# Discussion note for preparation for Technical Meeting of National Coordinators and 24th Governing Board Meeting

# Patras, 12-13 February 2025

## Relevant agenda points:

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| **Technical Meeting of National Coordinators****16:00-16:45** | 1. **EUSAIR Youth Council – update**
* Preparation of Rules of Procedure and 2025 Workplan
* 2nd Call and next steps - presentation of the Task Force meeting results

*(EL EUSAIR Presidency, FP LP)** Discussion

*(all)* |
| **24th Governing Board meeting****10:15-11:00** | 1. **EUSAIR Youth Council – update**
* Preparation of Rules of Procedure and 2025 Workplan
* Youth Council inauguration event at the Forum

(EYC Representative)* 2nd Call and next steps – presentation of the Task Force meeting results

(EL EUSAIR Presidency, FP LP)*Purpose: information and discussion* |

Following the draft agenda of Technical Meeting of National Coordinators (12 February) and 24th Governing Board meeting (13 February) and discussions held during the Youth Consultation Task Force meeting on 23rd January 2025 the Presidency suggest organising the discussion in the following way:

* Presentation of the Youth Council’s work
* Launch of the second EYC Call
* Introduction of a new thematic competence criteria
* Ranking instead of random selection
* Financing travel and accommodation of EUSAIR Youth Council members

Since the thematic is relatively specific and requires good knowledge of the currently valid documents and discussions held on the topic of EUSAIR Youth Council (hereinafter EYC) during the last three years, in the continuation each point is briefly presented. **The purpose is to help National Coordinators in preparation for the upcoming meetings.**

## Presentation of the Youth Council’s work

* At the NC meeting Facility Point will briefly present the work done so far by the EUSAIR Youth Council.
* At the GB meeting Youth Council Chair will present Youth Council work focusing on the **Rules of Procedure-RoP** (including the relations between Youth Council and EUSAIR governance structures) and **Workplan** (including ideas for the Youth Council inauguration event at the EUSAIR Forum).
* Next steps in concluding RoP and Workplan.

## Launch of the Second EYC Call

Timeline of the 2nd Call in order to secure full membership of EYC till October 2025:

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| **Task** | **Time** |
| Members appointed in 2024 to sign Letter of commitment for 2025 | 31/03/2025 |
| Any changes in Concept Paper and methodology to be approved | 31/03/2025 |
| Call in countries with missing members | 01/04/2025-13/05/2025 |
| Assessment/Selection | MAY-JUNE 2025 |
| Final list of members for EYC 2025 | SEPTEMBER 2025 |

Proposal for conclusions:

* **The EUSAIR Youth Council 2nd Call for EYC members will be launched only for the countries from which current EYC members cannot (if they turned 30 years) or wish not to prolong their mandate for another year (from October 2025 till September 2026).**
* **If no new consensus is reached by the GB on the updated Youth Council Concept Paper regarding the selection methodology by 15 March 2025, the launch of the 2nd Call will proceed using the existing Youth Council Concept Paper and Application pack.**

## Proposals from Italy for changes in the EYC members selection methodology

On 6 February Italy has sent the following the following inputs for the discussion concerning point 3.1 and 3.2 in the continuation:

***“Premises:***

*The discussion in the YC on how the methodology for the selection of the YC members should be revised put into evidence that there is still confusion on the role of the Youth Council, especially in relations with the EUSAIR governance bodies (GB and TSGs). At the moment, only the YC RoP (draft) makes reference to the relations between YC/GB/TSGs (see in particular section 2.3 of the draft YC RoPs). But this cannot be done by Youth council members on their own. The EUSAIR GB is the competent body to take this decision.*

 *Furthermore, during the YC TF meeting, we discussed the need to clarify the role of Youth Council members, whether the YC members should give a thematic contribution to GB and TSGs, based on a certain “degree” of competence (to be commiserated to YC members’ young age), or just generally presenting the point of view of young people. Also in this case, the EUSAIR GB is the competent body to take this decision.*

 *Consequently:*

1. *The GB has to decide on what* ***the role of the YC will be and in particular on the relation between the YC and the GB and TSGs.***
2. *The GB needs to discuss and take a decision of the following options:*

***Option A)*** *the YC members will give a thematic contribution to GB and TSGs (as it is foreseen in the draft RoP at section 2.3);*

***Option B)*** *the YC members have just to represent the point of view of young people in general, as Greece, Slovenia and Croatia has underlined during the meeting.*

 *Only after having clarified and taken a decision on these points, it will be possible to continue the discussion on the methodology and on the RoP”.*

### 3.1 Introduction of a new thematic competence criteria

**Brief description of the Italian proposal:**

* When applying to the Youth Council Call, candidates need to demonstrate in the application their thematic competence for chosen EUSAIR Pillars/Topics: educational or professional background.
* Facility Point would conduct the eligibility check and motivational letter assessment as foreseen, but additionally, Pillar Coordinators would be the ones to assess if by the candidate indicated level of expertise is sufficient for their Pillar.
* The selection of candidates would be based also on the score from this thematic criterion.

------------- End of proposal

**What does this mean in terms of procedures and work:**

* This is a major change of the selection process and would require changes in the Youth Council Concept Paper and its GB approval.
* The Application Pack would need considerable readjusting, which needs Youth Consultation Task Force work and approval.
* Pillar Coordinators would need to agree to take this extra work upon them.
* The new assessment process should not require any additional work for the assessors.
* Facility Point would need to revise all the selection procedures and documents.

**Some arguments summed up from the Task Force meeting:**

* Youth Council members could bring additional expertise to the Thematic Steering Groups.
* The age of EYC members is from 18-29, at 18 it is difficult to demonstrate professional or educational expertise.
* Are Youth Council members expected to bring thematic expertise to EUSAIR or are they there to bring youth perspective on topics?

### 3.2 Ranking instead of random selection

**Current selection as described in Youth Council Concept Paper:**

The quality candidates who passed the quality threshold (reaching a number of points in the assessment) are then subjected to random selection – computer algorithm selects the final list of candidates considering balanced representation by country, gender, interest, urban/rural origin and age in as far as possible (limited number of applications from countries).

**Italy suggests selection based on ranking of candidates:**

* The candidates with the highest score are selected.

**Several countries and EC suggested:**

* Keeping the random selection but to adjust the threshold for quality candidates for each Call, ensuring sufficient number of quality candidates from each country. In this way, the random selection would only be made among the high-quality candidates.

**What does this mean in terms of procedures and work:**

* This is a major change of the selection process and would require changes in the Youth Council Concept Paper and its GB approval.
* The Application Pack would need considerable readjusting, which needs Youth Consultation Task Force work and approval.
* The new assessment process should not require any additional work for the assessors.
* Facility Point would need to revise all the selection procedures and documents.

**Some arguments summed up from the Task Force meeting:**

* Ranking poses pressure and high responsibility on assessors.
* Ranking also opens more room for discrimination based on bias (assessors are not professional assessors).
* How to ensure balanced representation by country, gender, rural/urban origin, thematic interest and age?

## Financing travel and accommodation of Youth Council members

**Per country per year:**

During the preparation of Facility Point Project financial plan it was agreed the following:

* Each Project Partner ensures coverage of 6 travels per year for EYC members from their country (2 travels of 3 members = 6 travels).
* At that time we did not know how Youth Council will be structured, the discussions in the Task Force indicated there will be 3 members from each country.

Now we do know what are the minimum requirements for travels for EYC members per country per year (following Youth Council Concept Paper and EYC Rules of Procedures):

* 2 members traveling to one EYC meeting in person (2 travels)
* 2 EYC members traveling to EUSAIR Forum (2 travels)
* 2 additional travels to GB and/or TSG in person meetings (maximum 2 travels)

**Total: 6 travels of EYC members per year per country (exactly as originally planned)**

**Per Strategy per year:**

This will ensure minimum in person participation of Youth Council members at EUSAIR meetings/Forum per year:

* 1 representative (in line with EYC RoP) of EYC at 2 GBs
* 1 representative (in line with EYC RoP) to in 6 person TSG meetings (one TSG meeting in the year is in person, one online)
* 20 EYC members attending 1 in person meeting of EYC (all other meetings are organised online)
* 20 EYC members attending EUSAIR Annual Forum.

**Proposal for conclusion:**

**Since 6 travels per year per country were originally planned for EUSAIR Youth Council members during the preparation of the Facility Point project, minimum participation of EYC members to EUSAIR meetings/events has to be ensured by the Facility Point Project Partners as long there is budget available under the Facility Point Project Partner budget line *“GB, TSG and YC members travel and accommodation ”* given that financial liquidity of the Project Partner is sufficient.**

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| **Additionally, we would advise National Coordinators to consult their Youth Consultation Task Force members regarding discussions from the Youth Consultation Task Force Meeting on 23 January 2025 and their Facility Point Project Partners.** |