

## Call for Nominations: Accountability Hubs Europe

Building on the success of the first stage of the [Accountability Hubs](#), the Kofi Annan Foundation, in partnership with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) are now looking for 10 exceptional young leaders with proven commitment to democratic life, accountability, inclusive governance, transparency, and structured youth participation in decision-making processes across Europe.

The selected individuals will form the first European Accountability Hubs, and engage in a series of activities to:

- Deepen understanding of accountability mechanisms within democratic processes;
- Build leadership skills through a targeted, comprehensive training and mentoring programme;
- Access funding and support to design and implement community projects;
- Develop regional networks of young people working on similar issues with shared values; and
- Co-create a practical toolkit of participatory actions deployable by youth across communities, inspired by structured dialogue models.

We welcome applications for young leaders from all sectors, civil society, politics, business, social media and art, who can mobilise diverse youth networks for meaningful civic engagement.

### 1. **Background**

Amid global democratic challenges and the urgent need for structured youth inclusion in public affairs, this project seeks to enhance youth enfranchisement, empowerment and participation at national, regional, and local levels of democratic governance in Europe.

With half of the world's population aged under 30, democratic sustainability depends on the active citizenship and meaningful engagement of young people. Yet, young people, particularly

from marginalised groups, including young women, minorities, and vulnerable communities, are chronically underrepresented in parliaments, political parties, local authorities, and at the ballot boxes. Socio-economic and educational barriers to youth participation are exacerbated by a lack of information and knowledge on democratic mechanisms, accountability, and pathways to inclusive participation.

## 2. Objectives

The project aims to:

- Empower motivated young leaders in Europe to inspire peer engagement in democratic life and leadership through their networks;
- Recognise exceptional contributions shown by young leaders in Europe, on issues relevant to defending democracy, promoting accountability and transparency in leadership, enhancing youth participation in public affairs, amplifying underrepresented voices, and upholding fundamental rights to freedoms of assembly, association, expression and media;
- Deliver a targeted training and mentoring programme within regional Accountability Hubs, bringing together selected young leaders to build leadership and project management skills while expanding their regional and international networks for structured democratic engagement.
- Support **pilot projects** by offering each participant a **€3,000 grant** (subject to defined criteria) to design and implement community initiatives that advance accountable governance, transparent decision-making, and meaningful youth participation in public affairs at local, regional, or national levels, with dedicated guidance throughout.

## 3. Selection criteria and process

The call for nominations was publicly announced and shared with a wide range of organisations advancing youth inclusion, youth participation and/or democracy and leadership issues in Europe. Nominees/Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Aged between 18 and 35 at the time of nomination;

- Demonstrated record of engagement on issues related to accountability, youth participation, leadership or similar;
- Citizens and resident in Europe: including the 27 EU member States, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Ukraine and Albania.
- Fluent in English (written and spoken);
- **Available for online training and mentoring (August – December 2026): 1-2 online sessions per week (average 2.5h/session).**
- **Available to attend an in-person ‘Learning and Networking Event’ on the sidelines of the European Partnership for Democracy’s annual conference on 8-10 June 2026. The event will take place in Brussels. Travel and accommodation will be covered by the Kofi Annan Foundation.**

The Kofi Annan Foundation will review shortlisted nominations, prioritising group diversity (geographic, gender balance) and candidates from traditionally underrepresented groups in decision-making, such as young women.

Please note that:

- **The questionnaire with replies, a cover letter, and a short video, must be submitted by the nominating body to the following email:**  
**[accountabilityhubs@kofiannanfoundation.org](mailto:accountabilityhubs@kofiannanfoundation.org)**
- **The nomination deadline is 13 April 2026, midnight (CET) Late submissions will not be considered.**
- By applying to the Accountability Hubs, nominees consent to public project activities, including featuring on the Kofi Annan Foundation website and in social media (name/photo).