

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Autumn Seminar “time to rebuild” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in Hermannstadt / Sibiu , Romania 10th - 16th of October 2022



The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the **Autumn Seminar “time to rebuild”**.

The event will take place at **Hermannstadt / Sibiu in Rumania** from **10th until the 16th of October** and will be hosted by the youth organisation “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Jugendgemeinschaften in Rumänien / Association german youth organisations in Rumania” (ADJ).

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About the Seminar

This Autumn Seminar, the participants will meet in **Hermannstadt /Sibiu, Romania**. Through the workshop we want to support the participants in developing or (re-)building their minority youth organisations. The other activities in 2022 focus on empowering individuals who are the backbone of strong and active youth organisations. Throughout 2022 we aim to encourage reflections on their identity, human rights, and the value of diversity and solidarity. We also aim to create motivation for activism and youth participation by sharing experiences, skills, and knowledge within the YEN network.

The Autumn Seminar is the last step of a path that aims at transforming the motivation, inspiration, newly learned skills, and knowledge that participants previously gained into taking ownership and becoming active in minority youth organisations.

The Orga-Team is made up members of the youth organisation of the German minority Romania “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Jugendgemeinschaften in Rumänien” (ADJ).

Accommodation will be provided for all participants in 4-bed rooms during the Seminar.

As the pandemic is still ongoing, we ask all our participants to be vaccinated or recovered AND tested (you can find more information below).

Workshop

The seminar will build on the outcomes and concepts learnt in the previous activities, moving from a level of self-aware individuals with strong identities to the level of strong and active organisations that these individuals are forming.

A relevant part of this seminar will focus on gaining concrete skills and reflecting on how to attract new members and ensure an active and sustainable membership in an inclusive environment. The participants will also be encouraged to start a process of re-defining the aims of their own organisation as part of strategy development. Throughout the event, there will be opportunities to share experiences and best practices from their own organisations and learn from each other.

The main aim of the activity is to **empower young people from national minorities to (re-)build and/or further develop their own minority youth organisations. Thereby, ensuring that these organisations become and stay strong, active and sustainable democratic spaces for participation and inclusion.**

During the first half of the Seminar, the participants from different organisations and backgrounds will start reflecting on the **needs and rights of minority youth**. They will be encouraged to reflect on “Why we need minority **youth** organisations?” (in comparison to minority organisations). Participants will be encouraged to

think about youth organisations as opportunities for democratic civic spaces, tools of self-representation and participation, enabling access to social rights and inclusion.

The workshop will also address some basic principles or strategies that make youth organisations successful and sustainable. A specific focus will be put on how to attract new members and the value of cooperation and networks by exploring the opportunities of engagement on an international level.

Building on the outcome of this reflection, the participants will start a process of learning about and using newly learned skills and knowledge about strategy development while re-defining the aims of their own organisations. Participants will also have several opportunities to share the experiences they made as members of youth organisations. In the last part of the Seminar, we want to provide participants with some concrete tools for organisational development. That is why the last day will focus on capacity building and will be of a more practical character such as funding/ application writing and advocacy.

- ➔ *The workshops are based on non-formal education methods and you will spend most of the week in your workshops. Of course, there will also be leisure activities, an excursion day and the Exchange Market. You will get more information after the registration deadline.*

Participants profile

You are a young member of a minority between aged 16 and 30 and involved in your minority youth organization? Then sign up for the YEN Easter Seminar in Denmark!

Please notice that we can accept two to three participants from each member organization. However, there will be a waiting list to fill up open seats out of it after the registration deadline. So if you are interested in sending more participants, get in contact with the YEN-office (under events@yeni.org).

Arrival & Departure

Arrival Day: **10th of October**

Departure Day: **16th of October**

More information on Venue and how to reach Hermannstadt will be provided after the application process.

About YEN

As YEN we believe in human rights and fundamental freedoms for all humans. We cooperate with and support institutions that share those values. Our work is built on the ideas of respect, openness and tolerance for all minorities. We openly position ourselves against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, antigypsyism, antisemitism and discrimination or forced assimilation of any kind of minority and, as a matter of principle, are against violence in whatsoever form. When we choose facilitators and topics for workshops we do so with those values in mind.

We are happy that at YEN events our participants and team have various opinions and views on the topics we address. We value discussions and open exchange of ideas. Therefore, we expect that participants and team-members show respect to everyone and do not spread hate. Furthermore, we expect all attendees to acknowledge that every human being is equally valuable, and that each individual's freedom ends where another individual's freedom begins.

What is ADJ?

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Jugendverbände was founded in 1996. They are an umbrella organisation for 5 regional and 58 local youth organisations. Their focus is on preserving the German culture and language of minority youth in Romania. They offer support and educational opportunities for active young minority members and help strengthen voluntary actions.

ADJ is involved in a lot projects, that focus on tradition, culture, history and language. Furthermore, they create spaces for minority youth by establishing youth forums and support youth centres. One of their biggest events is their language camp for children, where they get german classes but also start their motivation for minority activism at a young age. Furthermore, ADJ is also organising meetings for local traditional dance groups and educates youth to become facilitators themselves.

An important part of their work is enabling minority members to stay in their organisations for a long time. They start by organising projects already for children and offering different activities for all age groups from small children to young adults. This allows them to keep and transfer their know-how and continuously succeed in their projects. Find more information on www.adj.ro

Finances

Travel expenses

Travel expenses can be reimbursed up to a maximum amount. This involves a signed "expense claim". Only if original tickets will be presented and sent to the YEN office and participants provide all needed justificatory documents of travel and expenses (invoices, boarding passes, train or bus tickets...) the reimbursement will be considered. Please notice, taxi costs cannot be reimbursed! We will reimburse your travel costs only if you stay no longer than two days before or after the seminar.

Selected participants will be provided further details.

Participation fees

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

Accommodation is only covered during the duration of the seminar. If you arrive before or stay longer, you will have to cover and book it yourself.

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 get in contact with the YEN-Office (office@yeni.org).

Corona Safety Measures

While we are happy that it is possible to meet again, we have to acknowledge, that the pandemic is not over yet. We will do everything to ensure a safe environment to meet. Please read through them carefully so everyone can feel safe and that we can continue to make meetings like this.

- Attending the seminar is only possible, if proof of vaccination or recovery AND a negative test result can be presented at the beginning of the seminar.
- If you need a PCR or rapid-test for your travel or if it is not possible to get a rapid test for free wherever you live, we are happy to reimburse you for it. Please save your receipts and bring them with you.
- Check all the **travel requirements for entering and returning from Rumania** so you will not run into any problems while travelling to and back from the event. If you need a negative test for your return journey message us and we will organise a Covid-Test for you before departure.
- During the event we will wear **surgical mask** or **FFP2 masks** during the workshop and when we are inside. We ask you to bring some masks with you. If you forget, do not worry we will bring some with us so just tell us on arrival if you do not have any with you or run out of them during the event. You will be asked to wear a mask even if you are vaccinated or have recovered from a corona infection.
- Closer to the event we will send you another **information sheet** where we summarise the up to date local hygienic regulations as they will probably differ to where you live and everybody should be informed. It is possible that these regulations differ from what is described here due to recent changes.
- Finally, we will actively control all our hygienic rules during the event to guarantee a safe meeting for everyone. **We kindly ask you to cooperate with us, as we only have everybody's wellbeing in mind.**

We are optimistic that we can finally meet again but of course we will keep an eye on the ongoing developments, and it is possible we will have to cancel the event. We will keep you updated!

If Corona will not allow us to meet, we will implement an online-activity.

Application procedure

Please note that **you have to contact your organisation before you apply. Applications that were send without the knowledge of an organisations will not be considered.**

Participants will be informed after the registration deadline whether they have been selected or placed on the waiting list.

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

The closing date for registration is 28th of August 2022.

Registration!

Try to travel as cheaply and eco-friendly as possible. Please book your trip directly **after** you receive an official confirmation from the YEN-office!

Additional information's will be sent to you after your participation has been officially confirmed by the office.

Contact

The YEN-office is available for any questions.

YEN Office:

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We are looking forward to your participation!

The Orga-Team from ADJ and YEN