



ECYC membership application process

There shall be two processes, dependent upon whether an organisation wishes to become a full member of ECYC or an observer member of ECYC.

Full Membership

If an organisation believes it meets all the criteria for ECYC membership (appendix 1) and wishes to become a full member the process shall be:

Step One – Become a candidate member.

1. An organisation submits a completed candidate application form to the ECYC office.
2. At its next meeting the Bureau decides whether to accept the organisation as a candidate member. This decision will assess whether, from the information available, the organisation seems to fulfil the membership criteria of ECYC and to have the capacity to fulfil the responsibilities of full membership.
 - a. If the Bureau accepts the application the organisation then immediately becomes a candidate member of ECYC and will have access to the benefits this offers. That organisation will also be liable to pay the candidate membership fee and have a right to speak at the General Assembly.
 - b. If the Bureau does not accept the application, feedback will be given to the applicant organisation.
3. The ECYC office will inform all member organisations of ECYC of the decision.
4. The maximum period that an organisation will be a candidate member for is 2 years.

Step Two – Investigation

1. The ECYC Bureau shall be responsible for conducting a short investigation of the candidate members.

- a. This might include a study visit, a skype meeting or talking to contact persons in other organisations such as the National Youth Council or Ministry.
 - b. This investigation will look at whether the organisation meets the membership criteria.
2. This is also an opportunity for candidate members to find out more about ECYC.
3. Candidate members should be fully involved in this investigation and it should be conducted as soon as practical.
4. The Bureau shall keep other member organisations of ECYC informed and may involve them in the investigation.

Step Three – Apply to be a full member

1. Once the Bureau has completed their investigation and is satisfied that the Candidate Member fulfils the membership criteria that organisation will be invited to submit a full member application.
2. If, after having completed their investigation, the Bureau believes the candidate member does not fulfil the membership criteria that member will not be invited to submit an application. Feedback shall be given to the organisation concerned and to the General Assembly. At this stage the candidate member may:
 - a. Be invited to apply to be an observer member of ECYC
 - b. Cease their membership of ECYC
3. Applying to become a full member will only be possible provided that all outstanding membership fees have been paid.
4. Full membership applications must be submitted at least two months before the General Assembly.
5. If an application is submitted less than two months before the General Assembly it will be considered at the next meeting.

Step Four – Becoming a full member

1. All the full members of ECYC will vote at the General Assembly to accept or reject your organisation as a full member of ECYC.
2. If the vote is successful full membership will become effective on the day after the close of the General Assembly in which it is approved.
3. Full membership fees shall be invoiced following the General Assembly. The amount owing for the first year shall be calculated pro-rata, this will take into account the candidate membership fee that has already been paid.
4. If the application is not successful the candidate membership of the organisation shall cease unless the General Assembly decides to
 - a. Extend the period of candidate membership to enable further investigation to take place.
 - b. Invite the organisation to become an observer member.

Observer Membership

If an organisation meets some but not all of the ECYC membership criteria (appendix 1), there is mutual interest for cooperation and wishes to become a member of ECYC, there are two steps to follow.

Step One – Applying

1. The organisation submits a completed observer application form to the ECYC office.
2. This application shall be considered by the next General Assembly, provided the application is submitted two months before the meeting.
3. If the application is submitted less than two months before the General Assembly it will be considered at the next meeting.
4. The ECYC office or Bureau may ask the organisation additional questions, or may invite them to attend a meeting to present themselves.

Step Two – Becoming an Observer Member

1. The General Assembly will vote to accept or reject the organisation as an observer member of ECYC.
2. If the vote is successful the observer membership will become effective on the day after the close of the General Assembly in which it is approved.
3. Observer membership fees shall be invoiced following the General Assembly. The amount owing for the first year shall be calculated pro-rata.
4. If the vote is unsuccessful feedback shall be given to that organisation.

Appendix One – ECYC Membership Criteria

Membership of ECYC is open to umbrella or network organisations in the field of open youth work in countries within the Council of Europe:

- Having the aim or purpose to support local youth clubs or centres which are open to all without discrimination on the ground of gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation or political affiliation and who are non-uniformed, non-governmental and not limited to a specialised range of activities.
- Having a membership structure which is representative of local youth clubs or centres, or regional networks of youth clubs or centres.
- Having a programme of activities to support open youth work such as:
 - Promoting co-operation between local and/or regional open youth work organisations.
 - Developing training for paid and volunteer youth workers.
 - Developing tools, resources and materials that support good practice in open youth work.
 - Engaging with policy making at a local, regional and national level.

All members must:

- Accept and work for the purpose and aims of ECYC.
- Be a non-governmental and non-profit organisation.
- Fully acknowledge the statutes of ECYC.
- Fulfil their responsibilities laid out in the *ECYC Memorandum of Commitment between ECYC Member Organisations*.

There are three categories of membership within ECYC:

- Full members
- Candidate members
- Observer members

Full Members are organisations who meet all of the membership criteria and who have been accepted as such by the General Assembly.

Candidate Members are organisations currently in the process of becoming full members.

Observer members are organisations where there is a mutual interest for cooperation and who do not meet all of the membership criteria.