

Research Symposium 2026

Young people’s access to social rights

AGENDA
15-17 September 2026, EYCS, Strasbourg

Day 1: Tuesday, 15 September	Day 2: Wednesday, 16 September	Day 3: Thursday, 17 September
09:30 Welcome and opening plenary 10:15 Keynote speech 10:45 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 12:30 Lunch break 14:00 Parallel workshops 2 Access to social protection and quality public services 15:30 Coffee break 16:00 Round table on civic space and access to rights 17:00 Discussion and recap of the day 18:30 Reception and dinner at the EYCS	09:15 Recap of day 1 09:30 Parallel workshops 3 Access to participation 10:30 Coffee break 11:00 Parallel workshops 4 Access to digital rights 12:00 Lunch break 13:30 World café: Access to health and education services 15:00 The group moves to the Palais 16:00 Panel on the CoE ENTER Recommendation 18:30 Dinner in town (free evening)	09:15 Recap of day 2 09:30 Young people’s access to employment and social rights 10:00 Parallel workshops 5 Access to work and employment 11:00 Coffee break 11:30 Round table on housing 12:30 Lunch break 14:00 Parallel workshops 6 Access to social rights for youth in situations of extreme exclusion 15:00 Coffee break 15:30 Feedback and discussion 16:15 Closing plenary 18:30 BBQ at the EYCS

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09:30	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 • Vita Davydova European Youth Forum • Lilya Elenkova Chair of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)
10:15	Keynote speech • Maria Carmen Pantea Chair of the Scientific Committee
10:45	Aims, programme, setting the scene 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 Quart Monde) 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	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
17:00-17:30	Discussion and recap of the day
18:30	Reception and dinner at the EYCS

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 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 • Sanna Aaltonen How Education Policy Constructs Different Forms of Youth Citizenship: A Finnish Case Study • 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
16:00-17:30	Panel on the CoE ENTER Recommendation (Palais, room 10) • Tatiana Puiu Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights • Lien Van Eekert CDEJ, Policy Officer European and International Youth Affairs, Flemish Department of Culture, Youth and Media, Belgium • Dragoş Tarta Advisory Council on Youth • Mary Drosopoulos Youth researcher
18:30	Dinner in town (free evening)

09:15-09:30	Recap of day 2
09:30-10:00	Young people’s access to employment and social rights Interview with Nicoletta Merlo Chair of the Youth Group of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
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	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
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-deLeón 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	Closing plenary • Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe • Nina Portolan, Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) • Researcher/Scientific Committee member • Youth Partnership
18:30	BBQ at the EYCS