

Presentation of the Youth Economic, Social and Environmental Council

1. Overview

The Youth Economic and Social Council was established in November 2007, in close partnership with the Department of Education, Youth and Sport. In 2019, the Youth Economic and Social Council (CES), like its senior counterpart, became the Youth Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE).¹

A voluntary initiative, the Youth CESE gives pupils attending Lycée Albert I, Lycée François d'Assise – Nicolas Barré (FANB) and Monaco's Vocational and Catering School the opportunity to have their voices heard in public debate, by considering issues which are then referred to the Monegasque authorities following a vote by their peers.

Nearly 500 pupils have been involved with the Youth CESE since 2007.

2. Operation and objectives

The Youth CESE initiative, which is repeated each year, helps to foster an engaged civil society of young people by offering them an experience “in the spirit of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council”.

A true bridge between the worlds of education and work, the experience allows those who take part to gain a better understanding of how to engage in dialogue, listen and respect the opinions of others. Moreover, it enables young people to participate in the life of the country and learn about how its institutions work and the role that civil society can play in guiding public policy, and also to become more aware of the major challenges facing society and contribute innovative ideas to public debate.

Modelled on the way the CESE operates, each session features:

- an introductory plenary session to officially launch the work of the young people, introduce the Council's role and remit, and discuss its way of working;
- supervision of each group of pupils by a sponsoring teacher;
- working meetings in partnership with the secretariat and members of the CESE;
- discussions and meetings, held at the request of the young people, with contacts from the public and private sectors who are partners of the Council, to inform the young people's thinking;
- a closing plenary session, during which the young people present and debate their plans before submitting them to a vote by their peers.

Plans which attract a majority of votes become proposals.

The Youth CESE's proposals are then included on the agenda for the plenary session of the senior Council, at which they will be presented before being referred to the Monegasque authorities.

¹ In 2019, the Economic and Social Council (CES) became the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (CESE) as a result of Ordinance No. 7.774 of 8/11/2019 (Journal de Monaco of 29/11/2019), from the date on which the Ordinance was published.

3. Interest from the Monegasque authorities

This young people's assembly has attracted a huge amount of enthusiasm from the Monegasque authorities ever since it was created.

Each year, it is sponsored by a high-profile figure from the Principality, who attends the presentation of the Council's work during the annual closing session. These sponsors have included:

- In 2008, H.S.H. Prince Albert II attended to meet the young people and hear their proposals.
- In 2011, H.E. Mr Serge Telle, the Minister of State, assured the pupils of his support in implementing their plans.
- In 2012, the President of the National Council, Mr Stéphane Valeri, encouraged the pupils by highlighting that two pieces of legislation passed in 2011 addressed issues raised in their proposals (the digital economy and food services – proposals no. 15 and 16).
- In 2013, the President of the Employers' Federation (FEDEM) sponsored the Council.
- In 2014, the President of the Monaco Union of Trade Unions (USM) sponsored the Council.
- In 2015, H.E. Mr Philippe Narmino, the Secretary of Justice, came to support the young people.
- In 2016, H.E. Mr Bernard Fautrier, Vice-President and CEO of the Prince Albert II Foundation, was the sponsor.
- In 2017, Mr Patrice Cellario, Minister of the Interior, was the sponsor.
- In 2018, Mr Didier Linotte, President of the Supreme Court, was the sponsor.
- In 2019, Mr André Garino, Honorary Chair of the Council, was the sponsor.
- In 2021, Ms Geneviève Berti, the Government Press Secretary, was the sponsor.
- In 2022, Mr Frédéric Genta, Country Chief Digital Officer, was the sponsor.

Since 2007, the 15 Youth CES(E) terms of office have led to the adoption of 63 proposals, which have been presented and referred to the Prince's Government (see attached table).

Much of the work of the Youth CESE has been followed up and has been very successful.