



DFD-YD/ETD (2025) 74

Strasbourg, 7 April 2025



Supporting Young Refugees: The Next Chapter

Seminar on Reviewing and Reinforcing the Implementation of the
Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on Supporting Young Refugees in
Transition to Adulthood

- On the occasion of the World Refugee Day -

19-20 June 2025

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

Deadline to apply: 4 May, 23:59 CET

Concept Note Call for Participants



Background

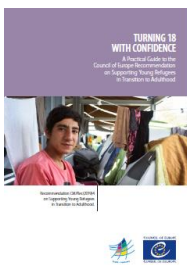
Transition to adulthood is a phase in a young person's life marked by milestones and achievements, such as that of one's 18th birthday. However, for all young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers turning 18 means an overnight loss of the rights and protection that they previously enjoyed as children, especially if they were unaccompanied. What should be a moment of celebration, can instead mean a sudden lack of access to basic human rights, such as housing or education. For some, it means becoming undocumented, excluded from most necessary services.

Human rights protection and inclusion is key for the cohesion of European societies and deserves a special focus. At the Council of Europe level, the protection of young migrants and refugees transitioning into adulthood has long been identified as a priority area for its work.

On 24 April 2019, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4: Supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood ([the Recommendation](#)). The Recommendation asks governments of member states to adopt measures to ensure that "young refugees receive additional temporary support after the age of 18 to enable them to access their rights, and at recognising and strengthening the role of youth work and the youth sector in promoting better access to these rights, including through their work to build social cohesion and inclusion."¹

The Recommendation offers guidance to member states on several crucial aspects related to the transition to adulthood, including access to social services, housing, and society; educational opportunities, vocational training, and integration into the job market; as well as access to healthcare and psychological support.

In May 2021, the Committee of Ministers approved the Council of [Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe \(2021-2025\)](#), outlining initiatives aimed at implementation of the Recommendation. Additionally, the Joint Council on Youth devised a roadmap to support it. As part of this, the Youth Department crafted the Guide [Turning 18 with Confidence](#) launched at a public event in April 2023. Turning 18 with Confidence presents the Recommendation in a practical manner and includes a collection of examples, questions and guidelines that can assist policymakers, youth organisations, young people, researchers, and other actors in promoting the implementation of the Recommendation.



Access to adequate housing and the job market is key for integration and inclusion in the medium- and long-term, which is still a big issue for many young people. The new crises worsened the vulnerability of refugees in Europe in general, it exacerbated already existing problems and highlighted the most urgent areas for taking action on.

From Guide "Turning 18 with Confidence"

¹ The Recommendation defines "young refugees in transition to adulthood" as young people having reached the age of 18 who arrived in Europe as children and have obtained or qualify for refugee status under the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, or for subsidiary protection under European Union or national legislation.

In June 2024 Council of Europe Youth Department organised a seminar to reassess the current needs and situations faced by young refugees and migrants in transition to adulthood and support advocacy and practice to implement the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood. The seminar examined participants' experiences of key challenges but also good practices from their country contexts and a large number of proposed solutions. Key areas include legal barriers to family reunification, health care and psychological supports, access to education, employment, residency, housing and care and aftercare. Overall, the findings from the seminar demonstrated the complex transition to adulthood for Young Refugees, Exiled, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Undocumented migrants influenced by legal, cultural, political, personal, and support-related factors. The youth seminar emphasised the importance of ongoing engagement and the active role of young participants in shaping human rights and informing future solutions.

The seminar

[The Joint Council on Youth](#), at its 51st meeting, took note of the progress done with activities in support of the implementation of the Recommendation. The Joint Council also agreed to carry out on a review of the Recommendation' application in 2025.

The review process of the Recommendation through a desk review study is currently ongoing which will involve various groups of key stakeholders including:

1. National youth policy institutions (e.g. members of the European Steering Committee for Youth)
2. International/European youth organisations (e.g. members of the European Youth Forum, Advisory Council on Youth)
3. Refugee-led organisations, including youth organisations
4. Non-governmental organisations and projects active in supporting and promoting the rights and inclusion of children and young people in the contexts of migration and asylum
5. National institutions responsible for migration and refugees (e.g. national contact points of the Division on Migration and Refugees of the Council of Europe)
6. National human rights bodies and institutions.

The review process will be exploring the following questions:

- What is the main role/importance of the Recommendation's adoption?
- How useful is the recommendation for each stakeholder group?
- How relevant is the Recommendation's content today (per stakeholder group)?
- How can/should the rights of young refugees in transition to adulthood be further protected and promoted, including through youth work and non-formal education.

The preliminary findings of the review process will be presented and discussed at the main activity devoted to this purpose which is the seminar to be held in Strasbourg on 19-20 June 2025. The conclusions and recommendations of the report will be presented to the Joint

Council on Youth in October 2025, who should adopt the findings of the first review process of the Recommendation.

The activity builds on the discussions held during the seminar in June 2024 and will consist of plenary sessions, working groups, and opportunities for participants to share their experiences with one another. It will also serve as a moment to reflect on the status of the implementation of the Recommendation, five years after its adoption.

The seminar will also be an occasion to mark World Refugee Day together with participants of the seminar.

Aim and objectives

The seminar aims at contributing to the review process of the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood by analysing and reinforcing its preliminary findings.

Objectives

1. To collect experiences in the implementation of the guidelines of the Recommendation on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood and share current challenges faced by practitioners and young people themselves.
2. To discuss, analyse and validate the preliminary findings of the desk research commissioned by the Council of Europe to review the Recommendation especially in view to its added value.
3. To make proposals of actions/measures to further support the rights of young refugees in transition to adulthood through youth policy actors, refugees and human rights organisations in the next 5 years period (2025 – 2030).
4. To raise awareness about the plight of young people affected by migration and refugee policies on the World Refugee Day (20 June)
5. To reinforce cooperation and support among youth-, migrant- and refugee-led organisations and support the inclusion of a youth perspective in migration and refugee-related policies and programmes which affect their transition into adulthood.

Draft programme structure

	Thursday 19 June	Friday 20 June
<i>Morning</i>	09:30 – 13:00 Opening and setting the stage Recalling the Recommendation, the guide and relevant frameworks Presenting preliminary findings of the Review process of the Recommendation of Committee of Ministers 2019 (4) Celebrating World Refugee Day	Sharing experiences and practices on transition to adulthood in different working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Access to a secure residence permit- Education- Housing- Youth work and non-formal education- Preparing for the 18th birthday

		- Financial independence and employability ...
<i>Afternoon</i>	14:30 – 18:00 Revisiting the outcomes of the seminar “Turning 18 with Confidence” organised in June 2024 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest Reinforcing the preliminary findings in working groups Presentations of working groups Exchange and Reception to mark the World Refugee Day jointly organised with the participants of the 11 th Meeting of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Migration (tbc)	Reassessing the relevance, priorities and scope of the Recommendation Making proposals of actions/measures to further support the rights of young refugees in transition to adulthood through youth policy actors, refugees and human rights organisations in the next 5 years period (2025 – 2030). Presentation of proposals Conclusions and priorities for further action and Evaluation and closing.

A detailed and updated programme will be made available at a later stage and shared with the participants of the seminar.

Participants

The participants of the seminar will be practitioners, experts or youth workers who work to ensure a safe transition into adulthood of young migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and those who transition into undocumented adulthood, in a variety of projects and institutions. All participants are also expected to be:

- a) resident in one of the state parties to the European Cultural Convention² (exceptions can be made if justified).
- b) committed to uphold and advocate for the rights of young migrants and refugees;
- c) be knowledgeable and motivated to share practices with other actors in the field.
- d) be under 30 years of age (for youth leaders only - exceptions can be made in justified cases).
- e) able to work autonomously in English.
- f) affiliated with a relevant youth organisation, youth centre, NGO or public institution.

² <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/state-parties-european-cultural-convention>

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of participants irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the seminar in Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire seminar can be reimbursed. Participants are expected to arrive on 18 June and depart on 21 June.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any access needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the seminar. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

How to apply

Everyone interested in taking part in the seminar must apply by filling in the online form at <https://forms.office.com/e/CvG3UrZvTe> before **4 May 2025**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any questions, please write to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe at eyc.programme@coe.int.

