

ENTER YOUTH WEEK! Nos droits Notre vie

ENGLISH!



The *Enter!* Recommendation in brief

Strasbourg, 7-12 July 2019



PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE
FRENCH PRESIDENCY

2019 MAI - NOVEMBRE
Conseil de l'Europe
Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



European Youth Centre

30 rue Pierre de Coubertin
67000 Strasbourg

 Tram stop: Parlement Européen

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 23 00

www.coe.int/youth-week

#Youthcoe #Enteryouthweek #enterCOE

#nosdroitsnotrevie #socialrights #COE70 #FRprezCdE

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe.

Details of the programme activities and specific timetable are likely to be adjusted. Consult the updated programme and more information about the week at www.coe.int/youth-week

Photo credits: Council of Europe, Centre Social Papin, Ville de Strasbourg
Designer credits: Pedro Meca

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 2019



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉDUCATION
NATIONALE ET
DE LA JEUNESSE

Strasbourg.eu
eurometropole



In cooperation with the French
Presidency of the Committee of
Ministers of the Council of Europe.



PRÉSIDENTIE FRANÇAISE
FRENCH PRESIDENCY

2019 NOV - NOVEMBRE
Conseil de l'Europe
Council of Europe

Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

THE ENTER! RECOMMENDATION IN BRIEF

What is the Council of Europe?

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. It was founded in 1949. It is now celebrating its 70th anniversary!

All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

The Council of Europe advocates freedom of expression and of the media, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities. It has launched campaigns on issues such as child protection, online hate speech, and the rights of the Roma, Europe's largest minority.

The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Convention on Cybercrime. Council of Europe member states no longer apply the death penalty.



The Council of Europe is distinct from the European Union (28 countries) although it is sometimes confused with it. They share the same fundamental values – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – but are separate entities with very different roles. The European Parliament is a body of the European Union and is also based in Strasbourg! The Union has adopted the European flag which was created by the Council of Europe in 1955!



Palais de L'Europe, Strasbourg

What are social rights?

Human rights are the rights that one has simply because one is human; they enable a person to live with dignity. They are translated into protections and entitlements which are included in legal provisions and policies and which must be respected by state authorities.



Social rights are human rights!

Social rights are part and parcel of human rights. Social rights are all about the basic necessities for a dignified life and about living and working together. Social rights are based on ideas of equality and seek to guarantee that people have **access to social and economic goods, services and opportunities**. These should be adequate, affordable, accessible and adaptable to the people's needs. States are obliged to make efforts to fulfil social rights, and not to weaken a social right previously achieved.

The social and economic rights guaranteed by the European Social Charter concern:

- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Social Protection
- Integration and Participation
- Non-Discrimination

These rights exist without discrimination on grounds of "race", colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction of social origin.

The European Social Charter guarantees the rights of children and young people to '... *appropriate social, legal and economic protection*' in relation to education, health, social welfare, housing, employment, minority status and the quality of public service.



All social rights apply to young people!

Who are... "Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods"?

Human rights apply to everyone. But some people face particular difficulties in accessing them, notably vulnerable groups and individuals. Young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, especially those living in poverty, are often such a vulnerable group. It may be that facilities, meeting spaces and services such as a school, sports club or hospital, are far away, expensive or of low quality. School classes may be over-crowded, youth centres damaged, or policing services under-staffed. This results in discrimination in accessing human/social rights: not because of *who* young people are but of *where* they are. Disadvantaged neigh-

bourhoods are areas or communities where people experience poverty, violence, exclusion or lack of opportunities to a higher degree than the majority of the population. Young people living in these areas not only become isolated; they also face a higher risk to be confronted with violence, sexual abuse, poor living conditions and homelessness.

4

Disadvantaged neighbourhoods are areas or communities where people experience poverty, violence, exclusion or lack of opportunities to a **higher degree than the majority** of the population.

Picture a young person who is unable to study and follow the profession of his or her choice. Who is unable to benefit from the internet on a daily basis because it is more expensive. Who cannot invite friends over for dinner or whose family suffers from stress due to long-term unemployment and economic hardship. These disadvantages are harmful to young people's physical and mental health, and might prevent them from securing a place in education or employment.

What is a Recommendation?

A Recommendation is a document of the Council of Europe addressed to the governments of member states, on matters that concern human rights, democracy or the rule of law. Recommendations are not legally binding but provide a policy framework, advice and proposals for the governments to implement at the national level.

What is the *Enter!* Recommendation?

The Enter! Recommendation was adopted in 2015 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe as a response to the fact that young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods are more vulnerable to all kinds of risks, including poor physical and mental health, substance abuse, self-harm, violence and exclusion.

The recommendation is directed primarily to national governments. However, as it is about the situation of young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, the policies of local authorities are often the most relevant. The recommendation was elaborated with proposals coming from young people and youth workers involved in the *Enter!* project¹.

¹ *Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights*. The full version of the recommendation is available in 10 languages on the youth portal of the Council of Europe: www.coe.int/en/web/youth/adopted-texts

The recommendation is fully explained in the handbook "Taking it Seriously" at www.coe.int/enter



What does it recommend?

The *Enter!* Recommendation proposes policy measures in various fields of youth, education and social policy. Primarily, it calls on the governments of member States to implement public policies to prevent and eradicate the poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion that young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods face, through :

- ▶ Improving the **living conditions** of young people. It is recommended, for example, to invest in education and training, career counselling, secure housing and free health programmes;
- ▶ Making vocational **training and quality “second chance education” opportunities** available and more attractive. Young parents (especially young mothers) should be encouraged to continue or return to education or to pursue employment;
- ▶ Improving the access of young people to **affordable housing**, and actively considering the special housing needs of the most vulnerable groups;
- ▶ Acknowledging that all young people should have **equal access to public facilities**, such as post offices, playgrounds and community centres;
- ▶ Adopting **gender-sensitive**, inclusive and learner-centred curricula to make them more accessible and relevant to the needs of young people;
- ▶ Actively supporting initiatives of young people and their organisations that promote social inclusion and **address stigma and prejudice**;
- ▶ Encouraging responsible authorities to **value the role of non-formal education** and youth workers/organisations. Youth work practitioners and organisations that provide non-formal learning opportunities should be supported;
- ▶ Improving public access to information technologies and **youth-friendly information** and counselling services.

The *Enter!* recommendation emphasises the need for dialogue between the various responsible authorities at the local, regional and national level. Local authorities and providers of youth work are closer to the communities and usually better understand the specific needs of young people living therein.

Council of Europe



The recommendation also recognises the motivation of many young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to actively contribute to improving their individual and communities' situations.



Young people are **part of the solution**, not the problem!

What is the review process?

Five years after it was adopted, the Council of Europe wants to know how the recommendation is being applied by governments, local authorities or youth organisations. Information is collected through:

- A study of documents and policy measures
- An online survey involving youth policy professionals, youth workers and young people
- The participants of the *Enter!* Youth Week.

The results of this review will be used to set future priorities and actions by the Council of Europe and by member states. Your opinions and experiences are therefore very important! The results of the review will be submitted to the Joint Council on Youth and to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The review in the Week's programme

The *Enter!* Youth Week brings together young people and youth workers active in *Enter!*-related projects. Representatives of local authorities will also take part and share their experiences.

All participants are encouraged to contribute with examples from their local realities, share concerns and best practices, and collaborate to building a Europe that promotes access to social rights for all young people, especially for those who need it the most.

In the programme of the week this will happen mostly in 3 moments:

- On Tuesday, in focus groups dedicated to matters of access to social rights in disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- On Thursday, with the preparation of the conclusions and follow-up
- In the preparation of the Message to the Council of Europe by the participants.



Social Rights are **Our Rights and Our Lives!**