



YEPP Community Charter

Adopted on 1 October 2024

1. Introduction

The YEPP Community Charter represents the shared commitment of organizations across Europe dedicated to empowering youth and their communities. YEPP EUROPE is at the heart of the YEPP Community Network, a network that fosters collaboration and innovation in the field of youth and community empowerment. By signing this charter, members pledge to contribute to the collective goals and values of YEPP EUROPE, joining a dynamic and diverse community working together to create lasting positive change.

2. Vision

The Vision of YEPP EUROPE is a just, equitable, sustainable and resilient inclusive society based on the universal respect for and observance of human rights. We envision a civil society in which children, young people and communities have equal opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes that take place at local, regional, national and international level.

3. Mission

The Mission of YEPP EUROPE is to foster youth and community empowerment with young people at risk of social exclusion as agents of change, as conceptualised in the YEPP approach and methodology and in line with international human rights principles.

4. Goals and Objectives

YEPP EUROPE is committed to:

- **Empowering young people** to become active agents of change in their communities.
- **Promoting sustainable and inclusive development**, especially in underrepresented communities.
- **Facilitating cooperation** among organizations working toward youth and community empowerment across Europe.
- **Strengthening capacity** by providing training, resources, and opportunities for learning and peer exchange.
- **Advocating for youth participation** in decision-making processes at all levels of society.

5. Core Values

YEPP EUROPE is driven by five core values, which are the foundation of its work and the shared commitment of its members:

Empowerment



At YEPP EUROPE, our approach to empowerment is holistic and focused on six dimensions: personal, social, political (civic participation), economic, cultural, and legal empowerment. Empowered young people and communities have the ability and power to contribute effectively to societal advancement. They take ownership of their individual and collective lives, actively engaging in building sustainable communities based on human rights, social justice, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Lifelong Learning



YEPP EUROPE embraces lifelong learning as a continuous, enriching process that extends beyond formal education. Our goal is to provide diverse and inclusive learning opportunities that foster personal and professional growth for young people and community members. Lifelong learning facilitates knowledge exchange and equips individuals to thrive in a constantly evolving world.

Partnership



For YEPP EUROPE, partnership means fostering a resilient network of cooperation among our member organizations. Through these partnerships, members collaboratively learn from each other's experiences, share successes, and exchange best practices. Our partnerships are built on transparency, trust, openness, and tolerance, and we work together to create strategic alliances that promote youth and community empowerment.

Inclusion & Diversity



Inclusion at YEPP EUROPE ensures that everyone has the right and opportunity to participate in society in a self-determined way. We prioritize diversity, acknowledging differences in ethnicity, gender, abilities, and other characteristics that shape lived experiences. YEPP EUROPE strives for an inclusive society where all people can participate equally, and we actively dismantle barriers that prevent full participation, fostering a culture of respect, equity, and representation.

Sustainability



YEPP EUROPE integrates sustainability into all its activities, considering economic, environmental, and social dimensions. Our goal is to promote mindful relationships with our ecosystems, ensuring that resources are preserved and renewed for individual, societal, and planetary well-being. We empower young people and communities to adopt sustainable living practices, contributing to a harmonious coexistence with the environment.

6. Membership Guidelines

Membership in the YEPP Community Network is open to organizations that share YEPP EUROPE's goals and values.

Criteria for Membership:

Membership is **free of cost** and only requires:

- **Signing this charter**, indicating a commitment to the values and goals of YEPP EUROPE.
- **Participating in the annual survey**, which helps monitor and assess the network's activities and progress.

Benefits of membership include:

- Becoming part of a **European-wide network** spanning 20+ countries, all working in the field of youth and community empowerment.
- **Peer exchange** on best practices and opportunities for mutual learning.
- YEPP EUROPE actively promotes members' work through its **social media channels** and **newsletters**.
- Invitations to participate in **projects and capacity-building programs**, including webinars, online meetings, and collaborative projects.
- Access to a wide range of **learning materials** on topics such as advocacy, entrepreneurship, climate action, human rights education, arts, media literacy, mental health, and well-being.

7. Governance Structure

YEPP EUROPE is part of the **Institute for Youth and Community Empowerment** and operates under the legal body of **Internationale Akademie Berlin (INA gGmbH)** (www.inaberlin.org), which is responsible for the network's overall legal and financial management. YEPP EUROPE is guided by an **Advisory Board** that offers strategic advice and ensures that the network remains focused on its core mission of youth and community empowerment.

8. Monitoring and Review Process

YEPP EUROPE conducts **annual surveys** to monitor the activities and progress of the network and its members. Participation in these surveys is mandatory for all members. The surveys are designed to help assess the impact of the network's work, track the development of its member organizations, and inform future planning.

9. Signatories

We, the undersigned, commit to upholding the values and goals outlined in this charter. By signing, we affirm our dedication to empowering youth and communities across Europe.

Signatures:

Name of Organization:

Representative:

Date:

This charter represents the collective commitment of a growing network of organizations working together to create a brighter, more inclusive future for young people and their communities across Europe. Welcome to the YEPP EUROPE Community Network!

Members of the YEPP Community Network commit to YEPP EUROPE's vision, mission, values, and the shared goals and objectives that form the foundation of the YEPP philosophy. This provides common ground for collaboration among local communities, practitioners, partners, funders, and other stakeholders involved in the network.

While YEPP EUROPE encourages its members to uphold these goals and values and to act in accordance with national and international legal standards, YEPP EUROPE cannot be held accountable for the actions, views, or positions taken by individual members or their employees. The opinions expressed by individual members do not necessarily reflect those of YEPP EUROPE unless officially endorsed.