



Sara Pöll

nominated by OBESSU

Advisory Council on Youth 2020-2021 Candidacy Motivation

Dear members of the Youth Forum,

Coming from an organisation that represents an enormous group of secondary learners, I've experienced first hand how it is to be ignored, taken as a token or totally left out of matters that concern students. **I believe that in order to have holistic representation, the presence of an OBESSU representative is crucial in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe (AC).**

I trust that my student activism profile, ranging from a grassroots activist, national school student activist and a European student activist enables me to represent young people and secure a strong voice for youth rights in the AC.

Main areas of interests & expertise

A huge amount of my activism has been dedicated to fighting for youth rights with a rights-based approach. I believe education shall not only educate young people about their rights but also about how they can practice them. For the past years I worked on the topic of civil rights with a focus on democracy. **Through my experience, I've learned that those that are outside of the "youth bubble", the unorganised youth, need extra focus.** It is important for me to follow this topic in the AC and ensure that every young person accesses their rights, regardless of their background.

Youth participation has always been an area close to my heart. I've been working on the topic since I was a part of my municipality student council. **In OBESSU I was in charge of Seeds4Integration, a programme focusing on participation of displaced students,** including through a focus on the 2019 EP Elections and providing space for young people to pave the way towards active democratic participation for their peers.

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In my experience, peer education to participatory and democratic approaches creates a culture of participation that is unique and contributes greatly to creating a generation of active and aware citizens.

Advocating for education, that fosters inclusive and peaceful societies and encompasses aspects that appeal to everyone and not the few, has been the main focus of my activism journey. After overseeing Seeds for integration, and working on a Study Session on Inclusive and Quality Sex & Gender Education, **I've seen first hand how education acts as an agent of inclusivity and gained experience and knowledge of different aspects that can promote this**, such as quality assurance, global citizenship education, and welfare and wellbeing. This is what I want to bring with me into the work of the AC.

The next two years

Coming from a democratic membership-based organisation, where there are many different stances on various topics. I find it essential to be fully aware that I am representing the interests of many and not only the interests of a selected group.

I believe that honest and close communication between every representative body within YFJ is vital for a successful mandate. It is important to ensure that member organisations are aware of the work of the AC and that the relationship isn't only revived during statutory meetings of YFJ. I will work towards making the work of the AC as visible as possible so the YFJ Board and membership are up to date and able to cooperate throughout 2020-2021.

In my previous youth work, I've dedicated myself to a mandate running longer than 2 years. Alongside this, I am a university student and an employee of a youth social centre. These two aspects have followed me throughout my mandate in OBESSU and have not affected my commitment these past 2 years, rather enriched my experience. Because of this, **I am confident that I will be able to commit to the AC and carry out a successful mandate for the upcoming 2 years.**