

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

## **Easter Seminar “Know Your Rights” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany**

**22<sup>nd</sup> March – 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March General Assembly of YEN**

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the **Easter Seminar “Know Your Rights”**. The event will take place in **Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany** from 22<sup>nd</sup> March – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and will be hosted by the youth organisation “PawK e.V. – Serbske młodzinske towarstwo”.

Directly after the seminar, on the **28<sup>th</sup> April**, the **YEN General Assembly** will take place (for the interested representatives of YEN member organisations). The official invitation will follow beginning of March.

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## About the Seminar

Our first big event of the year will take place in Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany, and will be organised by the Youth of the Lusatian Sorbians in Bautzen. The focus of this seminar is on minority, youth and human rights, with the aim of understanding awareness of your situation and encouraging you to confidently stand up for your rights. The organising team is made up of representatives from PAWK e.V. and YEN.

About 60 young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities from around Europe will spend a week together, participate in a workshop based on methods of non-formal education, learn about sorbian community in Germany, get to know each other and enjoy leisure activities such as an excursion day, a diverse evening program and the Cultural Exchange Market, where every participant is invited to present their own community.

**Accommodation** will be provided for all during the Seminar.

## Workshop

Activism and engagement are at the heart of youth organisations for autochthonous, national, ethnic and linguistic minorities. They are necessary to fight assimilation and to stand up for their own rights and aspirations. Therefore, we believe it is important that young people from minorities have a safer space to understand their socio-political positions and reflect on their rights. With this seminar, participants will not only be encouraged to discuss their different situations in Europe but also to reflect on possible courses of action to confidently stand up for their rights.

As a participant you will:

- Get to know definitions and concepts of the term and self-designation "minorities", and deepen them in discussions.
  - Develop an understanding of the legal foundations of minority rights, youth rights and human rights, exchange ideas and reflect critically on them.
  - Discuss current situations with around 50 other young people from different minorities in Europe and reflect on the extent to which your own minority rights are (or are not) respected.
  - Think about what a world would look like in which all your rights are respected, and plan concrete steps for your own situations based on this.
  - Acquire knowledge about the possibilities of democratic participation.
  - Draft demands for the your minority rights and develop steps together on how these demands can be made.
- *The workshops are based on non-formal education methods and you will spend most of the week in your workshops. Non-formal education is very different from education as you know it from schools or*

The seminar is supported by the Council of Europe  
through the European Youth Foundation.

*university. It is based on exchange between the participants, on shared experiences and reflection of your own situation.*

## Participants profile

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

Please notice that we can accept two to three participants from each YEN member organisation. 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](mailto:events@yeni.org)).

If you are not part of a YEN member organisation but still want to experience a YEN event please also contact [events@yeni.org](mailto:events@yeni.org), we are always happy to welcome guests.

## YEN General Assembly

The general assembly takes place on 28<sup>th</sup> March. The participants that are neither members nor partners of YEN are welcomed to depart at the 28<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone else is invited to participate in the GA and depart at the 29<sup>th</sup> March.

During the General Assembly, the representatives of the YEN member organisations decide on the future YEN seminars and other events. They also decide on YENs finances and resolutions. Additionally new board members as well as members of the three YEN working groups will be elected. We are looking forward to all who are interested in getting involved with YEN and want to join the board or the working groups.

For more Information, please contact the YEN-President Andor Barabás ([andor.barabas@yeni.org](mailto:andor.barabas@yeni.org))

## Arrival & Departure

**Arrival Day:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 (if possible until dinner 6pm)

**Departure Day:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 if you are not joining the General Assembly.  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2024 for everyone joining the General Assembly.

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

## 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, ask for more information and/or apply for financial support by contacting the YEN-Office ([office@yeni.org](mailto:office@yeni.org)).

## 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, ableism, 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 HAK?**

The Sorbian youth association Pawk, based in Bautzen/Budyšin, was founded in December 1994. It was the first youth association to become a member of the umbrella organisation of the Sorbs, Domowina.

Pawk is the Sorbian word for spider. The chosen name stands for one of the association's most important goals: the networking of young people - Sorbian, German and others. The association is a contact point for all Sorbian youth, for whom it organises both leisure and educational activities. It promotes the use of the Sorbian language in its projects, advises young people, gives them the opportunity to try their hand at voluntary work and represents their interests at local, regional and European level.

## **Application procedure**

Please note that **you have to contact your organisation before you apply. Applications that were sent without the knowledge of an organisation 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024.**

### **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. The YEN-office is available for any questions.

## **Contact**

YEN Office:

[events@yeni.org](mailto:events@yeni.org)

Tel.: +49 176 31779414

[www.yeni.org](http://www.yeni.org)

Facebook: @yeni.org

We are looking forward to your participation!

The Orga-Team from PAWK and YEN