



Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network

Terms of reference

(Approved by 20th European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on Thursday 19th of April 2012 and amended in the plenary on April 20th 2012)

Article 1: Purposes of the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network

1.1 Knowledge Management:

- To ensure that good practices, experiences and areas of improvements are shared among National Societies;
- To contribute to the training of youth leaders on a local, national and international level;
- To ensure information from the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and IFRC Youth Commission is disseminated to all members of the Network;
- To contribute to the implementation of the Youth Policy in National Societies;

1.2 Amplification and Advocacy:

- To contribute to enhancing the impact of youth-led advocacy efforts conducted within National Societies;
- To support National Societies in empowering Youth to be actively and effectively involved in decision making processes;
- To represent the voice of Youth from member National Societies within the International Movement;
- To ensure open channels of communication between member National Societies, the IFRC Youth Commission and other relevant Youth Networks;

1.3 Community Building:

- To contribute to further strengthening cooperation among National Societies;
- To enhance a sense of ownership of the Network among member National Societies, based on common and shared values;
- To support the development of the European Youth Exchange with member National Societies;
- To promote cooperation and facilitate the establishment of possible partnerships with other Youth Networks and Youth Organizations;

Article 2: Membership

2.1 The “members” of the Network are Europe Zone National Societies that are part of the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

2.2 “Observers” of the Network are:

- Recognized National Societies
- The IFRC
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- The members of the IFRC Youth Commission

2.3 “Stakeholders” of the Network are:

- EU and UN youth representatives
- Other Red Cross Red Crescent Youth Networks
- European Red Cross / Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB (ERNA) representatives
- Other partners organizations

2.4 One to three representatives from each member, with a full mandate from their National Society, may attend the European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Article 3: Meeting

3.1. The members of the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network (hereafter, “the Network”) meet once every two years in a meeting called “European Youth Cooperation Meeting of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies” (hereafter, the EYCM)

3.2. The EYCM:

- Defines priorities for the following two years
- Reviews and evaluates the work carried out by the members and the European Youth Coordination Committee (hereafter, the “EYCC”) over the previous two years
- Hosts EYCC elections by members (National Societies)
- Ensures knowledge sharing and capacity building of National Societies
- Elects the Drafting/Reporting Committee of the EYCM, upon proposal of the EYCC. The Drafting/Reporting Committee is in charge of ensuring that the report of EYCM is compiled.
- Provides updates to and receives updates from the IFRC Youth Commission members

3.3. In the EYCM, each member (National Society) has one mandate to vote

3.4. The EYCM is organized by the EYCC, with the support of the IFRC, and hosted by one member National Society

3.5. Process of identification of the host member:

- The EYCC agrees to start the process
- The IFRC drafts a letter inviting members to host the EYCM

- The EYCC approves the letter
- The IFRC sends the letter to members
- Members apply to host the EYCM
- Applications received by the IFRC are sent to the EYCC
- The EYCC selects the host member

3.6. Criteria for the identification of the host member:

- Costs of the EYCM (available funds, knowledge of funding opportunities, etc.)
- Strategic location (variation of location, etc.)
- Accessibility
- Capacity of hosting (facilities, cultural activities, support staff, etc.)

Article 4: Coordination of the Network and duration of the EYCC mandate

4.1 During the EYCM take place the elections for the coordination committee named European Youth Coordination Committee (EYCC)

4.2. Composition and duration of the EYCC

4.2.1. The EYCC consists of seven members, all to be elected during the EYCM by participating member (National Societies).

4.4.2. Two specific roles are assigned within the EYCC: one Chairperson and one Vice-chairperson

4.2.3. The EYCC meets at least twice a year and it operates until the next EYCM, which is held every second year

4.2.4. Additional meetings can be held using new communication tools

4.2.5. The Chairperson or the Vice-chairperson convene EYCC meetings

3.1.6. IFRC Youth Commission members and IFRC staff members are both invited to EYCC meetings

Article 5: Task and responsibilities of the EYCC

5.1. The EYCC has the following tasks and responsibilities:

- Advocates on behalf of members
- Encourages communication and cooperation among members
- Brings issues from sub-regional networks to European level
- Shares all relevant information with IFRC Youth Commission and with internal and external networks
- Shares knowledge of relevant documents from partners and from the IFRC
- Follows up to the decisions taken by the EYCM
- Prepares the biannual EYCM

- Is in charge of the process of replacement of its members, when necessary
- Following consultation with the hosting member, invites relevant stakeholders of the Network to attend the EYCM as guests
- Defines the theme of the coming EYCM, six month prior to the EYCM
- Sends out the agenda of the EYCM and relevant documents to the members, one month prior to the EYCM

Article 6 - Election procedure

6.1 Nomination

6.1.1 The EYCC members are elected personally as representatives of their National Society

6.1.2 Sub-regional representations should be taken into consideration by voters

6.1.3 Each participating member (National Society) can only run one candidate

6.1.4 Candidates must be EYCM participants

6.1.5 Every member National Societies' representative present at the EYCM may run for the EYCC if he/she has the support and mandate from the National Society to do so

6.1.6 Through an official presentation during the EYCM, candidates present their profile (skills, experience, objectives)

6.2 Profile of the candidates

6.2.1 It is strongly suggested to take into consideration common criteria. Candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Have experience and leadership skills
- Have strong personal commitment
- At the time of the elections are aged up to 30 years old, in line with the Youth Policy
- Are elected in their personal capacities
- Are supported by their National Society
- Are fully aware of what is expected from a member of the EYCC
- Are able to access internet at least on a weekly basis
- Are able to communicate in English
- Are able to devote enough time to their mandate

6.3. Elections

6.3.1 The Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network's members elect the EYCC

6.3.2 Elections take place during the EYCM

6.3.3 A clear and accessible invitation is sent to members in timely manner

6.3.4 A person is not entitled to more than two mandates as EYCC member

6.3.5 The new EYCC members should elect the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson among the elected members

6.3.6 The elections of the EYCC members take place in the following way:

- Each participating member (National Society) can vote once
- Each participating member (National Society) can vote for seven candidates (express seven preferences)

6.3.7 Only voting papers with the names of seven different candidates are valid. Each voting member (National Society) should prioritize the candidates in the following way: the most preferred candidate is given seven points, the second most preferred candidate is given six points, and so forth.

6.3.8 if a situation occurs where two or more candidates get the same number of votes, the following happens:

- If the candidates are within the seven people with the highest number of votes, they will both be elected
- If not, a re-election will be carried out between them
- If the second round also creates a tie, a lot will be drawn between the candidates

6.3.9 If a situation arises where there are seven candidates, all are elected

6.3.10 If a situation arises where there are less than seven candidates, the following happens:

- All candidates are elected
- The EYCC is composed by less than seven members

6.4 Election Committee

6.4.1 The Election Committee is chaired by one of the members of the previous EYCC, not running again

6.4.2 The Election Committee consists of one or two representatives of the National Society that is hosting the EYCM, excepting the situation outlined in Article 6.4.3, and of one or two observers from the other Networks/Zones or the IFRC

6.4.3 Members running for the EYCC election cannot be part of the Election Committee. In case of the situation where the members defined by the articles 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 are running for the elections, the EYCM, upon the proposal of the EYCC, elects an Election Committee from among the member's representatives that are not running.

6.4.4 The Election Committee defines the deadline to present the candidacies and the time for the elections and communicates it to the participating members

6.4.5 The Election Committee is responsible for overseeing the elections and for counting votes. Results become known to the EYCM participants immediately after the counting of votes is complete.

6.5 Withdrawal of an EYCC member

6.5.1 If an EYCC member withdraws, the person who was a candidate during the EYCM and ended up on place number eight on the list of collected voting points, replaces the person withdrawing

6.5.2 In an event where there is no number eight candidate, or he/she is no longer available, the National Society of the withdrawing candidate shall replace the EYCC member

6.5.3 The EYCC validates this proposal

6.5.4 The new EYCC member has the same mandate as the other EYCC members

6.6 Exclusion from the EYCC

6.6.1 If an EYCC member has been inactive for four months, and all possible means have been used by the EYCC to get in touch with that EYCC member without any response, the EYCC should move into exclusion procedure

6.6.2 Two thirds of the EYCC must vote in favour of the exclusion in order for this to take place

6.6.3 Following an exclusion, the new candidate should be elected following the procedures under article 6.5.

Article 7 - Revision of the Terms of Reference

7.1 A review of the purposes, organization and Terms of Reference is suggested every six years. Amendments to the Terms of Reference must be agreed by members (National Societies).