



DFD-YD/ETD (2025) 147 rev

Strasbourg, 25 August 2025

## Study Session

### “UNITING FOR A SAFER EUROPE: EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS”

Study session organised within the [Youth for Democracy programme](#)  
in cooperation with [Youth and Environment Europe \(YEE\)](#)

European Youth Centre in Strasbourg

Room 0.1

1 – 5 September 2025

## Draft Daily Programme

## **Sunday, 31 August 2025**

Arrival of participants  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Welcome evening

## **Monday, 01 September 2025**

09:30 Opening and Welcome

with Sophie KWASNY, Head of the Education, Training, and Cooperation  
Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe  
Learning and Living Together (House Rules)

11:00 Break

11:30 Team Building activity – *getting to know each other*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Daily programme and objectives: *A,B,C of the study session*

16:00 Break

16:30 Intro to the subject and to the theme of environmental defenders

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Intercultural evening

## **Tuesday, 2nd September 2025**

09:15 Intro to the Council of Europe

11:00 Break

11:30 Mapping existing frameworks

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Peer learning and current realities/exchange of experiences

16:00 Break

16:30 World Café on the Council of Europe work in the field of study session including the relevant mechanisms with:

Claire DUBOIS, Secretariat of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) of the Council of Europe

Natalia KOBYLARZ, Senior Lawyer, European Court of Human Rights

David MILNER, Secretary to the Steering Committee on Human Rights (CDDH) of the Council of Europe

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Free evening

### **Wednesday, 3rd September 2025**

09:15 Introduction to the day

09:30 Challenges: anti-protest laws and SLAPPs  
with Yves LADORE from the BeLIFE project

11:00 Break

11:30 What can I do? – discussing individual and collective actions

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Free Afternoon

19:00 Free Evening

### **Thursday, 4th September 2025**

09:15 Introduction to the day

09:30 Deepening understanding of the issue

11:00 Break

11:30 Introducing the next three sessions “Time to work” – *activity planning to produce the practical outputs of the study session: A pocket guide to help environmental defenders understand their rights and know what to do in different situations, and a position paper aimed at decision-makers, with clear demands on how to improve protection for environmental defenders.*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Time to work part 1

16:00 Break

16:30 Time to work part 2

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Optional Movie Night

### **Friday, 5th September 2025**

09:15 Introduction to the day

09:30 Time to work part 3

11:00 Break

11:30 Sharing in plenary and getting input: Group 1 and 2 (pocket guide and position paper)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Defining next steps

16:00 Break

16:30 Final evaluation

18:00 Evaluation

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Farewell party

### **Saturday 6th September 2025**

Departure of participants

## **Aim and objectives of the study session “*Uniting for a Safer Europe: Empowering Environmental Defenders*”**

Aim: To train young environmental defenders on how to utilise democracy, human rights and the rule of law to achieve their advocacy goals.

### **Objectives:**

1. To connect young environmental defenders across Europe and facilitate their interaction with institutions and policy-makers.
2. To equip young environmental defenders with knowledge of European human rights-based protection tools to help them address the threats they face.
3. To understand the importance of a strong rule of law for the protection of environmental defenders.
4. To empower youth to engage as environmental defenders through informed, democratic participation and awareness of their civic role.