



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE,
DE LA JEUNESSE
ET DES SPORTS**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

COMPETITION / CALL FOR PROJECTS

YOUNG AND ECO-COMMITTED

The village of innovative solutions

for sustainable development and ecological transition

This “innovatory challenge” involving **sustainable development and ecological transition** is encouraging an enterprising spirit in young Europeans aged **18 to 30**, by inviting them **to respond to a call for projects to propose concrete, original and innovative solutions (digital, technical, technological and organisational, or tools for mobilisation) that can take the form of entrepreneurial projects or commitments on behalf of associations.**

Europe is indeed seeing a growing awareness among young people along with a growing desire to commit themselves to voluntary or professional activities involving the challenges of sustainable development and climate change. It is important to give young people concrete opportunities to promote their initiatives and help them implement business creation or associative projects in this area.

This challenge has been devised together with youth organisations. It calls for young peoples’ creativity and their ability to act, providing them with the opportunity to demonstrate their expertise, practical bent and willingness to commit to more sustainable development and ecological, inclusive transition.

The preselected projects will constitute a “village of innovative solutions for sustainable development and ecological transition”, organised in the form of stalls, to take place during the European Youth Conference organised during the French Presidency of the European Union, between January 24 and 26, 2022. They will also be invited to participate in Conference workshops. The candidates will present their projects to a jury. The best projects will receive awards at the Conference.

1. Aim of the competition/call for proposals.

Do you have an innovative, general interest project that provides a concrete response to environmental challenges, and do you need support to launch it?

In addition,

- does your ecological, inclusive transition project have a European dimension?
- Is the solution you envisage a cross-border one that requires greater visibility to be implemented?
- Or will your innovative, sustainable development project initially be implemented at the local/national level but could afterwards be rolled out in other countries in the European Union?

Take part in the “YOUNG AND ECO-COMMITTED” Call for Proposals!

Once your ideas have been formally entered in the online form and are able to be clearly presented as a PowerPoint, you can submit them as part of this call for proposals. Projects meeting the criteria and aims of the call for proposals will be posted online, so benefitting from visibility and (for the best of them) will be awarded a prize and, if they wish, receive support in France to transform them into concrete projects.

The Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports is keen to promote and enhance the participation and commitment of young people in ecological and inclusive transition, and intends to support projects providing a response in one or more of the following fields (this list is not an exhaustive one):

1) Combatting and adapting to Climate Change

- Reduction of energy consumption,
- A contribution to achieving carbon neutrality and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

2) Circular economy and management of waste and natural resources

- Combatting pollution.
- Reducing, reusing and managing waste products,
- Water and/or natural resource management
- Ethical, eco-responsible fashion (clothing)

3) Acting for biodiversity

- Protecting oceans, natural spaces and biodiversity
- Restoring ecosystems,
- Sustainable village

4) Educating people about sustainable development

- Creating awareness of environmental challenges and ecological transition
- Developing a culture of sustainable development etc.

The proposed projects must be digital, technical, technological, organisational, or mobilisation tools.

They must be inclusive, fair and sustainable in terms of the environment and society - in other words, they meet identified collective needs, be part of the long term, demonstrate a united approach and the conservation of the environment

The projects must focus particularly on young people, in particular their being used as a resource in devising the projects, as well as the beneficiaries of these initiatives.

2. Who can respond to this competition/call for proposals

The call for projects is addressed to **young Europeans aged 18 to 30** or young legal residents of the European Union with new, socially useful ideas that provide **concrete and sustainable responses to environmental problems and promote ecological transition**.

Young people can apply individually or in groups of between 2 and 5 people.

For informal groups, one person must be appointed as the main point of contact. Young people who belong to an association may also apply, as long as the association is solely composed of young people and is led by people under the age of 30. **The association can be represented by one person.**

Where applications are submitted by a youth association, the file must be submitted by the young people from the project team who register on the platform individually (while providing their personal data and indicating that they are submitting as part of a project sponsored by an association). The young people who are registering must be able to present the project at the European Youth Conference. Only one application per association will be permitted.

On the competition registration platform, persons who do not already have a team will be able to put one together by looking for partners with the required skills.

Previous entrepreneurial or associational experience is not required to apply. Projects aimed at creating a business, a social, inclusive economic structure or an association may be proposed.

Apart from youth associations, other legal bodies (such as local authorities, companies and associations that are not youth associations) are not permitted to apply.

3. Procedures for submitting applications

The call for proposals will be opened from **15 October 2021 until 2 December 2021**.

When the call for proposals is launched, a dedicated virtual space will be created on the Ministry's service provider's platform for this event; the French company BeMyApp.

The call for proposals is posted on www.jeunes.gouv.fr.

Young candidates wishing to participate in this competition will be invited to register. Applications must be written in French or English and be definitively finalised before **2 december 2021**.

During the 6 weeks between the time the call for proposals is published and the end date for applications, the young candidates will be able to receive online coaching (in French and English) by mentors and volunteer experts, in order to improve the quality of their projects. There will be joint mentoring.

Those initially applying on their own will have the opportunity to form teams with other young residents in their country, or in other countries of the European Union, and will in his way be able to collectively improve their project's feasibility over this period.

During this period, webinars will be organised by BeMyApp in conjunction with the Ministry in order to inform interested young people about the call for proposals and the procedures in place for registering and forming online teams.

BeMyApp will provide technical assistance by providing candidates with support in using the digital platform.

Participation in this competition/call for projects is completely free.

As well as the participants' name, postal and email address and telephone number, this form must include the following information: date and place of birth.

They will have to specify the problem to which they wish to provide answers and the digital, technical, technological, organisational solutions or mobilisation tools they propose.

In addition to the form, a PowerPoint presentation must be completed in the required format presenting the proposed solution.

During registration, candidates must certify that they meet the conditions required.

If their project is shortlisted, the presentation of their project during the European Youth Conference is conditional on the submission of supplementary documents certifying that they meet the requirements, particularly:

- A certificate indicating that the proposed project in no way impacts any intellectual property rights that may be held by a third party.
- The candidates' identity documents.
- A short video presentation of the project (**2 minutes at most**) to be made in French or English. If it is in another European Union language, a translation of the subtitles in French or English must be provided.
- An authorisation to broadcast the video and images as part of the presentation during the European Youth Conference, on all media types (written, web, social networks).

4. Admissibility criteria

Files that are submitted late, incomplete (no form, incomplete form, no video and/or no broadcast authorisations), as well as files that are submitted by persons from third countries who do not reside in the European Union or who do not meet the age criteria (18 to 30 years inclusive), are not admissible.

Given the distribution linked to participation in this call for ideas, in order to be admissible, applicants are required to accept the distribution of the video submitted along with the application file free of all royalties. Candidates that refuse to allow this distribution will not be selected for the shortlist.

The following are also inadmissible:

- Projects submitted by legal entities (public, private or associative bodies), except for youth associations;
- Proposals for the organisation of conference-style events;
- Subsidy applications;
- Projects that have already won an award in a national or European competition, challenge, or hackathon.

5. Selection criteria

The following criteria are taken into consideration at the pre-selection jury stage:

- The project's coherence as it relates to the aim of the call for ideas;
- How well the problem, the environmental and ecological need identified and the proposed solution correspond with each other;
- The clarity and quality of the dossier;
- Reference in the file of plans of action (skill requirements, budget and financing plan tracks) to convert the idea into a business or associative project will be taken into consideration.
- New projects will be given priority that have not yet been selected in calls for proposals launched at a national level by a member state, or at the European level, and requiring support during launch and implementation.

During the final jury decision, the following will be taken into consideration, in particular:

- The benefits and positive environmental and social impact;
- The innovative/creative nature of the project; innovation may come from the novelty of the proposed project or a significant improvement in an existing approach/device.
- Technical, practical and budgetary feasibility;
- For entrepreneurial projects, the economic viability of the project; the intention may be to set them up via the creation of a private company or a socially inclusive economic body;
- Reproducibility/Spin-off capability;

In addition:

- Gender diversity will be taken into consideration, and parity is encouraged as much as possible;
- Intercultural groups made up of young people from different European countries are encouraged.
- Diversity in the profiles of the young people (students, young workers, young people who are neither in training nor employment, etc.) will also be appreciated.
- The project's level of intervention and impact (national, cross-border, European, global, etc.) will be taken into account; a project with a scope that is initially local with the potential of being followed-up at the European level will also be taken into consideration.
- The multidimensional character of the solution (a project providing answers to several social and environmental challenges) will be preferred.

Finally, the motivation to implement the project will be taken into consideration.

6. Selection process

After the admissibility of the files is verified by BeMyApp in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, a jury or several juries composed at the national level (French) of experts, youth associations, and institutions under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and organized by BeMyApp, will carry out an initial selection to establish which projects will be shortlisted following round of assessments.

A maximum of 15 finalist projects will be selected from the preselected projects. These will be presented at the European Youth Conference which will be held in Strasbourg (France) from 24 to 26 January 2022. The young finalists' travel costs will be paid by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (travel costs for departure from a European Union country, plus hotel and meal costs).

If more than 15 projects are preselected, only the 15 best projects will be invited to Strasbourg to participate in the final jury selection. **Only 2 people from the group will be invited to come and present the project in Strasbourg**, both for projects submitted by informal groups and by young people submitting a project on behalf of an association. **The young people will also be invited to attend the European Youth Conference workshops.**

For projects that are preselected but are not invited to participate in the European Youth Conference, the projects' videos will be posted online to enable their project to benefit from this visibility.

A second jury (the final selection jury) made up institutions, young people and qualified persons will be held on January 26, 2022. It will select the **four winning projects which may benefit from financial support for their implementation** and to receive support.

A special prize by the public participating in the Conference, the "PFUE prize", will also be awarded. Indeed, the Conference audience (young delegates and representatives of Member States) will be invited to vote for the project they prefer among those projects proposed. As a result, this prize can be awarded to one of the winning projects or to another project. If it is awarded to one of the four winning projects, the PFUE prize will supplement (and not replace) of the jury's award.

The award ceremony will take place on January 27, 2022 in Strasbourg.

Depending on the health situation, the European Youth conference may be held in a virtual format.

The juries are sovereign and their decisions are final.

7. Calendar

- 15 October 2021: Launch of the competition/call for proposals
- Between 15 October and **2 December**, there is the option of ad hoc contacts with mentors on the online platform to give advice on the drafting of the application file.
- **2 December 2021**: Last date for submission of applications
- December 2021: Organisation of the preselection jury
- December 2021: Invitation of young finalists to the European Youth Conference,
- December / January 2022: webinar to prepare the young finalists and broadcast of the preselected projects on the website
- 24 to 26 January 2022: Presentation of finalists' projects and final selection jury
- 27 January 2022 Awarding of the prizes

8. Prize

By participating in this call for projects, the preselected projects will all gain visibility for their project. For all preselected videos, the project presentation videos will then be broadcast on the website of the French Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the social networks of the Ministry.

The 4 best projects as well as the “public’s favourite” project receiving the PFUE prize will receive a prize (up to 10,000 Euros each), and, if they wish, **receive support in France.** The terms for awarding the prizes and providing support will be specified later.

If the PFUE prize chosen by the public is one of the four best projects selected by the jury, the winner will benefit from the two prizes at the same time, so doubling the amount they will receive; however, the period of the support will not be increased.

Funds must be used to implement the project, and the winners undertake to monitor the use of the funds and keep the competition organisers informed of this.

9. General conditions

See the regulations

10. Contacts when needed

Address of the Ministry

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Directorate of Youth, Popular Education and Associative Life (DJEPVA)

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Information and contact of the service provider

BeMyApp, a Simplified Joint Stock Company with a single shareholder, with capital of 1,250.00 Euros, with its registered office at 18 Boulevard Michelet, 13008 Marseille, France, registered in the Marseille Trade and Companies Register under number B 523 824 258 - (“the Provider”)
<https://www.bemyapp.com/>