

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2026

*Young people's
access to
social rights*

**EUROPEAN YOUTH
CENTRE STRASBOURG**
15-17 September 2026



Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

09:30 Room 0.1 EYCS	Welcome and opening plenary • Matjaž Gruden: Director for Democracy, Council of Europe • Ingrid Bellander Todino: Head of Unit for the Youth and Intergenerational Fairness in DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture • Liliya Elenkova: Chair of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) • Vita Davydova: Board Member of the European Youth Forum
10:15 Room 0.1 EYCS	Keynote speech Maria Carmen Pantea: Chair of the Scientific Committee
10:45 Room 0.1 EYCS	Aims, programme, setting the scene and getting to know each other
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Parallel workshops 1: Access to social protection and quality public services • Aşkın Keser: Career Construction in the Age of Uncertainty: The Paradox of Talent Alignment and Access to Social Rights for Generation Z • Mehmet Murat Dogan: Outsourcing Trust: Youth Work, Minority Young People and the Hidden Politics of Access to Social Rights • Emilio José Gómez Ciriano: Dancing with wolves? Strategies for young people to cope with old and new barriers in the defence of social rights in a turbulent context • Alma Karasaliu: When institutions become unreadable • Fabiana Maraffa: Youth Progress Index
12:30	Lunch break
14:00	Parallel workshops 2: Access to social protection and quality public services • Fatlinda Daku: Waiting to Leave? Youth Uncertainty, Belonging and Social Rights in Kosovo • Lou Borderie (ATD Fourth World): Delivery of Social Rights that Leave No Youth Behind • Celia Consolini and Thomas Demazieres: Living conditions of students relying on food aid in France: quantitative and qualitative evidence, and co-constructed solutions for better access to everyday human rights. • Matteo Dressler: Gen Z, gender and social rights • Alice Gillam (Eurodesk): Unequal Access to Learning Mobility: Systemic Barriers and the Role of Youth Information for Minority Groups
15:30	Coffee break
16:00-17:00 Room 0.1 EYCS	Round table on civic space and access to rights • Gurgen Petrosyan: The Cost of Advocacy: Analysing Access to Rights and the Risk of Retaliation for Youth-Led Organizations in Contested Civic Spaces • Gilda Isernia and Amy Stapleton: Access to rights and shrinking civic space for young people in Europe, 2024-2025 • Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
17:00-17:30	Discussion and recap of the day
18:30	Reception and dinner at the EYCS hosted by the Chair of the Joint Council on Youth, Liliya Elenkova and the Head of the Youth Department, Tobias Flessenkemper

09:15-09:30	Recap of day 1
09:30-10:30	Parallel workshops 3: Access to participation • Ismail Alkhateeb: Beyond the Invitation: Redefining Participation for Young People with Migration Backgrounds in Local Democracy • Gulsah Sevinc and Tülin Şener: Access to Civic and Political Participation as a Social Right: Structural Conditions and Psychological Resources in Turkey • Dragan Stanojević: How Individual and National Inequalities Shape Youth Political Participation in Europe • René Neumann: Involuntary Abstainers: Out-of-Residence Voting and the Disenfranchisement of Young Italians
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Parallel workshops 4: Access to digital rights • Tijana Milosevic: Young People's Social Rights and Media Banning Policies • Laura Alčiauskaitė: Digital Tools, Unequal Opportunities: Technology Use and Perceived Technology Competence Among Young People with Disabilities • Jessie Klzi: Re-Excluded: AI-Driven Educational Transformation and the Reproduction of Inequality • Teodora Panus: Automated or Abandoned? AI, Digitalisation and the Erosion of Nonformal Learning Spaces for Marginalised Youth • Alessandra Coppola: From Formal Rights to Lived Access: Youth Work, Digital Mediation and Young People's Access to Social Rights in Disadvantaged Contexts
12:00	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	World café: Access to health and education services • Ewa Krzaklewska and Magdalena Klarenbach: Inclusive Mobility: Erasmus+ Participation Among Students with Fewer Opportunities • Ela Serpil Evliyaoğlu: Governing Loneliness: A Comparative Policy Analysis of Youth-Focused Loneliness Strategies in the United Kingdom, Japan, and Emerging European Approaches • Alexios Georgalis and Robert Thomson: Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health as a Social Right among Adolescent Migrants: Resilience, Protection and Structural Barriers • Marko Jovic: Sacrificing the Classroom for the Pitch: Structural Barriers to Social Rights for Failed Professional Youth Athletes
15:00	The group moves to the Palais de l’Europe (Room 10)
16:00-17:30 Room 10 Palais de l'Europe	Panel discussion on the review of the Council of Europe ENTER Recommendation on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods • Tatiana Puiu: Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights • Lien Van Eekert: Member of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) • Dragoş Tarta: Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) • Mary Drosopoulos: Youth researcher
18:30	Dinner in town (free evening)

09:15-10:00	Recap of day 2
10:00-11:00	Parallel workshops 5: Access to work and employment • Lotta Haikkola: How do young people understand their rights as workers and industrial relations? Examples from Finland • Ardita Vejseli: Between Entitlement and Exclusion: Roma Youth Access to Welfare and Employment Services in North Macedonia • Dejana Pavlovic: Beyond Identification: Are Local Systems Ready to Support NEET Youth? Evidence from Youth Guarantee Pilot Districts in Serbia • Audrey Rain: From the Youth Guarantee to the Contrat d'Engagement Jeune: Does a More Intensive Activation Programme Improve Employment Trajectories?
11:00	Coffee break
11:30 Room 0.1 EYCS	Round table on housing • Mattia Mansueto: Beyond Formal Entitlement: LGBTQI Young People, Housing Rights and Institutional Access in Europe • Peter Verhaeghe (Caritas Europa): Accessible and affordable housing • Maria Carda Gargallo: Spanish Youth Council, Observatory of Youth Emancipation in Spain 2025
12:30	Lunch break
14:00	Parallel workshops 6: Access to social rights for youth in situations of extreme exclusion • Laura Vallejo-Slocker & Celia García-de-León: Poverty and Social Rights among Care Leavers from Child Welfare in Europe: A Comparative Analysis Using EU SILC Data • Jane Freedman: Advocating for rights for migrant and refugee youth in Europe • Guillaume Negri: Young Forced Migrants, Welfare Regimes and the Structural Exclusion from Social Rights. A Comparative Study of France and Ireland • Anna Romandash: Living on the Edge of Rights: Young People in Ukraine's Frontline Regions • Tatevik Azizyan: Youth, Peace and Security Beyond Participation: Access to Social Protection and Public Services in Displacement Context in Armenia
15:00- 15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:15	Feedback and discussion
16:15-17:00 Room 0.1 EYCS	Closing plenary • Nina Portolan: Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) • Alexandre Stutzmann: Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe • Tobias Flessenkemper: Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe
18:30	BBQ at the EYCS