

14th Meeting of the COE-FRA-ENNHRI-EQUINET Collaborative Platform on Social and Economic Rights

## Young people's access to social and economic rights: Addressing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis

1 July 2024  
Vilnius, Lithuania

### PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS

*(per order of appearance in the programme)*



#### **Erika Leonaitė, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of Lithuania**

Erika Leonaitė is the Parliamentary Ombudsperson for investigating the complaints regarding the activities of state institutions and officials. Erika Leonaitė holds a PhD in Law and works as a lecturer at Vilnius University's Institute of International Relations and Political Science and the Faculty of Law. Previously Erika Leonaitė has worked in the Constitutional Court. In 2017, she started working at the Human Rights Monitoring Institute, where she focused on the issues of domestic violence, the rights of victims and the right to a fair trial.



#### **Jolita Miliuviene, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of Lithuania**

Jolita Miliuviene is a Parliamentary Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania and acting Equality Ombudsperson. She holds a PhD in Law and works as a lecturer of constitutional law and researcher at the Institute of Public Law in Mykolas Romeris university. She is a member of International Society of Public Law. Previously Jolita Miliuviene worked at the Constitutional Court for more than 15 years. She's an author and co-author of number of publications in constitutional law and human rights field. e.



**Aoife Nolan, President of the European Committee of Social Rights, Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the Human Rights Law Centre, School of Law, University of Nottingham**

Aoife Nolan is President of the Council of Europe's European Committee of Social Rights, which she joined in 2017, having served as Vice-President from 2021-22. She is also Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham. Professor Nolan's professional experience in human rights and constitutional law straddles the legal, policy, practitioner and academic fields. She has published extensively in the areas of human rights and constitutional law, particularly in relation to social rights and children's rights. Professor Nolan has acted as an expert advisor to several governments as well as a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on social rights issues, including numerous UN Special Procedures, UN treaty bodies, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, multiple NHRIs and NGOs. She has held visiting positions at academic institutions in Europe, Africa, the US and Australia. She is an Academic Expert member at Doughty Street Chambers where she co-leads the Children's Rights Group and is a member of the Doughty Street International steering group.



**Cláudia PINTO, Policy Officer, Social and Economic Inclusion, European Youth Forum Moderator**

Cláudia leads the advocacy work on young people's transition from education to the labour market at the European Youth Forum, with a focus on policies to improve the quality of traineeships in Europe. With expertise in European social and labour policy, she has previously worked at the Committee of the Regions and the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions. Cláudia has a Masters Degree in European Studies, writing her dissertation on posted workers.



**Christina DIMAKOU, Seconded National Expert, Equality, Roma and Social Rights Unit, Fundamental Rights Agency**

Christina Dimakou is a Seconded National Expert who works for the Unit for Equality, Roma and Social Rights of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). She is a legal expert, specialized in child protection, the rights of children on the move, legal assistance and representation of beneficiaries of international protection, youth participation, research and legal analysis on social rights, equality and non-discrimination issues, and long-standing experience in programme management within the EU and UN funding mechanisms. Prior to FRA, Christina was working for many years in the field of humanitarian action in Greece with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the NGO METAdrasi Action for Migration and Development.



**Sergio PEREZ BARRANCO, Policy Officer, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA)**

Sergio Pérez is Policy Officer at FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, which is the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight to end homelessness in Europe. He leads the organisation's work in the youth and LGBTIQ+ policy areas, and also works on migration.



**Veerle STROOBANTS, Collaborator, Combat Poverty Service, Belgium**

Veerle Stroobants holds a PhD in Social Pedagogy and worked a couple of years as a researcher at the KULeuven (Belgium). For 16 years, she has been a staff member at the Belgian Combat Poverty, Insecurity and Social Inclusion Service (Combat Poverty.be). The Belgian Combat Poverty Service (CPS) is an independent public institution mandated to evaluate the effectiveness of fundamental rights for people living in poverty by organizing a structural long-term dialogue between people living in poverty and other actors in the fight against poverty (civil society, research, administration...). Her main interest is in socio-cultural rights, rights related to family life, social inequalities and just transition, participatory processes that cross different kind of knowledge.



**Matthäus FANDREJEWSKI, Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) Youth Representative**

Matthäus Fandrewski started his career as an apprentice in the German public administration. He worked for several years in a county administration before he started his studies in “international Business Administration” in Berlin and Paris. After his bachelor’s degree he finished his Master’s degree in “Political Economy of European Integration”. Since his very first employment he is an active trade unionist. Since 2013 he is the Youth Representative of CESI – the independent European Trade Union Organization. Since 2022 he is president of the biggest youth trade union for the public service. Furthermore, he is a member of the European Commission Expert Group “European Apprentices Network”.



**Mario VINKOVIĆ, Professor of Labour Law and Social Security, Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Labour, Equality and Human Rights Law (2013-2016), Faculty of Law, University of Osijek, Croatia; Member of the European Committee of Social Rights**

Mario Vinković, Ph.D., is full professor and head of the Institute for Labour and Social Legislation, Social Work and Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Law University of Osijek, Croatia. He teaches Labour Law, Social Security Law and EU Labour Law and EU Equality Law. Mario was previously the holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Labour, Equality and Human Rights Law, vice-rector for teaching and students at the University of Osijek, head of the university's Doctoral School and vice-dean for science and international cooperation at the Osijek Faculty of Law. He is a full member of the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences, a member of the State Judicial Council and between 2011 and 2023 he was director of PhD program in European Studies at University of Osijek. Mario published the books in Croatian: Child labour in international, European and comparative labour law (2008), Fundamental rights and the prohibition of discrimination in the jurisprudence of European and national courts (with professor Snjezana Vasiljevic in 2019), several edited books in Croatian and English, and co-authored a Handbook on discrimination and mobbing in the workplace (in Croatian and English). His research is mostly focused on the problems of discrimination in labour relations, gender equality, transformation of labour relations and labour law, social aspects of human trafficking and child labour, etc.



**Ms Inga BALNANOSIENĖ, Director of Employment Service under the Ministry of social security and labour, Vice-chair of EU PES Network**

Coordinating at the national level the implementation of labour market policy, active participating in drafting new efficient employment services and methods, coordinating the national research on the labour market needs, supply and demand, evaluation/assessment of the efficiency in the field of employment services, motivation, planning of staff, training needs analysis, supervising performance indicators establishment and coordinating the performance management policy. The participation in the preparation of the National Reform Programme is in line with the EU Employment Strategy and EU 2025, the National programme for the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Active participation in the Public Employment Services network (EU level) provided many opportunities for learning from best practices in the other Member States in designing and implementing employment, social inclusion, and work-related policies.



**Aziza YUSSUPOVA, Senior Policy Officer, ENSIE Network**

Aziza Yussupova holds a Master's degree in international relations, diplomacy and conflicts resolution. She is the Senior Policy Officer at ENSIE and has a broad expertise in EU WISEs/social economy related policies as well as in EU tools and policies related to/such as the EPSR, EU Semester, SDGs, Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership, young people, people with disabilities etc. For more than 6 years now, she represents ENSIE at the European Commission's strategic meetings and at the European Solidarity Corps research center's advisory board. Moreover, she is in charge of the social impact measurement study, public procurement policies and database development. Finally, she is in charge of managing EU projects' implementation.



**Anja JOKIĆ, Bureau Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), Council of Europe**

Anja Jokic is a Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ). She is a Bureau Member and a coordinator for a Priority Focus Group on Inclusive and Peaceful Societies.

Over the past 10 years, she engaged with young people, civil society organisations and stakeholders such as international organisations, representatives of the Serbian and foreign governments, and EU institutions to develop data and rights-based youth policies, programs and activities.

She holds a BA in International Relations and an MA in Peace Studies while she is currently a Master's Student focused on EU Labour and Human Rights Law. Anja is also a proud OSCE Dialogue Academy alumna and a recipient of the OSCE Peace and Security Scholarship..



**Maurizio CUTTIN, Bureau Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), Council of Europe**

Maurizio is a member of the Bureau of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. In his bureau capacity, he leads the portfolio stream on access to rights, a realm that heavily covers socio-economic rights and the emerging field of youth rights. He also leads individual thematic portfolios on revitalising democracy and the rights of young migrants and refugees.

Prior to his elevation to the Advisory Council on Youth, Maurizio served as the British Youth Council's lead international representative—a role he continues to hold. In this capacity, he has continually championed efforts to promote young people's access to structured means of political participation.



**Louise SAVRI, Policy officer, coordinator of the Youth Initiative, France, National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH)**

Louise Savri has been working at the French NHRI since 2018. She started as a coordinator of the annual Report on racism, antisemitism and xenophobia in France. Since 2020, her work within the CNCDH focuses on Gender Equality and Education. She drafted many opinions and contributed to the CNCDH's main reports (LGBT+ Rights, Disabled persons' Rights with an intersectional approach...). Besides, she also drafts contributions for international bodies (such as the Universal Periodic Review and CEDAW).

As a former History teacher, Louise Savri is at the head of the CNCDH's Human Rights Education working group and coordinates the "Youth Initiative" 2024-2025.

Louise Savri joined the ENNHRI Working Group on Economic and Social Rights in 2023.



**Ognjen MARKOVIC, Team Leader of the Western Balkans Youth Policy Lab**

Ognjen Markovic is Team Leader of the Western Balkans Youth Lab Project, which is EU funded and Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) implemented project that kicked-off in January 2020, aiming to provide opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making. Project covers Western Balkans Six economies and seeks to strengthen formal and informal mechanisms of youth participation by increasing mobilization of youth in policy making and increasing co-creation of relevant policies with youth.

Before leading the project, Ognjen has been working as the Youth Policy Expert in RCC for 2 years and five years in prominent think-tank organization in Montenegro in field of EU integration process and youth participation.

During his Bachelor and Post-graduate studies at the Faculty of Political Science, Ognjen was gaining practical skills within international organizations, embassies and civil society organizations, while being exchange student at universities in Italy, Slovenia, Poland and Azerbaijan. He was also Youth Deleagte of Montenegro in Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.



**Marharyta VORYKHAVA, Vice-présidente du Conseil consultatif sur la jeunesse (CCJ), Conseil de l'Europe**

Margo (Marharyta) Vorykhava is a dedicated advocate for youth policy and student rights. She serves as the Advisor to President-elect Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on Youth Policy and Students, focusing on securing international support for Belarusian youth in the pursuit of democracy. She is the Vice-chair of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, marking the first time a Belarusian has held this position. Her role involves developing youth policies and strategic planning across Europe. Additionally, Margo is the President of the Belarusian National Youth Council RADA, where she champions the interests of young people in Belarus. Margo's extensive experience in youth work and international advocacy has established her as a key figure in promoting democratic values, intercultural dialogue, and youth empowerment.



**Nikolaos A. PAPAPOULOS, Council of Europe Consultant, Research Fellow at University of Turin, Coordinator of the Greek section of the Academic Network on the European Social Charter and Social Rights (ANESC)**

Dr. Nikolaos (Nikos) Papadopoulos is a researcher, lecturer and practicing lawyer, particularly interested in the intersection of human rights law and social law. He has worked as a lecturer and research fellow for several universities, and he has provided consultancy services to various international organisations, including the Council of Europe Department of Social Rights. He holds a Ph.D. in Law from Maastricht University with a dissertation on the dynamics of the European Social Charter for the judicial enforcement of economic and social rights at the national level. Nikolaos also serves as the coordinator of the Greek section of the Academic Network on the European Social Charter and Social Rights (ANESC/RACSE). Recent publications include the article 'Active Ageing' Under International Law: The Localization of a Human Rights-Based Approach, 18(1) *Diritti umani e diritto internazionale*, 5-34 (2024) and the chapter 'Article 14 – The Right to Benefit from Social Welfare Services' in: S. Angeleri, K. Casla and S. van Drooghenbroeck (eds) 'The European Social Charter: A Commentary, Volume 3 (Articles 11 to 19)', Brill/Nijhoff Academic Publishers, 83-102 (2024).