

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Youth Engagement and Active Citizenship Consultant

CONTRACT MODALITY Individual Consultancy

DUTY STATION Rome, remotely in Italy, remote

DURATION OF CONTRACT 5 months and 20 days

Purpose of Assignment

Under the guidance of the Adolescent Development Manager and in collaboration with the National YAB Coordinator and the Project Manager, The consultant will: (i) support the National Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and six Local Youth Advisory Boards (YABs) in developing a common vision and understanding of active citizenship, meaningful youth participation, child rights, social cohesion, and peacebuilding; (ii) develop a capacity-building package comprising training modules, facilitation tools, and practical guidance materials; (iii) strengthen the capacities of YAB members through a series of participatory and youth-friendly learning workshops; and (iv) facilitate the co-creation of youth-led action plans (one national and six local), aimed at advancing child rights, strengthening social cohesion, and fostering a more inclusive culture through youth-led advocacy actions, awareness-raising campaigns, and community engagement initiatives at national and local levels.

Scope of Work

Starting in 2020 UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia's National Response in Italy supported the Government of Italy in the establishment the European Child Guarantee to tackle child poverty and social exclusion through evidence generation of child-focused policies and programmes and piloting of innovative approaches, effectively reaching out to disadvantaged children and adolescents. Amongst the models piloted, the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was set up in December 2021 by UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies (MLSP) and the Department for Family Policies of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, to provide a space for adolescents & young people to be meaningfully involved and participate in all phases of the Child Guarantee in Italy.

Following the pilot phase, as of April 2026 UNICEF is providing technical assistance for implementation of the project "C'ENTRO – the network of YABs for active participation", which is funded by the MLSP for a 36-month period. The project aims to strengthen the national YAB and to create 6 YABs at local level – in Milan, Brescia, Rome, Rieti, Palermo and Catania- developing over 3 years an innovative participatory model connected across three levels of governance in collaboration with local (Municipalities and Regions) and national authorities (MLSP, Social Protection and Inclusion Network, managing authorities of the National Programmes of the European Social Fund (NP-FSE), and other relevant organizations and bodies).

At its core is the shared goal of making a concrete contribution to reducing and preventing child poverty and social exclusion by enhancing the skills of adolescents and young people, promoting their meaningful engagement and creating opportunities that allow them to develop their talent and full potential.

In line with its mandate and with the programme activities, since April 2026 the National YAB has continued working on identifying priorities affecting lives of youth and adolescents and strategizing its activities around such themes. In line with the project objective, operational plan and objectives of the ECG/National Fund for Poverty reduction and Inclusion, UNICEF is hiring a Youth Engagement and Active Citizenship Consultant to strengthen the capacities of Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members at national and local levels. The consultant will support young people in exercising meaningful participation, engaging constructively with institutional stakeholders, and contributing to policy dialogue through the development of youth-informed recommendations. Through capacity-building, coaching, and facilitation, the consultant will enhance the ability of YAB members to design and implement effective youth-led advocacy initiatives, awareness-raising campaigns, and community engagement actions that

promote child rights, social cohesion, active citizenship, and sustainable development outcomes in the six project locations, in accordance with the YABs' mandate and the project's objectives.

Work Assignments Overview	Deliverables/Outputs	Delivery deadline to complete the deliverable
Development of training content and tools	Deliverable 1 – Package of adolescent- friendly training modules and toolkit - documents	31 January 2027
Validation by National YAB	Deliverable 2 – 1 validation workshop (online)	31 January 2027
Capacity building of 6 local YABs	Deliverable 3 - 6 in-person workshops, one per local YAB in: Milan, Brescia, Rieti, Rome, Palermo, Catania	28 February 2027
Support to the development of 6 local workplans	Deliverable 4 - 6 local workplans: one per local YAB: Milan, Rome, Rieti, Palermo, Catania, Brescia	31 March 2027
Capacity building of National YABs	Deliverable 5 - 1 workshop (online)	31 March 2027
Support to the development of 1 National workplans	Deliverable 6 – 1 national YAB workplan.	30 April 2026
Document implementation of the training workshops	Deliverable 7 - Final activity report, with detailed description of delivered sessions, challenges and solutions	31 May 2027

Payment Schedule:

Payment will be made on submission and acceptance of deliverables. UNICEF reserves the right to withhold payment in case the deliverables submitted are not up to the required standard or in case of delays in submitting the deliverables on the part of the consultant.

Important Notes

- Individuals engaged under a consultancy or individual contract will not be considered “staff members” under the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and UNICEF’s policies and procedures and will not be entitled to benefits provided therein (such as leave entitlements and medical insurance coverage). Their conditions of service will be governed by their contract and the General Conditions of Contracts for

the Services of Consultants and Individual Contractors. Consultants and individual contractors are responsible for determining their tax liabilities and for the payment of any taxes and/or duties, in accordance with local or other applicable laws.

- Contracts are conditional upon the selected candidate's willingness to comply with any current or future vaccination requirements that may be established by UNICEF, where applicable. Failure to comply with applicable vaccination requirements, where required and without an approved medical exemption by UNICEF, may result in the withdrawal of the consultancy offer or termination of the contract in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions of Contract.
- UNICEF offers reasonable accommodation for consultants with disabilities. This may include, for example, accessible software, travel assistance for missions or personal attendants. We encourage you to disclose your disability during your application in case you need reasonable accommodation during the selection process and afterwards in your assignment.

**QUALIFICATIONS / SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE/ COMPETENCIES
(CORE/TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL) / LANGUAGE SKILLS REQUIRED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT**

- Minimum requirements:
- Education: Masters in social or political sciences, law, psychology, pedagogy, human rights, or a related field.
- Work Experience:
- - At least 3 years of professional experience in designing and delivering training programmes for adolescents and young people.
- - Demonstrated experience in facilitating youth engagement, active citizenship, civic participation, advocacy, leadership development, and/or community mobilization initiatives.
- - Proven experience working with youth groups in diverse socio-cultural contexts.
- Language Requirements: - Fluency in Italian and English is required
- Knowledge/Expertise/Skills:
- - Knowledge of human rights-based approach to programming
- - Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Desirables:
- - Knowledge of the Italian context regarding adolescents and youth, including relevant legal, policy and social service provision frameworks would be an asset
- - Previous experience working with international organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, public institutions, or youth-focused programmes is considered an asset.
- - Experience delivering training across multiple locations and coordinating with local stakeholders is highly
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- youth-focused programmes is considered an asset.
- - Experience delivering training across multiple locations and coordinating with local stakeholders is highly
- desirable