

Call for Youth Participation Strategy Steering Group members

Youth representatives

[SALTO Participation and Information Resource Centre](#) (SALTO PI) is looking for **youth representatives** to be a part of the **Youth Participation Strategy Steering Group** mandate **2026-2027**.

The main role of the group will be to support the full-term (2021-2027) monitoring and evaluation of how the Youth Participation Strategy (YPS) was implemented, as well as promoting the implementation of meaningful participation in democratic life as one of the priorities in the framework of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Additionally, members of the Steering Group are also invited to advise on the implementation of the YPS and its priority aims and to develop own initiatives that connect to the achievement of these goals.

Youth representatives invited by this call are young people (18-30) who:

- have experience with the Erasmus+ and/or European Solidarity Corps programmes;
- have experience in youth participation at local, national and/or international level; **and**
- have an interest in strengthening youth participation in the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

The Steering Group (SG) will consist of **six youth representatives** selected through this open call as well as representatives of **key Youth Participation Strategy stakeholders and partners**, including the European Commission, National Agencies, SALTO Resource Centres, RAY Network, and European youth umbrella organisations.

Context

[Youth Participation Strategy](#) (YPS) is a strategic planning document for strengthening youth participation in democratic life through the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Developed by SALTO Participation & Information Resource Centre (SALTO PI) in 2020 through a consultation process that included input from the European Commission, National Agencies, decisionmakers, experts, and practitioners in the field, the Strategy supports stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.

The Strategy defines **youth participation** as

*“individual **young people** and groups of young people having the **right**, the **means**, the **space**, the **opportunity** and, where necessary, the **support** to freely **express their views**, contribute to and **influence societal decision-making** on matters affecting them, and **be active** within the democratic and civic life of our **communities**. ”*

[SALTO PI](#) supports the implementation of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes in relation to the **priority participation in democratic life** across Europe. For



that purpose, it develops tools, publications and resources (participationpool.eu), organises training courses and events for the stakeholders of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes. It is a European Resource Centre hosted by the Estonian Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Agency and is one of the 11 Resource Centres that form the SALTO network.

The previous YPS SG Group (2024-2025) supported the [Monitoring of the Youth Participation Strategy Implementation \(2024\)](#) and contributed to the development of the [Quality Standards for Meaningful Youth Participation](#), which were developed after the review of the Strategy's content. As a result of the progress monitoring, Aim 5 (involvement of young people in decision-making on the programmes) and Aim 6 (democratic participation of young people with fewer opportunities) of the YPS were identified as priority areas and a key focus of the current implementation of the Strategy. You can read about the last SG's work [here](#).

Role of youth representatives

Youth representatives bring the perspectives, experiences, and needs of young people into the work of the SG. Youth representatives collaborate with other members of the SG to exchange perspectives, jointly develop recommendations, and help connect the realities and needs of young people with policy and programme developments. Through this collaboration, they benefit from and contribute to the policy, institutional and programme implementation expertise within the group.

Tasks of youth representatives

Core Tasks

Supporting the full-term monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Participation Strategy (working closely with a researcher):

- Consulting the findings from the YPS mid-term monitoring and other relevant data to assess progress on YPS activities and outcomes;
- Contributing to the identification of the main achievements, challenges and gaps of the YPS implementation between 2021 and 2027;
- Developing ideas and recommendations for strengthening youth participation in the future Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps programmes.

Promoting and strengthening the implementation of the priority of participation in democratic life on local, national, and international level:

- Advocating for meaningful youth participation in democratic life within professional and organisational networks, including in cooperation with National Agencies or National Erasmus offices;
- Supporting the development, communication and dissemination of examples, tools and resources related to youth participation through events, meetings, training activities or social media;
- Promoting awareness of the [Quality Standards for Meaningful Youth Participation](#);
- Bringing insights and examples from local, national or international youth participation initiatives and developments to SG discussions and meetings.

Additional opportunities for involvement



Contributing to the implementation of the Youth Participation Strategy

Based on their interests, availability and expertise, as well as the needs of SALTO PI, youth representatives may choose to get involved in one or more of the following activities:

- Advising on developments related to young people's involvement in decision making on the programmes (YPS Aim 5), including follow-up actions linked to the outcomes and recommendations of the [You\(th\)4Participation](#) event;
- Supporting the ongoing and planned activities for the long-term inclusive youth participation project (YPS Aim 6), including an upcoming Partnership Building Activity, webinars and the publication of articles;
- Participating in the planning and development of the Participation Forum in autumn 2027;
- Contributing to other activities and tasks, as well as proposing and developing own initiatives related to the YPS and meaningful youth participation.

Coordination and working approach

Coordination and support

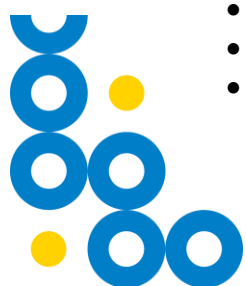
- The SG is coordinated and guided by SALTO Participation & Information Resource Centre and supported by a facilitator. Additional experts may join the process when needed, including a researcher leading the full-term monitoring and evaluation of the YPS.
- Youth representatives will have the opportunity to participate in individual online meetings with the facilitator to discuss their needs and tasks.

Ways of working

- During the first SG meeting, members will jointly develop an annual action plan, which will be implemented in cooperation with SALTO PI.
- Clear roles, expectations, and areas of responsibility will be co-defined at the beginning of the mandate to support an inclusive, transparent, and effective working process. Specific tasks and contributions will be agreed and adjusted throughout the mandate based on the group's priorities, members' interests, and available capacities.
- Youth representatives are expected to organise working group meetings and engage in asynchronous/self-organised tasks between meetings.

Preliminary timeline

- Application: until 9th of October 2026.
- Announcement of results: 21st of October 2026.
- Onboarding online meetings: Between 23rd of October and 6th of November 2026.
- Individual work in the preparation for the first meeting: November 2026.
- First residential meeting: 1-3rd of December 2026 (Tallinn, Estonia, arrival on 30th of November, departure on 4th of December).
- First online meeting: February 2027.
- Second online meeting: April 2027.
- Second residential meeting: June 2027 (Tallinn, Estonia).
- Third online meeting: September 2027.



- Fourth online meeting: November 2027.
- Full-term monitoring report of YPS finalised: December 2027.

Working conditions, remuneration, and recognition

Working conditions

- Work is carried out online and in-person.
- SG members are expected to participate in two in-person meetings and at least four online meetings throughout the year.
- The working language is English. Activities on the promotion of meaningful youth participation in democratic life can be implemented in another language, based on the needs and group member's context.
- The mandate runs from **21st of October 2026 to 31st of December 2027**.

Remuneration

Core remuneration

The foreseen fee for participation in the SG is **EUR 1.925**, inclusive of all applicable taxes. This fee is based on an **estimated overall 11 working days**, covering preparation for meetings, participation in two in-person and at least four online meetings, engagement in work between meetings including individual and small group tasks, promotion of the YPS through members' networks and professional contexts, and participation in working group meetings to support the implementation of the YPS.

Additional remuneration

SG members may choose to take on additional agreed activities, projects, or working group responsibilities beyond the core mandate. For such contributions, a **one-time additional fee of EUR 350 per SG member** may be provided, inclusive of all applicable taxes. This is the maximum additional remuneration available during the mandate.

The fees are paid according to the tasks fulfilled based on the agreement and discussions in the onboarding period and during the mandate. In the case of not fulfilling agreed-on commitments and tasks, the fee is adjusted accordingly.

Further support and recognition

- Group members' accommodation and travel for the agreed-upon residential meetings is covered by SALTO PI.
- Materials, ideas, recommendations, and other outputs developed through the work of the SG may be further used, adapted, and published by SALTO PI in support of the YPS and related activities. The contributions of SG members will be appropriately acknowledged and credited.
- SG members may receive a certificate and a professional recommendation recognising their contributions, engagement, and learning outcomes.

Eligibility and Application Process

Eligibility

- Applicants must be between **18 and 30 years old** at the time of application.



- Applicants must be legally residing in Erasmus+ programme countries and specified Third Countries.¹
- Applicants must be able to participate in activities throughout the duration of the mandate.

Application Process

Please note: Any use of AI must support, not replace, the applicant's own work and ideas.

Application consists of

- A **curriculum vitae (CV) of max. 2 pages** outlining relevant experience related to youth participation in democratic life and the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.
- A **motivation statement** submitted by completing the application questions in the form. Applicants who prefer to can submit their motivation statement in form of a video in which they answer the application questions (max. 3 minutes).

Application Forms – Please use this link

Evaluation criteria

Required experience/qualification (40% of the total score) will be evaluated on a 1–10-point scale by each evaluator based on how well the CV and motivation letter showcase:

- Relevant experience in EU programmes (Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps) connected to the priority of participation in democratic life and civic engagement.
- Relevant experience in youth participation that could contribute to the monitoring, evaluation, and promotion of the YPS, including involvement in local, national, or European youth participation mechanisms, youth organisations, representative bodies, advisory groups, or participatory decision-making processes.

Motivation (60% of the total score) will be evaluated on a 1–10-point scale by each evaluator based on how well the motivation letter or video showcase:

- Motivation and interest to join the SG.
- Interest in and engagement with the themes and objectives of the YPS (critical perspectives are equally valued).
- Potential contribution to the SG.

Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria, are incomplete, late, or do not comply with the application requirements (e.g. exceeding the maximum CV length) will not be considered for assessment.

If there are any questions or technical issues regarding the application process, please send your request to saltoparticipation@harno.ee

¹Western Balkans (Region 1), Neighbourhood East (Region 2), South-Mediterranean countries (Region 3). See the countries here: [Eligible countries - Erasmus+](#)

