



Step by Step towards more youth participation

The LWF Youth Desks invites you to apply with your initiative on youth participation for 2016.

Background

The Lutheran World Federation through its strategic commitment wants to ensure that *“young people have a place and a voice in all aspects of church and communion life, including decision making and leadership”* (LWF Strategy 2012-2017). Youth participation and youth leadership are held to be cross-cutting priorities which require attention and commitment at all levels of church and communion life.

In on-going commitment to ensuring that young people have a place and voice in the LWF and its member churches; that their views, concerns and hopes are received, and needs are served; as well as to ensure that LWF programs remain relevant to young communion members, the LWF Youth Desk conducted a study on youth participation and leadership in all LWF member churches.

What is Youth Participation?

According to the answers of 80 LWF member churches there are different existing categories of Youth Participation.

- Being and Belonging
- Active participation and decision making
- Having a voice and speaking out
- Receiving and Contributing
- Growing and Building
- Inter-generational sharing and sustainability
- Service and Guidance
- Commitment and shared responsibility

The LWF Strategy defines it likes this:

Young people have a place and a voice in all aspects of church and communion life, including decision making and leadership

Why is LWF supporting youth participation initiatives?

Objectives for this program

1. **Strengthened participation**
To support the implementation of youth participation in the LWF member churches in new spaces and opportunities including participation in international conferences
2. **Innovation**
To support innovative initiatives by young Lutherans
3. **Motivation for youth participation**
To raise motivation and engagement in innovative projects on youth participation.
4. **Visibility of youth participation**
To highlight local projects in the global context and show the improvement of youth participation in the LWF member churches.

Your initiative counts

Does this speak to you?

Do you have an interesting idea on how to involve more with your church life? Are you organizing a training on youth participation? Do you want to start an inter-generational group that thinks about youth participation in your church? Are you developing new ways of being a youth-friendly church?

We invite you to share those ideas with LWF and to apply for a small scale support to kick start your initiative with a financial support up to 400€. In each quarter up to 6 initiatives can be supported.

Application process

To apply with your initiative please [use the online form](#). Only complete applications will be considered in the selection process which will be undertaken by the LWF Youth Desk.

Criteria for application

- The applicant shall be a female or male person and not be older than 30 years (born after 1985)
- The applicant needs to be member of a LWF member church and provide a church endorsement
- All required information need to be provided

Deadlines:

- 30 April for initiatives May-July, confirmation by May 15
- 30 July for initiatives August-October, confirmation by August 15
- 30 October for initiatives November -December, confirmation by November 15

Approved initiatives and their reports will be presented on this platform to enhance the learning and best practice sharing on youth participation in different contexts.

Please get in contact with Caroline Bader, LWF Youth Secretary, for any further questions:
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