



Public discussion

**Youth, Ukraine, Europe
Coming of age during war. How can European youth policy adapt ?**

Wednesday, 2 October 2024
[European Youth Centre in Strasbourg](#)
(30 rue Pierre de Coubertin, Strasbourg, France)
Room 0.1

Draft Programme

17h00

Intorductory remarks

Matjaž GRUDEN, Director, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe
Yevheniia KRAVCHUK, Member of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Youth and the Society of the Future, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

17h20

Towards inclusive youth policy in Ukraine: state of affairs and ways forward

Andriy CHESNOKOV, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine

17h35

Coming of age during war: impact on European youth policy

Howard WILLIAMSON, Professor of European Youth Policy, University of South Wales
Yevheniia FEDOTOVA, Member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe, IFLRY – International Federation of Liberal Youth
Oleksandr SANCHENKO, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, Co-chair of the Council on Youth Affairs under the President of Ukraine
Nina GRMUŠA, Chair, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Exchange with youth stakeholders, participants in the seminar: Coming of age during war: Youth work in Ukraine today. How can European youth policy adapt?

Moderator: Anca-Ruxandra PANDEA, Senior Project Officer, Youth Department, Council of Europe

18h50

Concluding remarks with Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe

19h00

End of public discussion. Cocktail reception.

Youth, Ukraine, Europe

Coming of age during war. How can European youth policy adapt?

The lives of too many young people are still shaped by war and its consequences. Young people coming to the age under the conditions of the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine are deprived to enable to fully benefit from one of the Council of Europe's core values of human rights on a daily basis. Fear for the future is widespread and young people's confidence in peaceful and democratic societies is challenged.

Key actors of youth work and youth policy, both professionals and volunteers, play an important role in supporting young people living in the context of war, through the promotion of a human-rights based approach to youth work, focusing on participation, inclusion and well-being. Conditions of war challenge the capacity of stakeholders to address the pressing needs and concerns of the young people of Ukraine, whether uprooted or still living in their home communities.

The [4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states which took place in Reykjavík on 16 and 17 May 2023](#) declared that ensuring a democratic future for all in Europe requires investment in the participation of young people in democratic life. Without a certain level of well-being and appropriate conditions, it becomes significantly more difficult young people of Ukraine to benefit from this.

In this context, the Council of Europe Youth Department is organising a public discussion entitled Youth, Ukraine, Europe: Coming of age during war. How can European youth policy adapt? The discussion will be held on 2 October 2024, from 17h00 to 19h00, at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, 30 rue Pierre de Coubertin.

The event will bring together youth sector stakeholders, policy makers and practitioners, as well as the Council of Europe experts and member states, concerned to address the consequences of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine on the lives of young people. It will shed light on the role of youth policies and youth work in Europe in supporting young people experiencing war and its consequences and in addressing their key needs and challenges.

The public discussion is part of a series of events organised by the Council of Europe youth department serving as a platform to mainstream youth perspectives in the context of Ukraine's recovery efforts and to support Ukrainian authorities in developing comprehensive policies for young people in Ukraine today and after the end of the war.