



OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES YOUTH NETWORK

CALL FOR APPLICANTS 2023

Overseas Countries and Territories Youth Network

The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) Youth Network offers young people the thrilling opportunity to embark on a one-year learning path, discovering the EU-OCT partnership and the functioning of the European Institutions, and networking with like-minded young people from other OCTs.

What is the OCT Youth Network?

Created in 2022, with a one-year mandate, the OCT Youth Network is a group of 25 young people (aged 20-28) representing all 13 OCTs associated with the European Union (EU), namely: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Greenland, New Caledonia, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, and Wallis and Futuna.

The OCT Youth Network aims **to increase the ties between young people living in the OCTs and the EU, and enhance the knowledge and involvement of young people in the EU-OCT partnership.**

The Network's objectives are to:

- connect young people from the 13 OCTs amongst each other and with the EU institutions and decision makers,
- project an OCT youth perspective to inform the EU-OCT partnership in a spirit of co-creation,
- deepen the understanding about the EU in the OCTs,
- create links with other youth initiatives at regional and country level, including the EU and Member States.

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

Over the past few years, engaging with youth has become one of the top priorities of the European Commission. It is a way to pro-actively seek the support of youth and partner with them to foster sustainable development and to acknowledge and enhance the key contributions of youth in pursuing positive social changes worldwide. The OCT Youth Network is in line with the Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action to step up meaningful youth participation. Adopted in October 2022, the YAP is putting forward a vision and partnership with young people as essential actors of change for more democratic, equal, inclusive and peaceful societies.

With the mandate of the current cohort of the OCT Youth Network ending in June 2023, the European Commission's DG INTPA is launching a new call for candidates to renew it.

Why should you join the OCT Youth Network?

By joining the OCT Youth Network, you will get a **great opportunity to discover the EU-OCT partnership and to engage with EU political leaders (e.g. EU Commissioner for International Partnerships, Members of the European Parliament, etc.)**. You will also meet and network with a wide range of like-minded OCT young people and with key EU actors, broadening your personal and professional networks and horizons.

As a member of the OCT Youth Network, you will participate actively in the crafting of the network by contributing to its activities and co-selecting priorities and topics to be addressed. You will learn, prepare, engage, participate and even co-lead activities on youth perspectives of the EU-OCT Partnership with your OCT peers and with other actors.

You will serve a one-year mandate starting in July 2023 and ending in June 2024 with following highlights: a **week-long Study Visit to Brussels** to explore the functioning of the European Institutions, **four online webinars** to deepen knowledge and competences, and several **facilitated dialogue sessions with top EU political leaders**.

The following activities are foreseen under the OCT Youth Network mandate:

Indicative timeline	Key activities of the mandate
July-September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Start of the mandate as a OCT Youth Network member and welcoming and introduction meeting (2 hours) ✓ Setting-up a collaborative work and communication platform and agreeing together on topics of key activities ✓ Webinar on the functioning of the EU, combined with a preparation meeting for the Study Visit (2 hours)
October-December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Study Visit to EU Institutions in Brussels (5 days) including meeting with Commissioner for International Partnerships and meetings with key actors and other top EU political leaders ✓ Participation and/or engagement at the EU-OCT Forum in Brussels ✓ Webinar 2 – Topic to be defined together (2 hours) ✓ Digital exchange with a similar youth network or structure (2 hours)
January-March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Communication activities to share your experience as a OCT Youth Network member ✓ Webinar 3 – Topic to be defined together (2 hours) ✓ Network meeting 2 (focus on peer-to-peer learning and networking)
April-June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Webinar 4 – Topic to be defined together (2 hours) ✓ Digital Exchange with a similar youth network or structure (2 hours) ✓ Supporting the selection of new members of the OCT Youth Network and on-boarding, wrapping up and concluding the mandate
Timeline to be confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visiting OCT-based EU Delegation/ Offices and exploring their local activities and projects (only for members from Caribbean OCTs, Pacific OCTs and Greenland) ✓ Opportunities to join other EU events in regards to EU-OCT Partnership or youth participation, depending on opportunities

Key activities, their schedule and order may be subject to change depending on opportunities, external factors and potential synergies with other events and initiatives. Members of the OCT Youth Network are expected to participate in all activities foreseen as part of the mandate. The approximate number of days of commitment will be 4 to 6 working days per year depending on the exact activities, not counting the additional learning activities (study visit, webinars). A financial compensation of 50 EUR per work day is foreseen, under the condition of full participation and engagement in the activities.

Technical assistance for the organisation of online meetings and all other activities will be provided. International travel, full board, accommodation and all costs related to residential activities will be covered in line with DG INTPA rules and regulations.

How can you become a member of the OCT Youth Network?

The OCT Youth Network will mirror the reality in the OCTs and will therefore be highly diverse. It will bring together a wide range of youth profiles and backgrounds, opinions and experiences, areas of interest and knowledge, and socio-economic backgrounds.

All candidates must fulfill the two eligibility criteria:

- Be between the age of 20-28¹
- Have a good command of English

Candidates will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Their link to one or several OCTs by family link, residence or professional/ educational/ civil society engagement or others²
- Motivation to join the OCT Youth Network and willingness to contribute to and gain from the experience of being a member of the network
- Experience and current engagements in local community in the respective OCT(s), such as volunteering, activism or active participation.

To ensure diversity and inclusion, candidates belonging to marginalised groups, minority groups, with special needs, disabilities, or in any situation of vulnerability are strongly encouraged to apply.

How to apply?

Applications can only be submitted online through the following online platform:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OCT-YN-Call-for-Applicants-2023>

The deadline to submit applications is **May 22, 2023, 12:00 Brussels Time.**

Receipt of applications will be confirmed by email (within 2 working days).

The selection process will be conducted in two stages:

- First stage: all candidates will be informed if they are short-listed by **May 26, 2023**
- Second stage: shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview between **May 31 – June 13, 2023.**

Final results: all shortlisted candidates will be informed of the final results **by June 30, 2023.**

The first information meeting (remote) of the OCT Youth Network will occur in July 2023 (date to be confirmed).

What else do you need to know?

If there are any questions or enquiries during the application stage please contact us at: OCT-YN@ice-org.eu

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

DG INTPA reserves the right to draw up a reserve list of candidates.

¹ Eligible candidates must not be younger than 20 years old and no older than 28 years old on July 1, 2023

² List of eligible Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs): Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Greenland, New Caledonia, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, and Wallis and Futuna.