

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Easter Seminar “Visibility Matters” of the Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) in Opole/Oppeln, Poland

11th– 17th/18th April 2025

17th March General Assembly of YEN

The Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is looking for participants for the **Easter Seminar “Visibility Matters”**. The event will take place in **Opole/Oppeln, Poland** from 11th– 17th April 2025 and will be hosted by the youth organisation “BJDM –Bund Der Jugend Der Deutschen Minderheit” (Youth organisation of the German minority in Poland).

Directly after the seminar, on the **17th April**, the **YEN General Assembly** will take place (for the interested representatives of YEN member organisations). The official invitation will follow mid of March.

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The seminar is supported by the Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation.

About the Seminar

Visibility and the (in)ability to influence the perceptions that majority communities hold of minority communities are crucial for the identity of people from autochthonous, national, ethnic, and linguistic minorities. At YEN, we are committed to empowering and encouraging young people from these minorities to play an active role in shaping their identity, their image, and their approach to visibility.

So in 2025, our theme for the year is **"Minority Youth in the Spotlight"**.

Our first major event of the year will take place in Opole, Poland and will be hosted by the youth organisation of the German minority in Poland called BJDM. About 50 young people from national, ethnic and linguistic minorities from around Europe will spend a week together, participate in a workshop based on methods of non-formal education, learn about the German minority in Poland, get to know each other and enjoy leisure activities such as an excursion day, a diverse evening program and the "Cultural Exchange Market", where every participant is invited to present their own community. The organizing team is made up of representatives from BJDM and YEN.

Accommodation will be provided for everyone during the seminar.

Workshop

The topic of this workshop is "Visibility Matters", with the aim to understand the impact and importance of being visible to one's cultural identity. You will reflect on its value and be inspired to engage in self-representation and visibility work that can benefit your community.

During the workshop you will:

- reflect and exchange on existing self- and external depictions of your minoritised communities and how they are affecting you and your communities.
- reflect on your multifaced identities with others and think about how they are connected to visibility and representation.
- reflect on how you can get active to impact the ways in which your community is portrayed in broader society
- exchange good practices of visibility work of your youth organisations.

→ *The workshops are based on non-formal education methods and you will spend most of the week in your workshops. Non-formal education is very different from education as you know it from schools or*

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university. It is based on exchange between the participants, on shared experiences and reflection of your own situation.

Participants profile

You are a young member of a minority between 16 and 30 years and involved in your minority youth organisation? Then sign up for the YEN Easter Seminar!

Please notice that we can accept two to three participants from each YEN member organisation. However, there will be a waiting list to fill up open seats out of it after the registration deadline. So if you are interested in sending more participants, get in contact with the YEN-office (under events@yeni.org).

If you are not part of a YEN member organisation but still want to experience a YEN event please also contact events@yeni.org, we are always happy to welcome guests.

YEN General Assembly

The General Assembly takes place on 17th of April. Participants who are neither members nor partners of YEN are welcomed to depart at the 17th of April. Everyone else is invited to participate in the GA and depart at the 18th of April.

During the General Assembly, the representatives of the YEN member organisations decide on the future YEN seminars and other events. They also decide on YENs finances and resolutions. Additionally new board members as well as members of the three YEN working groups will be elected. We are looking forward to all who are interested in getting involved with YEN and want to join the board or the working groups.

For more Information, please contact the YEN-Board members (board@yeni.org).

Arrival & Departure

Arrival Day: 11th of April 2025, if possible until dinner 6pm.

Departure Day: 17th of April 2025, if you are not joining the General Assembly.

18th of April 2025, for everyone joining the General Assembly.

More information on the venue and how to reach Opole/Oppełn will be provided after the application deadline.

Finances

Travel expenses

Travel expenses can be reimbursed up to a maximum amount. This involves a signed “expense claim”. Only if original tickets will be presented and sent to the YEN office and participants provide all needed justificatory documents of travel and expenses (invoices, boarding passes, train or bus tickets...) the reimbursement will be considered. Please notice, taxi costs cannot be reimbursed! We will reimburse your travel costs only if you stay no longer than two days before or after the seminar.

Selected participants will be provided further details.

Participation fees

The participation fee is 100 € for Western European participants and 70 € for Eastern European participants. It covers food and accommodation for the entire seminar, as well as excursions and required materials during the event. After you have received the official confirmation of participation from us, we ask you to **transfer the participation fee** immediately. You will receive more information on this in the info sheet after registration. If you have to cancel your participation 2 weeks prior to the event and there will be no replacement, we will not return your participation fee.

Accommodation is only covered during the duration of the seminar. If you arrive before or stay longer, you will have to cover and book it yourself.

Social fund

If you need support to pay either your travel costs or participation fee, ask for more information and/or apply for financial support by contacting the YEN-Office (office@yeni.org).

About YEN

As YEN we believe in human rights and fundamental freedoms for all humans. We cooperate with and support institutions that share those values. Our work is built on the ideas of respect, openness and tolerance for all minorities. We openly position ourselves against racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, antigypsyism, antisemitism and discrimination or forced assimilation of any kind of minority and, as a matter of principle, are against violence in whatsoever form. When we choose facilitators and topics for workshops we do so with those values in mind.

We are happy that at YEN events our participants and team have various opinions and views on the topics we address. We value discussions and open exchange of ideas. Therefore, we expect that participants and team-members show respect to everyone and do not spread hate. Furthermore, we expect all attendees to acknowledge that every human being is equally valuable, and that each individual's freedom ends where another individual's freedom begins.

What is BJDM?

The BJDM is the largest and oldest youth organisation of the German minority in Poland. We are an open group of active and creative young people who want to function in a friendly, diverse and tolerant society - regardless of origin.

The BJDM is a place of passion, self-realisation and action, where EVERYONE can be themselves.

Application procedure

Please note that **you have to contact your organisation before you apply**. Applications that were send without the knowledge of an organisations will not be considered.

When registering, please take some time to fill in the questions about **your motivation to participate**. Your answers help us to plan the event and select participants better.

Participants will be informed after the registration deadline whether they have been selected or placed on the waiting list.

All participants are required to take part in at least four full days of the seminar.

The closing date for registration is the 9th March 2025.

Registration!

After the end of the registration deadline, you will be informed if you have been selected to participate in the event. You will receive an information sheet and will be asked to confirm your participation and transfer your participation fee until a specific date.

You will also be asked to book your trip directly **after** you receive an official confirmation and send us your traveling details. Try to travel as cheaply and eco-friendly as possible.

If you do not follow these steps, we have to assume you are not joining the event and will remove you from our participants list!

The YEN-office is available for any questions you might have about this.

Contact

YEN Office:

events@yeni.org

Tel.: +49 176 31779414

www.yeni.org

Facebook: @yeni.org

Instagram: @yenjev1984

We are looking forward to your participation!

The Orga-Team from BJDM and YEN