

Launch of the first Euroregional Youth Assembly

Call for applications from October 11 to December 16, 2022

Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean: Who are we?

A territory of cooperation, innovative and open, the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean has been working for over 15 years to build bridges between our territories, to carry out joint projects for the benefit of citizens and to make their voice heard at the European level. Structured as a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation since 2009, the Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean has demonstrated its ability to mobilise the stakeholders of its territory in key areas such as the economy, innovation, research, higher education, culture, tourism or the environment. The Generalitat of Catalonia, the Government of the Balearic Islands and the Region of Occitanie, by their shared history, values and ambitions, wish to continue to build through the Euroregion a reference cooperation pole at the crossroads of Europe and in the heart of the Mediterranean.

Towards new citizen participation

As part of its 2030 roadmap, the EPM aims to enhance citizen inclusion by facilitating their participation and promoting our cultural diversity. Our intention is to put citizens at the heart of the Euroregional project in order to enable them to fully participate in it, and thus promote the common values that drive our member regions. The EPM also wishes to highlight its cultural diversity and all its cultural and innovative sectors by fostering a Mediterranean Euroregional identity.

Young people, a priority for EPM

The EPM is now working to increase citizen involvement both in its actions and in the task of defining part of its cooperation policy and priority projects.

The EPM also wishes to give young people a key role since they are the future of our territory.

Why create a Euroregional Youth Assembly now?

2022 is the European Year of Youth. The EPM wishes to contribute to this fully by fostering greater involvement of young people in its actions, with a view to attaining the goals laid down in its new roadmap. In view of this, the EPM is launching a call for applications from young people to participate in the first Euroregional Youth Assembly at the end of 2022.

To what end?

The Euroregional Youth Assembly:

- May, on its own initiative, look into subjects that it deems important to tackle.
- It therefore acts as an advisory body to the EPM.
- It can make proposals to the EPM elected representatives to carry out actions or propose the establishment of specific policies between the three member regions.
- It is a forum for discussion and debate among members of the Assembly.
- It is also a place to get to know and learn about the functioning of European territorial cooperation institutions such as the Euroregions.
- More generally, it is a place to learn about European citizenship and discover different cultures among the three EPM members and beyond, at European level.

Who can participate?

Any young person residing in one of the EPM territories, who is at least 16 years of age and at most 30 years of age. Minors must have parental authorisation in order to be able to travel outside their national territory.



EUROREGIO*

Pirineus Mediterrània
Pyrénées Méditerranée
Pirineos Mediterráneo

How to participate

To participate, you must be at least 16 years old and fill out the registration form available online on the EPM website: www.euroregio.eu.

You will then need to attach a free-format cover letter. That means you can use whatever medium (written/drawing/video/sound, etc.) you prefer to express your motivation to participate in the Euroregional Youth Assembly, telling us about your expectations and also about what you can bring to the table.

How are the future members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly selected?

The Assembly is made up of 20 to 30 young people who, ideally, will come in equal numbers from each of the three territories.

It is composed of young people who present themselves either in their own capacity or as representatives of youth associations.

Once all the applications have been received, an EPM selection committee will study the proposals to make sure that the young person is genuinely motivated. The committee will ensure that all youth profiles are represented in the Euroregional Youth Assembly, especially with regard to their educational background, their status as students or young workers or unemployed, and to their geographical origin. It will also ensure that gender equality of opportunity is respected. Once a balance has been struck in the attempt to represent all possible profiles, and according to the number of available places (maximum 10 per EPM territory), there will be a draw.

How does the Euroregional Youth Assembly work?

The Assembly may, if necessary, set up working groups according to the topics or priorities it wishes to address. The members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly may propose their desired mode of internal operation.

In any event, all the members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly will be supervised administratively by the EPM technical team, and with regard to the progress of their work, they will report to the Youth Group representing the three EPM regions.

A budget will be ascribed to the operation of the Euroregional Youth Assembly to provide for the organisation of meetings and, in particular, the travel expenses of young people in the territory to attend the programme of meetings and seminars scheduled over the year. This budget will be steered by the EPM technical team. The young people will not be paid under any circumstances.

The choice of languages to work and communicate in will be left to the young people involved, bearing in mind that the Euroregion's official languages are Occitan, Catalan, French, and Spanish. No interpreting services are provided at EPM meetings. Young people are responsible for organising themselves accordingly.

What are the duties of the members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly?

The members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly undertake to participate in meetings to which they are invited during their term of office, particularly by other equivalent European bodies that involve young people.

They also undertake to produce during their term of office at least one written recommendation shared by all, or any other form of participation to fuel the reflection of the EPM's elected representatives.

Finally, through their participation, they undertake to represent and promote the image of young people in the EPM territories, such as ambassadors.



What are the benefits of participating?

By joining the Euroregional Youth Assembly, you:

- Participate in a dynamic among young people from diverse territories,
- Discover new cultures and new languages.
- Find out how European institutions function, and come to know the EPM, one of the tools of interregional cooperation brought into play by Europe.
- Will be able to discover the EPM territories by participating in forums, seminars organised from one territory to another, but also during meetings with other European youth organisations.
- Will be able to interact with elected representatives from the three EPM member territories.
- Can propose specific actions or policies to the EPM elected representatives, to establish among the three member regions.
- You will benefit from integrated training sessions during your term of office to increase your knowledge about the world of regional, Euroregional, and European institutions.
- At the end of your term of office, you will receive an open badge displaying the EPM ambassador's label to use to your advantage.

Euroregional Youth Assembly members' term of office

It is renewed **every school year**, on average.

Members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly will be able to request the automatic renewal of their term of office, limited to one renewal, i.e. a maximum of two years.

Depending on the results of the drawing for each territory, a reserve list of up to five candidates will be drawn up, in order of priority, to take the place of any assembly members who leave their seats vacant during the first half of the term. These vacancies must be filled before the next assembly meeting, counting from the moment the resignation occurs. If the resignation occurs after the first half of the term, vacancies will no longer be filled.

The assembly member's first term of office runs until the summer of 2024, exceptionally covering a period of 18 months.

The launch of the Euroregional Youth Assembly will be put into effect at the EPM General Assembly scheduled for February 2023.

Schedule of the call for applications for future members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly

The call for applications will be open from **October 11 to December 16, 2022 inclusive (before midnight)**.

The final selection of the members of the Euroregional Youth Assembly will be made before the end of 2022.