



# Call for two EYP NCs to join the Understanding Europe Network

The European Youth Parliament and the [Understanding Europe Network](#) are calling for two new EYP National Committees to join the Understanding Europe Network for at least two years.

## 1. What is Understanding Europe?

The [transnational Educational Network Understanding Europe](#) empowers young people in Europe by means of [democratic citizenship education](#) and seeks to give them a voice. To this end, it promotes and advises on educational projects run by young people, who are committed to civic participation and a democratic, diverse and open-minded Europe.

Understanding Europe's educational formats and methods are based on the Peer Education approach: they are inclusive and dialogical, thus supporting the participation of differently socialized target groups. [The project](#) creates a protected space for learning and collaboration, offering young people opportunities to explore, get to know each other and better understand other world views and experiences.

### What does it mean to be an Understanding Europe NC?

An Understanding Europe NC is an EYP NC who participates in the Understanding Europe Network, organising activities and contributing to facilitating democratic citizenship education by and for young people.

The work of the NC in Understanding Europe is **driven by a Coordinator**, who implements and runs the project in their national context. The Coordinators manage **teams of Trainers** (of up to 10 people) and liaise with teachers, schools and other partners, adapting the project to local needs, circumstances and topics. The **pedagogical work is implemented by Peer Educators**. They train local volunteers who want to become Trainers and thereby ensure that newly committed people become part of the project. The Trainers then run Understanding Europe courses in schools and disseminate Understanding Europe materials.

Coordinators do not have to be a member of the NC Board, but close cooperation between the Coordinator and the EYP NC Board is encouraged so both networks can benefit from each other. Similarly, trainers can be active EYP volunteers but don't have to be, as long as they have received the Understanding Europe training.



As a programme, **Understanding Europe aligns closely with the mission of the EYP by enabling an inclusive and diversity-oriented platform for citizenship education, participation and peer-to-peer learning.** Through the development of knowledge and critical understanding of Europe, the media, democratic participation, and diversity, Understanding Europe empowers young people to play an active role and shape their present and future. Schools can benefit from Understanding Europe crash courses, offering a wide range of students the opportunity to learn in an interactive, peer-to-peer format about the European Union, its institutions, history, competences and opportunities for citizens to participate and actively get involved in democratic processes. Understanding Europe NCs multiply democratic citizenship education by increasing the offer of non-formal education, bringing innovative and diverse young perspectives to the classroom, and strengthening the political literacy and agency of young people.

**Through Understanding Europe courses, NCs can bring the EYP to new students and schools who may be interested in taking part, potentially becoming a successful outreach tool.** Understanding Europe NCs can also offer **new opportunities for facilitation and peer education to their members** who would like to become Understanding Europe trainers. With both programmes targeting young people through non-formal education, there are **endless opportunities for cooperation between Understanding Europe and EYP!**

Understanding Europe's Educational Network is *currently active in 10 European countries*, inside as well as outside of the EU's borders: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Ukraine. In 9 of these countries, it is run by EYPers, connecting the educational work in schools closely to EYP activities and strategy.

In reaction to continuous interest by other National Committees to join the Understanding Europe Network and following the new cooperation agreement between EYP and Understanding Europe, we are now (and in the upcoming years) opening a call for new National Committees to join the Understanding Europe Network for minimum two years.

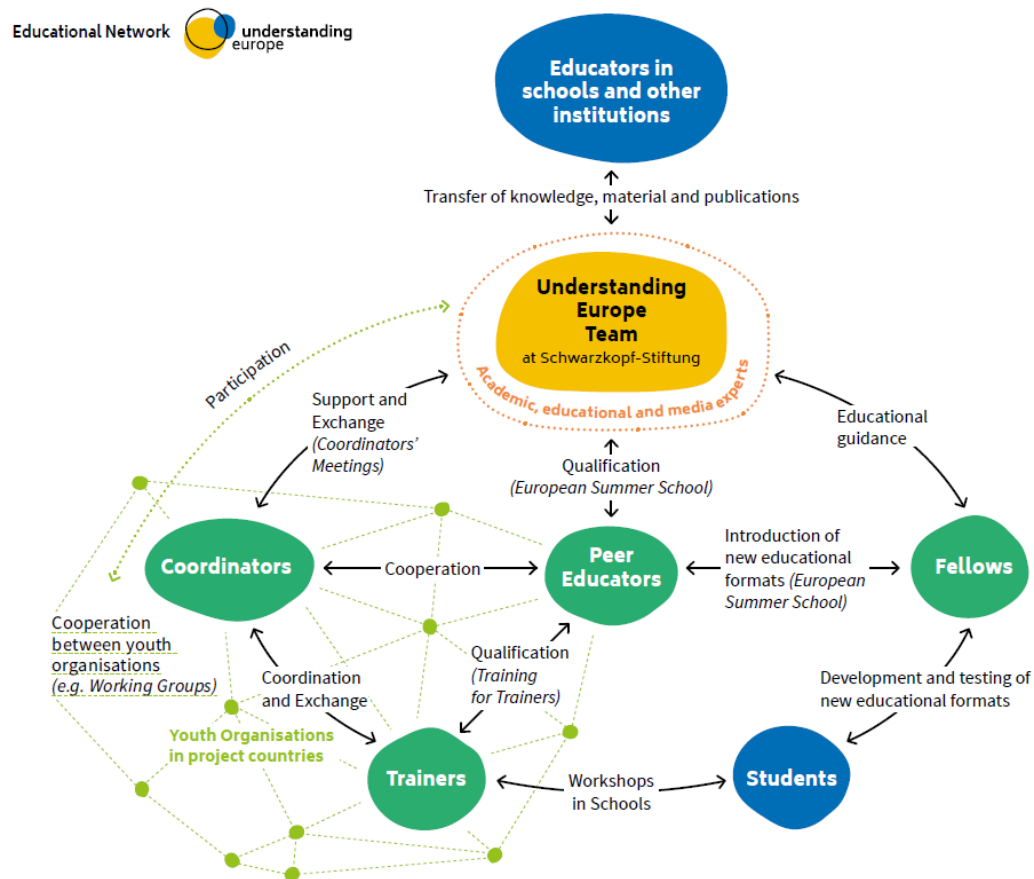
## 2. What Understanding Europe offers

- Becoming part of a transnational network of diverse youth initiatives, educational organisations, *fellows*, with exclusive events, training opportunities and endless possibilities for exchange
- Supervision and coaching from the Understanding Europe team at the Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe all year long
- Participation (1-2 spots) at our *European Summer School* where your trainers can become racism-critical and diversity-sensitive multipliers and are introduced to new educational materials and formats every year.
- Participation (1 spot) at our international *Coordinator's Meetings* where all network partners can meet, network and build dialogues twice a year.



- Regular introduction to and distribution of new educational resources on current topics, which you can use for your own work.
- Financial support for your activities carried out as part of Understanding Europe.
- Possibility to apply for the Understanding Europe “Diversity & Inclusion Fund” (next round of applications starts end of 2022), which provides financial support and individual coaching on the processes of diversity-oriented organizational development.
- Visibility for your project or association in our newsletter, on our website and our social media channels, as well as support and advise on communication of the project in the NC
- Infrastructural & technical support (use of the Understanding Europe database, etc.)

To visualise the functioning and offers of the Understanding Europe Network further, this organisational chart explains how different stakeholders collaborate in the Network:





### 3. What we look for

Do you want to empower students in your region to become active citizens and raise their voice on topics that are important to them?

Are you interested in conducting peer-to-peer educational formats in schools (e.g. our [EU-Crash-Courses](#) and our courses on [Fake News and media literacy](#))?

Do you want to become part of a diverse and international network that offers regular possibilities and opportunities for training and networking?

If so, then get in touch with us now! We are looking forward to welcoming new organizations to our network.

### 4. Selection Criteria

The criteria for the selection are the following:

- Motivation to set up Understanding Europe in the EYP NC
- Impact of Understanding Europe on the EYP NC or the youth of your country
- Willingness for innovation and adapting educational material to the country context
- Alignment with the EYP Strategy
- Added value for the Understanding Europe Network, including ability to channel existing resources, topics and funding,

The selection process for EYP NCs is carried out by a member of the EYP Governing Body and the responsible project manager in the Understanding Europe Team. The EYP International Office has an advisory role in the selection process. The EYP Governing Body can delegate this responsibility to the EYP Executive Director.

We will hold an **explanatory meeting** between **representatives of the Understanding Europe Network and the EYP International Office on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 16.15 until 17.00 CEST**. Feel free to join us digitally to learn more.

Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85645844251?pwd=K2dwcNNSWEldGEyV1o3eUtwUE56UT09>

Meeting-ID: 856 4584 4251

Password: 908614

Otherwise, you can get in touch with Lena Strehmann of the Understanding Europe Network at [l.strehmann@schwarzkopf-stiftung.de](mailto:l.strehmann@schwarzkopf-stiftung.de).



The **deadline for applications is end of day (CEST) on August 9<sup>th</sup>**. The selection will be carried out shortly thereafter, and you should expect to hear from us by the end of August.

To apply, you will have to fill out [this form](#), answering the following questions (max. 300 words each):

1. What is your motivation to set up Understanding Europe in your NC?
2. What impact could Understanding Europe have on your NC or the youth in your country?
3. How do Understanding Europe activities align with the EYP International Strategy and your NC Strategy?

EYP NCs can apply without having a Coordinator, or can already appoint a Coordinator to apply on their behalf. If you are not part of your NC Board but would be interested in applying as a Coordinator, please reach out to your NC Board to discuss whether you could apply on their behalf.

## 5. Upcoming mandatory events & dates

- **European Summer School** for Peer Educators (in person) taking place **23-26 September in Duisburg, Germany**.
- **November Coordinators Meeting**, planned in person (as of now) on a weekend in November (dates to be agreed on by the end of August).

Selected National Committees will be asked to appoint (at least) one Coordinator and (at least) one Peer-Educator after the selection has been completed, if they had not done so already. These will be invited to introductory meetings with Project Managers of the Understanding Europe Team at the Schwarzkopf Foundation. The attendance of the Peer-Educator at the European Summer School in September, as well as the attendance of the Coordinator at the November Coordinators' Meeting is mandatory.

### What is expected throughout the year?

- Appointment of (at least) one Coordinator
- Appointment of (at least) one Peer-Educator
- Call for and recruitment of a team of up to 10 trainers
- Organisation of a Training 4 Trainers (T4T)
- 1-2 team meetings (for teambuilding, feedback and reflection)
- Organisation and conduction of courses in schools (at least 20 every year)
- Thorough bookkeeping and reporting of activities (with support of the UE team at the foundation)