a sigh of relief. They were given the right to set up self-governed councils. The Hungarian-Germans have political interest representation on the local, committee, and country levels (Landesselbstverwaltung der Ungarndeutschen - LdU). They have an expanded educational system. Since 2018 they are represented through a delegate in the Hungarian Parliament.

The host organization of the Kick-Off Seminar 2020 is the **Gemeinschaft Junger Ungarndeutscher** (Community of Young Hungarian-Germans). GJU is a countrywide active youth organization, that is addresses issues related to the identity of Hungarian-Germans in multiple ways. This organization was founded 30 years ago 1989, in Pécs/Fünfkirchen. Since 1991 GJU is an active member of the Youth of European Nationalities.

GJU collaborates closely with the youth organization of the Hungarian-Slovak minority (Organizácia slovenskej mládeže v Maďarsku - MASZFISZ). At the Kick-Off Seminar in February „MASZFISZ" will also be a partner.

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Additional activities

- **Cultural Exchange Evening:** 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.
- **Excursion:** On the Excursion-Day we will go on a trip where the participants can get an insight into the cultural life of the German and Slovak minority in Hungary. The day will begin on the famous Hero's Square in Budapest, after that we will visit the House of the Hungarian-Germans and the editorial office of the Hungarian-German weekly newspaper "Neue Zeitung". The afternoon's program is Slovak Strudelworkshop in Šára/Sári. We will spend the evening also together, chatting and enjoying ourselves in the Hungarian-German town, Újhartyán/Hartian.

Profile of the participants

- Young members of minorities involved in their minority youth organisation,
- The ability to work in English (however, if you don't feel confident, we will find the way to communicate, just let us know!);
- We can accept one or two members per organisation depending on the number of applications. There will also be a waiting list and the free places will be given to those who are on the list after the deadline;
- We can only accept participants that will be present for at least 80% of the workshop.
- Applicants who have already participated in YEN events as well as "Newbies" are welcome.

Travel reimbursement

Travel expenses will be reimbursed partly up to a previously set maximum amount. They will be reimbursed only when a signed „Expense Claim“ as well as all the original tickets are 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!** More details will follow, when participants are selected.

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Participation fee

The participation fee is 100 € for Western European participants and 70 € 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 later than 2 weeks prior to the event and there will be no replacement, we will have to ask you for the participation fee.

Social fund

If you need support to pay either your travel costs or participation fee, contact the office to ask for more information and/or apply for financial support (office@yeni.org).

Accommodation

Accommodation is only covered during the duration of the seminar (check-in on 10th February in the afternoon, check-out 16th February in the morning). If you arrive before or stay longer you will have to cover it yourself!

We will reimburse your travel costs only if you stay **no longer than two days** before or after the seminar.

The seminar will take place at the Pollushof in Csolnok, about an hour north-west of Budapest. <https://pollushof.hu/>

Participants will be accommodated in double, three-bed or four-bed rooms.

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Application:

If you are interested to participate, please contact your organisation and fill in the online application form:

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

Deadline for the application is the **8th of January 2020.**

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.

All participants are required to take part in at least four full days of the seminar.

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!

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.

YEN Büro:

office@yeni.org

Tel.: +49 176 31779414

www.yeni.org

Facebook: @yeni.org

GJU:

<http://www.gju.hu/index.php>

We are looking forward to meeting you!

GJU and YEN orga-team

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