

**EVOLVE:
STRENGTHENING
YOUTH COUNCILS
THROUGH
PARTNERSHIP AND
PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT**

**JUNE 15-21, 2026 | AGHVERAN,
ARMENIA**

June 15 - arrival day

June 21 - departure day

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Youth Councils across the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region play a crucial role in representing young people, fostering civic engagement, and contributing to democratic development. However, many Youth Councils and their Member Organisations (MOs) face structural and operational challenges, including limited access to funding, insufficient project development capacities, and a lack of sustainable international partnerships.

At the same time, the region presents strong potential for cross-border cooperation. Youth Councils share similar priorities such as youth participation, policy advocacy, social inclusion, and community development. Strengthening cooperation between them can lead to more impactful initiatives and stronger regional networks.

This seminar aims to create a dedicated space for Youth Councils to enhance their capacities, exchange experiences, and build meaningful partnerships that lead to concrete joint projects.

The general objective is To strengthen the capacity of Youth Councils in the Eastern Partnership region to develop sustainable partnerships and implement impactful international projects.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **To enhance skills in project design, proposal writing, and project management**
- **To increase understanding of funding mechanisms and international opportunities**
- **To foster strategic and long-term partnerships among Youth Councils and MOs.**
- **To support the development of youth-led initiatives addressing regional challenges**
- **To strengthen peer learning and exchange of good practices among participants**

PARTICIPANTS

The seminar will bring together 30-40 participants representing:

- **National Youth Councils**
- **Member organizations of National Youth Councils**
- **Youth organizations closely cooperating with Youth Councils**

Participants will be:

- **Youth workers, project coordinators, or representatives of Youth Councils and their member organizations**
- **Actively involved in organizational development or project implementation**
- **Interested in international cooperation and partnership building**

Important requirement:

Participants, particularly representatives of member organizations of National Youth Councils, must have a clear mandate from their organization to:

- **Represent their organization in partnership discussions**
- **Engage in decision-making processes**
- **Initiate and develop concrete project partnerships during and after the seminar**

METHODOLOGY

The seminar will be based on non-formal education principles, ensuring a participatory, inclusive, and practice-oriented learning environment.

Core components:

- Workshops on the project cycle (needs assessment, idea development, proposal writing, implementation, evaluation)
- Sessions on funding opportunities relevant to Youth Councils
- Training in intercultural understanding and cooperation, to strengthen cross-border partnerships
- Partnership-building activities and structured networking
- Group work focused on developing concrete project concepts
- Peer-to-peer learning and exchange of experiences
- Reflection and feedback sessions

To ensure higher quality outcomes and continuity, the seminar will be complemented by:

Pre-meeting phase:

An online preparatory meeting aimed at:

- Aligning expectations
- Introducing participants and their organizations
- Presentation of DUF international pool
- Identifying initial partnership interests and thematic priorities

METHODOLOGY

Post-seminar mentoring phase:

Targeted support for emerging partnerships, including:

- **Guidance in refining project ideas**
- **Support in identifying suitable funding opportunities**
- **Mentorship during the proposal development process**

The approach will prioritize learning by doing, enabling participants to directly apply knowledge and develop tangible outcomes during the seminar.

Mentors will consist of representatives from the National Youth Councils with experience in project development and fundraising.

Expected Results

- **Development of concrete project concepts initiated by participating Youth Councils and their member organizations**
- **Strengthened cooperation and networking among Youth Councils in the EaP region**
- **Increased knowledge of funding opportunities and project development processes**
- **Enhanced skills in designing and managing international youth projects**
- **Establishment of committed partnerships with a clear follow-up pathway supported through mentoring**

RELEVANCE AND IMPACT

The seminar will contribute to:

- **Strengthening the role of Youth Councils as key actors in youth participation and policy processes**
- **Increasing the quality and quantity of international youth projects in the EaP region**
- **Promoting regional cooperation and mutual understanding**
- **Supporting youth-led solutions to shared social and civic challenges**

By ensuring that participants have a clear mandate and by providing structured pre- and post-seminar support, the activity will significantly increase the likelihood of sustainable partnerships and successful project implementation.

FOLLOW-UP

To ensure sustainability, the seminar will:

- **Support continued communication and cooperation among participants**
- **Facilitate the development and submission of joint project proposals**
- **Provide mentoring support for selected partnerships**
- **Encourage knowledge-sharing within participants' organizations and networks**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WEATHER



In June, the weather in Arzakan (Kotayk region, near Yerevan) is pleasantly mild and ideal for outdoor activities. Daytime temperatures typically range between 20–26°C, while evenings can be cooler at around 9–13°C, so a light jacket is useful.

CURRENCY IN ARMENIA

The official currency of Armenia is the Armenian Dram (AMD). While cash is still widely accepted, the use of credit and debit cards, including VISA/Mastercard/American Express, is increasingly common and often more convenient.



INSURANCE



Please keep in mind that you are self-responsible for sufficient insurance (illness/personal liability/cancellation/theft etc.). The hosting organization takes no responsibility for the individual insurance. Make sure you have travel insurance valid during the dates of travel.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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