



Call for proposals

Fellows for the Young Researchers' Network

Deadline: 01 September 2023

The European Partnership for Democracy welcomes proposals for the Young Researchers' Network initiative in the framework of the European Democracy Hub with the support of EPD's Women and Youth in Democracy Civic Engagement ([WYDE](#) Civic Engagement) programme, funded by the European Union.

Enhancing young people's voices is necessary to make democratic systems sustainable and representative of all generations. Young citizens struggle with being tokenised by their governments and international organisations without being given the agency and appropriate platforms to have their perspectives heard, which results in their disenchantment with democracy. To further understand youth issues with nuance and complexity, it is important to platform young people as the best suited researchers of political participation, given it most affects themselves and their peers.

In this context, the Young Researchers' Network initiative will bring together a diverse group of international young scholars and democracy support practitioners to foster cross-regional and cross-disciplinary exchanges on the topic of youth participation in democracies across the world. The initiative will result in the publication of 12 case studies written by young researchers, to be collated into a flagship report on global youth political participation. The report will highlight policy implications and provide recommendations for international development donors as well as youth policy decision-makers on improving youth participation through national and international policies.

Case studies may focus on topics such as: the effectiveness of democracy support initiatives for youth's needs; innovations to promote youth participation in political life; explanatory analysis of youth political behaviour; youth engagement in civil society and social movements; and other topics with applied relevance to youth policy in their country or at international level.

Members of the Young Researchers' Network will:

- Become part of an international platform for intellectual exchange among early-career academics and young professionals working at the intersection of youth empowerment and democracy support over 2-3 academic years;



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- Write one country case study of 3.000 words on youth political participation, as well as one or more blog articles on a topic of their choice, to be published on the [European Democracy Hub](#) website;
- Participate in monthly meetings of the research network to exchange on work in progress and contribute to collective research for other components of the WYDE programme's research arm (especially the Youth Political Participation Index);
- Participate in a workshop to develop their research ideas in Brussels in 2024 (all costs covered by EPD);
- Present their country case study at the Global Youth Assembly conference in Brussels in 2025, bringing together all beneficiaries of the WYDE programme (all costs covered by EPD);
- Other opportunities for highlighting their research and finding synergies with the WYDE programme are dependent on the candidate's initiative and interest, but might include: fieldwork trips to research and evaluate the impact of international development initiatives to foster youth political engagement; research consulting opportunities to assist further with the development of the Youth Political Participation Index; participation in other fora of the WYDE programme including the Youth Participation Cohort of the Summit for Democracy, co-led by the European Partnership for Democracy.

Qualifications: The Young Researchers' Network is aimed at PhD students, early-career academics and young professionals studying or working in an area related to youth in the field of development studies or democracy studies. Candidates should be currently undertaking or have been awarded a PhD within the last three years; or have been awarded a master's degree from an internationally recognised university in a relevant field. They should be less than 35 years old. EPD will aim to have representation from all major world regions in the network and will take this into account when considering applications.

Compensation: Successful candidates will receive EUR 10,000 (ten thousand euros) to support their part-time research on the country case study and ad-hoc research assistance for the Young Researchers' Network initiative over the 3-year duration of the initiative. Fellows of the Young Researchers' Network will be based remotely and will be invited to Brussels to present their research in 2024 and/or 2025.

Application: Expressions of interest are to be submitted by email at info@youthdemocracycohort.com and must include:

- A filled-in application form, found below (Annex I);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including the candidate's publication record;
- A recommendation letter from their current or most recent university or research institution;

- An academic transcript from their current university or degree certificate from their most recent university.

ANNEX I

APPLICATION FORM

EPD collects and treats your private data in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 i.e. hereby requests personal data only for recruitment purposes, pursuing a legitimate interest in a reasonable way, and will delete them after it is judged no longer necessary to archive. Shortlisted applications will be provided to the Funding Agency to ensure compliance with EU procurement rules in external action projects. By filling out and submitting this form, you authorise EPD to treat your personal data accordingly.

This application form is composed of four sections: 1) Personal information; 2) Application questions; 3) Checklist.

Please send it as an attachment to your full application, also composed of your CV, your academic transcript or degree certificate, and a recommendation letter.

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	
Nationality	
Country of residence	
Address	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Institutional affiliation	
Languages spoken	

2. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions regarding your motivation to apply to join the young researchers' network.

2.1. List the discipline(s)/sub-discipline(s) in which your research specialises. [100 words]
2.2. List the countries/region(s) in which your research specialises, particularly if different from your country of residence. [100 words]
2.3. How does your research engage with the topic of youth political participation and inclusion in democracy? [200 words]
2.4. Provide an abstract for your proposed research paper, including a clearly stated thesis statement or research question. [500 words]
2.5. What are the expected policy implications of your proposed research paper? [300 words]
2.6. In what way would joining the Young Researchers' Network benefit you and your career development? [200 words]

d. CHECKLIST

Please make sure the documents below are provided as part of the application package, in compliance with above mentioned rules.

CV <u>attached</u> , outlining relevant work experience and education	Yes / No
<u>Abstract</u> of no more than 500 words	Yes / No
<u>Recommendation letter</u> from current or most recent university or research institution	Yes / No
<u>Academic transcript</u> from current university or <u>degree certificate</u> from most recent university	Yes / No
The <u>present application form</u> duly completed	Yes / No
The applicant authorises EPD to proceed with personal data in accordance to GDPR rules	Yes / No

e. STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have examined and accept without reserve or restriction the entire contents of the application dossier for the tender procedure referred to above. I offer to provide the services requested in the application dossier on the basis of the following documents.

Name	
Signature	
Date	