

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

YOUTH SOUNDING BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

What is the Youth Sounding Board for International Partnerships?

The European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) is responsible for formulating the EU's international partnership and development policy. Under the leadership of Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, DG INTPA is working together with partner countries across the world to achieve sustainable development and reduce poverty, promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world.

The Youth Sounding Board aims to create a space for meaningful involvement of young people in the EU's international cooperation policy. It will enable active engagement and exchanges between young people, the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, and DG INTPA.

The YSB will advise the Commissioner for International Partnerships and DG INTPA on youth participation and empowerment in the field of EU international partnerships. The YSB will also advise on EU external action on topics such as employment, education, training and entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, human rights and democracy, peace and security, digitalisation and technology, gender social inclusion and health, peace and security, as well as culture, arts, media and journalism.

The YSB also aims at creating opportunities for young people and youth organisations to express their views, connect and exchange. The YSB will allow young people to have an influence on EU external action and international partnerships and will thereby contribute to make EU action more participatory, relevant and effective for young people in EU partner countries.

How will the Youth Sounding Board work?

The Youth Sounding Board will be composed of 25 young people from across the world (EU and non-EU countries), in particular:

- 15 individuals with practical experience on youth participation processes and youth policies
- 10 representatives of youth organisations/ networks

YSB members will serve an unpaid mandate of two years and will engage in activities aiming at:

- providing advice to the Commissioner and DG INTPA on policies related to youth and especially on youth participation and empowerment through international partnership;
- supporting DG INTPA and the Commissioner in monitoring the rollout and the use of tools strengthening youth participation and empowerment

For this purpose, the YSB members will, among others:

- hold at least 4 meetings per year;
- discuss and deal with ad-hoc issues or requests using online tools and platforms;
- build links with similar structures and existing youth initiatives at international, regional and country level, both in the EU and in the partner countries.

The approximate minimum number of the working days will be 15 per year and will depend on the work plan developed by the board covering the above objectives and related activities. Travel and meeting costs will be covered in line with DG INTPA rules and regulations. In case of unforeseen mobility issues, individual members may join these meetings virtually.

How can I become a member of the DG INTPA Youth Sounding Board?

The Youth Sounding Board aims to be diverse and inclusive. It should bring together a range of opinions and experiences from across age groups, areas of interest and expertise, gender, socio-economic background and countries/regions (with specific attention to the regions in which DG INTPA is active, like Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and the EU, including diaspora communities). **To ensure diversity, all young and motivated people are welcome to apply, including those with less experience. Candidates with special needs, disabilities, in situation of vulnerability or from minority groups are encouraged to apply.**

All candidates, must fulfil the following eligibility criteria

- be between the age of 18-30 at the end of the application period (26 April 2021)
- have a good command of English
- hold the nationality of or be a resident in one of the eligible countries. Please find the list of eligible countries [on our website](#).

Candidates can choose one of the following two options:

Option A. INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION: Individual candidates can apply to become members of the YSB. They will be selected based on:

- Experience in youth participation and youth empowerment;
- Outreach and youth engagement skills and experience, including work with youth organisations and experience with youth that are in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations;
- Communication skills including language skills and experience with traditional and social media;
- Creativity and motivation, including ideas for YSB functioning and activities.

Option B. NOMINATION BY AN ORGANISATION:

Youth organisations can nominate two individuals, preferably with a diverse profile both in terms of age and gender, to become members of the YSB on their behalf. Each nominated candidate must apply individually. Candidates will be requested to upload a pdf-scan of the signed nomination letter and provide further information about their organisation. Please find the nomination letter template [on our website](#).

The selection will be based on two aspects, in the order of priority:

- (1) the profile of the organisations, taking into account:
 - o Experience in strengthening youth participation and contribution to policy processes (consultations, advocacy)
 - o Potential for outreach to youth (membership base, networks, possibility to reach vulnerable youth)
 - o Geographical coverage (the organisation should be active in the eligible countries, with priority given to international youth organisations / networks active at regional and/or global levels. Please find the list of eligible countries [on our website](#).)
- (2) the profile of the nominated candidates, based on the same criteria as described under option A.

What is the timeline?

Applications can be submitted online by 23:59 CET on **26 April 2021** [via EUSurvey](#).

Receipt of applications will be confirmed by email.

The selection process will be conducted in two stages:

- First stage: all candidates will be informed of the outcome of the first stage (shortlist) of the application by **18 May 2021** and whether or not they have been shortlisted.
- Second stage: shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews between **31st May - 11th June 2021**.

Final results: all shortlisted candidates will be informed of the final results by **15 June 2021**.

First (virtual) meeting of the YSB: **summer 2021**

What else do I need to know?

In case of any question or enquiry at pre-application stage please contact YSBapplication2021@dai.com.

DG INTPA might ask for further documentation and proof of information provided in the application form in the course of the selection process from the shortlisted and selected candidates (e.g. social media handles, CV, etc.). The selected candidates will be requested to provide a copy of their identity document to prove they meet the eligibility criteria. DG INTPA will draw up a reserve list of candidates.