

# Youth Partnership

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



## Research Symposium Young people's access to social rights

15-17 September 2026

European Youth Centre Strasbourg

### Concept note and Terms of Reference for the scientific committee

Young people's access to social rights, in relation to housing, rising cost of living, employment, and access to essential services, is an area of concern highlighted by both youth organisations and member States across Europe. In the current social, economic, and political climate, it is critical to ensure that social policies have a meaningful and positive impact on young people; especially given the clear link between access to social rights, social justice, democratic stability, and security. It is also essential to consider the situation of vulnerable and marginalised youth (young people with fewer opportunities), who face additional barriers to inclusion and participation, as well as considering the intergenerational fairness and strengthening dialogue and support across generations.

Improving living conditions across Europe – particularly for young people – is a longstanding priority of both the Council of Europe and the European Commission. This focus is rooted in key strategic and policy frameworks:

- Council of Europe reaffirms its commitment to young people's rights through the [Council of Europe's youth sector strategy 2030](#) (priority "Access to rights"), the [European Social Charter](#), the [ENTER! Recommendation](#), and the [Reference framework for a youth perspective](#).
- European Commission places a priority on young people's rights through the [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#), the [EU Youth Strategy](#) (2019-2027) and related [European Youth Goals](#), particular Goals 3 "Inclusive societies", 5 "Mental health and well-being", 7 "quality employment for all", 8 "quality learning", the youth mainstreaming approach, etc.

Through the "[Youth Partnership](#)" – the co-operation programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth – the two partner institutions have further explored the topic of young people's access to social rights through a range of studies, publications and events. These includes: the study [Finding a place in modern Europe](#) (2015), the [Review of the documents on young people's access to rights and non-discrimination: A Desk Research Study](#) (2021), [Issue #29 of Coyote magazine](#) (2019), the [Perspectives on Youth](#)

publication series, the 2016 [Symposium \(Un\)Equal Europe? Responses from the Youth Sector](#) and 2022 [Symposium Navigating Transitions: adapting policies to young people's changing realities](#).

Building on this context, the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership will organise a **Research Symposium on young people's access to social rights from 15 to 17 September, at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg**. The Symposium aims to bring together and discuss existing knowledge on young people's social rights from social, economic, legal, and political science perspectives, with the goal of supporting effective policy development and youth work practice. The Symposium will gather up to 80 participants, including academics and young researchers, policymakers and representatives of youth organisations.

The Symposium will be prepared in close co-operation with a **scientific committee**, consisting of up to 12 experts in the area of youth social rights.

The members of the scientific committee are expected to:

- Take part in a preparatory meeting and discussions on 11-13 March 2026, at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg
- Join the round-table "Youth Perspectives in Action: A new chapter for youth research in Europe" taking place on 12 March, which is part of the programme of the Presidency of the Republic of Moldova of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (November 2025 to May 2026)
- Prepare the call for abstracts for the Symposium and actively contribute to the dissemination of the call among their networks
- Participate in the selection of abstracts for Symposium
- Attend the Symposium on young people's access to social rights, and lead or facilitate thematic inputs, depending on their field of expertise
- Depending on the interest and thematic expertise, be part of the editorial team for the Youth Knowledge Book, "*State of play of research on young people's access to social rights in Europe*" following the Symposium (2026-2027)

Other relevant outputs from this activity to which members of the scientific committee may contribute, will include an issue of Insights publication, a 4-page knowledge brief and a webinar on youth social rights, and a variety of multimedia materials including videos, podcasts, infographics, etc.

### **Indicative timeline**

- 11-13 March 2026: expert group meeting - setting up the scientific committee
- April-May: call for abstracts
- May-June: selection of abstracts and participants to the Symposium
- 15-17 September 2026: Symposium, European Youth Centre, Strasbourg
- 2027: Publication of the Youth Knowledge Book, "*State of play of research on young people's access to social rights in Europe*", compiling the most relevant and insightful contributions from the symposium.