



**World YWCA: EU Youth Empowerment Fund powered by Global Youth Mobilization**  
**Call for Interest**  
**Submission of Expression of Interest for Network Solutions Grants**  
**YEF-GYM 2.0**  
**Round 2**

The World YWCA is excited to announce a “Call for Interest” for the Network Solutions arm of the partnership with the European Commission and the Big Six youth organisations, supporting youth-led solutions that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the [EU Youth Empowerment Fund](#). The fund aims to empower young people to tackle community challenges and contribute to the SDGs. In Round 1 of this funding, seven (7) YWCA National Associations were awarded funding in a pool of [604 entities being funded](#) globally across Big Six Youth Organisations. You can read more about these ongoing projects on our social media and website.

**You are invited to submit an Expression of Interest outlining your plans to engage young women in this groundbreaking initiative. After you are selected, World YWCA will invite you to co-create your application, budget, and work plan.**

**This is an opportunity to centre young women’s engagement through leadership, advocacy, and innovation, contributing to not just the SDGs but also the broader goal of the World YWCA, [Goal 2035](#). This is aligned to our [Strategic Framework 2024-27](#).**

**What is the EU Youth Empowerment Fund?**

The EU Youth Empowerment Fund provides grants to young people for projects that address local challenges and contribute to the SDGs. This is powered by the Big Six’s [Global Youth Mobilization](#) initiative, initiated in 2020. The World YWCA, as part of the Big Six network, offers an exciting opportunity for YWCAs to play a key role in supporting young women in leading the change they want to see in the world.

## Who can apply?

This Call for Interest is open to all YWCA entities, including World YWCA-affiliated National Member Associations, Local Member Associations, and YWCA youth Alumni Leaders from eligible countries<sup>1</sup>. We encourage YWCAs with a strong track record of youth engagement and experience working on issues aligned with the SDGs to apply.

## Key Criteria for Selection:

- **Strong Youth Engagement Strategy:** Your Expression of Interest should demonstrate a clear and well-defined strategy for engaging young women in the project development and implementation. This includes plans for youth consultation, leadership development, and ensuring youth ownership of the project.
- **Focus on Empowerment and Capacity Building:** Proposals should showcase how the project will empower young women to develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead change in their communities.
- **Alignment with SDGs:** Projects must address two or more SDGs, focusing on young women's specific needs and priorities in your context, especially at least SDGs 5 and 13.
- **Partnership and Collaboration:** We encourage proposals demonstrating a commitment to building partnerships with other youth organisations, NGOs, local authorities, or private sector entities to amplify the project's impact.
- **Sustainability and Scalability:** Proposals should outline plans for ensuring the project's long-term sustainability and potential for replication in other communities.

## Network Solutions Project Criteria:

The total funding pool is EUR 200,000. The number of projects funded will depend on several factors. The World YWCA will utilise the Network Solutions framework to review expressions of interest:

- **Youth-Led/Focused Projects:** Proposals must demonstrate that young women are at the forefront of project design, implementation, and decision-making.
- **Project Budget:** Project budgets must follow the funding brackets outlined in the table below. Regardless of the funding bracket, a minimum of 75% of the project budget must be allocated to programme activities directly benefiting young women.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** Projects should actively engage young women from diverse backgrounds, including those facing marginalisation or risk factors.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Proposals should outline a plan for monitoring and evaluating the project's impact on young women and the community.

## Funding Tier

Applications must stick to the following funding brackets:

Funding (EUR) ( <i>Range of budget that can be applied for</i> )	Type of applicant
€500 - €2,000	Under 30 years- Young Women YWCA Leaders member of the Alumnae of a YWCA

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Thailand, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

€5,000 - €10,000	Local Member Associations
€15,000 - €30,000	National Member Associations

**Your Expression of Interest must fulfil the criteria below:**

- The document must NOT be more than two (2) pages.
- Highlight the plan, young women's leadership and community engagement, and the connection to SDGs and Goal 2035.
- Explicitly explain how young women will be leading the project.
- MUST- Use at least one of the [World YWCA's tools - RiseUp! Leadership Guide, Safe Spaces, Feminist Consultation Methodology, Storytelling guide](#), etc.
- The duration of the project should be 10-12 months maximum. Must be able to start the project in November 2025.
- Showcase the human resource capacity and plans for the implementation, including monitoring and evaluation.<sup>2</sup>
- Mention the budget window and a tentative breakdown. Note that at least 75% must go directly to activities with young people, and the remaining can include a maximum of 10% management fees, technology, and audit costs.
- A brief highlight on how the budget will be managed and overall expenditures will be undertaken.

**Eligibility requirements:**

- Only affiliated national Member Associations **from the list of eligible nations that are in minimum annual compliance with the conditions of affiliation<sup>3</sup>** can apply. YWCAs already funded in Round 1 are eligible to apply again with a clear understanding of how the project is expanding, levelling up and reaching different locations or categories of young people.
- Only affiliated Local Associations from the list of eligible nations and following their National Associations' minimum annual compliance with the conditions of affiliation to exercise membership rights. Local Associations must know that World YWCA will get compliance clarification from the relevant National Association.
- All Young Women YWCA Leaders from eligible countries who have previously participated in YWCA initiatives. We encourage YWCA Leaders with a strong track record of youth engagement and experience working on issues aligned with the SDGs to apply.

**Selection Process:**

**The youth-led selection process will ensure** young voices are heard and shape the final decision. A committee of World YWCA representatives and young women leaders will review all Calls for

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<sup>2</sup> The time between the project's approval and the start date is very short. We expect the youth team members to lead the co-creation work with the World YWCA team, so their availability is a must.

<sup>3</sup> For the 2025 year, the minimum compliance is defined as: Submission of an updated and fully completed ["Paving the Way: Our Roadmap to Achieving Goal 2035"](#) survey and Payment of affiliation fee or a payment agreement or exemption as per the invoice attached and as stated in the [Affiliation Fee Formula and Procedure](#).

Interest based on the established criteria. All the shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal outlining their young women-led project in detail.

**Timeline:**

- **Call for Interest Issued:** September 2, 2025
- **An open call on Zoom for questions and answers – September 9, 2025**  
We will be offering a series of sessions in English and French. Please choose and register for one of the sessions below:
  - English session - 09:30 -10:30 (CET) - [Register](#)
  - French session - 14:00 - 15:00 (CET) - [Register](#)
  - English session - 16:00 - 17:00 (CET) - [Register](#)
- **Expression of Interest Submission Deadline:** September 26, 2025
- **Shortlisted Applicants Notified by:** October 10, 2025
- **Working with applicants on co-creating full proposals:** October 11- November 11, 2025
- **Full Proposal Submission Deadline:** November 15, 2025

We encourage all eligible National and Local Associations and individual young women, **#YWCALeaders**, to seize this exciting opportunity to support the leadership of young women who bring change to their communities. Together, let's unlock the potential of young women and fuel Goal 2035, engaging young women for the YWCA movement and beyond.

For further information or to submit your Expression of Interest, please write to [getinvolved@worldywca.org](mailto:getinvolved@worldywca.org) with subject line **#YEFRound2Proposal <Name of Association/Name of Individual+Country>**.