



TURNING 18 WITH CONFIDENCE

Workshop for young refugees and youth workers



International Launching Event

About the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on
Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg (France)
17-19 April 2023

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: 11 March 2023



Co-organised with the Council of Europe's Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees, and the Co-operation Programmes Division (DGI) with the support of the Icelandic Presidency of the Council of Europe

Background

Young refugees, asylum seekers and migrants after the age of 18 are particularly vulnerable, because of the overnight change in their legal status and the loss of the rights and protection that they previously enjoyed as children. Their human rights protection and inclusion is key for the cohesion of the host societies and deserves a special focus. At the Council of Europe level, the protection of this group has long been identified as a priority area for its work.

In 2015, the Joint Council on Youth issued a Statement on the refugee crisis in Europe, which highlighted this particular vulnerability and led to further debate on addressing existing challenges in the field. On 24 April 2019, the Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4: [Supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood](#) (the Recommendation). It provides, among others, guidance to member states on various key areas related to transition to adulthood including access to social services, accommodation and welfare benefits; access to education, vocational training and the labour market; and access to health care and psychological support. The adoption of Recommendation was among the priorities of the Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe, coordinated by the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees (SRSG).

In May 2021, the Committee of Ministers adopted the [Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe \(2021-2025\)](#), which foresees activities to promote the practical implementation of the Recommendation and highlights the important role cooperation projects can play in the field. Likewise, the Joint Council on Youth adopted a roadmap to support the implementation of the recommendation in October 2019. As part of this roadmap, the Youth Department developed a Guide which simplifies the language of the Recommendation and assists different actors to develop a better and clearer understanding of the proposals and policy measures. The Guide provides, among others, clear indications and a checklist for different actors with specific guidelines of how to implement the Recommendation.

In parallel with the work of the Youth Department, in January 2022, the Council of Europe started implementing the multilateral project "Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood – UACFutures", which aims to foster long-term improvements in the quality of support provided to unaccompanied migrant children during their transition to adulthood. In line with the Recommendation, this Project addresses four key areas of particular importance regarding transition to adulthood: (a) psychological impact and support; (b) legal support and access to basic rights; (c) access to education and the labour market; and (d) access to accommodation.

The Project is funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Council of Europe and is implemented jointly with the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum of Greece, SolidarityNow (Greece), Stichting Nidos (Netherlands) and Fundación Cepaim (Spain). Various tools such as a Compendium of Good Practices, a Toolkit on Transition and a Roadmap to Adulthood are also being developed in the framework of this Project, complementing the work of the Youth Department in the field.

The comprehensive work and tools developed by the Council of Europe create, therefore, the circumstances and open space for dialogue and exchange on effectively supporting the transition of young refugees and migrants to adulthood.

The international event

The International Launching Event *Turning 18 with Confidence: Supporting Migrant and Refugee Children Transitioning to Adulthood* will be held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg on 18 April 2023.

The aim of the event is to raise awareness and improve the knowledge and capacities of relevant professionals in supporting young refugees and migrants in their transition to adulthood, inter alia by:

- Presenting and launching the different tools on transition to adulthood in the context of asylum and migration, *i.e.*, Guide for the implementation of the Recommendation, etc.
- Presenting the findings and tools developed in the framework of the multilateral project "Building Futures, Sharing Good Practices: Migrant Children's Transition to Adulthood – UACFutures".
- Presenting and launching the SRSG website on transition to adulthood.
- Raising awareness on other Council of Europe tools to support the effective transition of young refugees and migrants to adulthood.
- Engaging in dialogue with partners and other relevant stakeholders, including young refugees and migrants, to identify areas where further support is needed.
- Fostering international exchanges of experiences, lessons learnt and know-how.

The event will bring together representatives of public authorities, institutions, international organisations, youth and non-governmental organisations, social and legal professionals, academia and other relevant professionals involved in the protection of migrant children and young refugees and migrants.

The workshop for young refugees and youth workers

The Youth Department organises a workshop for young refugees and youth workers around the launching event. The workshop will enable the participants to:

- Know the Youth for Democracy programme of the Council of Europe and the role of young refugees therein;
- Explore in depth the Recommendation and the guide associated with it;
- Make proposals for further advocacy and support to young refugees within the Council of Europe youth sector
- Liaise with peers and potential partners across Europe.

Programme

The participants in the workshop will naturally and automatically take part also in the launching event. The workshop will take place right before and right after the event.

Monday 17 April 14:30 – 18:30	Tuesday 18 April All day	Wednesday 19 April 09:30-13:00
WORKSHOP	LAUNCHING EVENT + WORKSHOP	WORKSHOP

A detailed daily programme of the workshop and of the launching event will be available soon. Participants in the workshop will have the possibility to address the participants of their launching event.

Profile of participants

The workshop is open for young refugees and youth workers with direct experience with young refugees (in youth work, aid and support, and advocacy) from all member states of the Council of Europe. All participants must:

- Be aged between 18 and 35 years (exceptions are possible);
- Be able to work in English;
- Be committed to uphold and advocate for the rights of young refugees;
- Be fully available for the duration of workshop;
- Be motivated to take part and contribute to the programme of the workshop and the launching event.

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

Visa and travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the workshop in Strasbourg will be paid for or reimbursed by the Council of Europe according to the rules in place. Administrative assistance may be provided to apply for visa if relevant.

Accommodation

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

Language

English and French will be the working languages of the workshop, so all participants should be able to express themselves autonomously in English or in French (simultaneous interpretation will be provided).

Application procedure and selection of participants

The Council of Europe will select up to 20 participants based on their motivations, experience and relation with the objectives of the workshop. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed about their application by 15 March 2023.

The application form must be completed online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/> by **11 March 2023** at the latest.

Further information

For any additional information about the activity: eyc.programme@coe.int