



Online Conference

Youth Meets the Union

“Empowering Youth in the EU to Advocate for Their Social Rights”

9-11th of October 2024

Overview

[JustEU&Me](#) aims at providing young people (18-30 yo) and representatives of youth associations with knowledge, skills and opportunities for actively participating in developing recommendations to improve EU and Member States' policies implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and addressing social justice issues such as access to education, gender equality, equal opportunities etc.

The project is implemented from November 2022 – November 2023 in 7 EU countries including Italy, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Greece, Czech Republic and Belgium, where we have engaged with diverse young people, to become progressively able to develop their stance on different principles of the EPSR, communicate and advocate for it as a national and then as a European group.

The project is implemented by seven European organizations: ActionAid Italia (Italy), European Movement International (Belgium), Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiatives (Poland), International Initiatives for Cooperation (Bulgaria), International Initiatives for Cooperation Galicia (Spain), KMOP (Greece) and Transitions (Czech Republic). The project is funded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme.

The **final European Conference “Youth Meets the Union - Empowering Youth in the EU to Advocate for Their Social Rights”** will take place online from **9 – 11 October 2024** and is an opportunity to foster debate between young people, civil society and European policy and decision-makers on topics of youth's interest and to present the national manifestoes and the European Youth Manifesto jointly developed by youth activists from Italy, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, and Greece.

PROGRAMME

[Wednesday 9th of October 14:00 – 16:30](#)

Day 1: Youth Meets the Union: Youth Perspectives and EU Realities on Gender Equality

14.00 - 14.15 Opening remarks by

Michele Restuccia, Community Mobilizer Officer, ActionAid Italia

Maja Bobić, Head of Partnerships and Projects, European Movement International

14.15 - 14.50 Keynote speech by **Stefan Olsson**, Deputy Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Q&A session moderated by **Petros Fassoulas**, Secretary General, European Movement International

10 min break

15.10 - 16.30 Panel discussion “Youth Perspectives and EU Realities on Gender Equality”



Moderator: Joe Lynam, Journalist

- Silvan Agius**, Cabinet expert, Member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for Equality, European Commission
- J romine Andolfatto**, Policy and Campaigns Officer, European Women’s Lobby
- Aimee Duprat Macabies**, Advocacy and Communications Officer, Center for Democracy and Technology Europe (CDT)
- Youth Perspectives on Gender Equality** presented by Project’s Youth Activist by **Michele Sbattella** (Italy)

Thursday 10th of October 14:00 – 17:00

Day 2: Youth Meets the Union: Youth Perspectives and EU Realities on Equal Opportunities and Social Rights

14.00 - 14.05 Opening remarks by **Karen Jensen**, Projects and Partnerships Assistant, European Movement International

14.05 - 14.50 Keynote speech by **Jo Leinen**, Member of the European Parliament 1999-2019, President of the European Movement International 2011-2017

Q&A session moderated by **Petros Fassoulas**, Secretary General, European Movement International

10 min break

15.00 - 16.15 Panel “ Youth Perspectives and EU Realities on Equal Opportunities and Social Rights”

Moderator: Joe Lynam, Journalist

- Mira-Maria Danisman**, Head of EU office, Federation of Finnish Enterprises, European Economic and Social Committee
- Aisling Reidy**, Advocacy Officer, ILGA-Europe
- Tamara Ciobanu**, Executive Committee member, European Students’ Union
- Valeria Setti**, Deputy Head of Unit, Programmes and Financial Management, DG JUST
- Youth Perspectives on Equal Opportunities and Social Rights** presented by Project’s Youth Activist **Chara Polydorou** (Greece) and **Emanuela Szykowna** (Poland), **Adam Czarnecki** (Poland)

10 min break

16:25 – 17:00 Workshop “Youth Councils: Youth claiming their spot in the political arena”, organised by **KMOP**



This session will explore the role of youth councils in promoting youth participation in politics and decision-making across Europe. It will discuss the tools and frameworks established by the European Union to support youth councils and provide some indicative examples of their implementation in EU countries. Furthermore, recommendations for enhancing youth participation will be presented, including promoting digital engagement and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders. The session will conclude with a real-life example and sharing of experience, featuring insights from a recent youth council member.

Sofia Koudouni, Project Manager at KMOP, Main author of the report

Kyriaki Tsiantou, Primary School Teacher, Former Secretary of the Youth Council of the Municipality of Larissa

Friday 11th of October – 10:00 – 12:30

Day 3: Youth Meets the Union: Schools at the intersection of Democracy, Opportunities, and Rights

10.00 - 10.10 Opening remarks by **Karen Jensen**, Projects and Partnerships Assistant, European Movement International

10.10 - 10.30 Keynote speech by **Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen**, Director General, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Q&A session moderated by **Petros Fassoulas**, Secretary General, European Movement International

10 min break

10.40 - 12.05 Panel discussion “Schools at the intersection of Democracy, Opportunities, and Rights”

Moderator: Joe Lynam, Journalist

- ❑ **Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- ❑ **Elisa Gambardella**, Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator, Solidar Foundation
- ❑ **Li Andersson**, Member of the European Parliament, The Left group in the European Parliament
- ❑ **Benedetta Scuderi**, Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance in the European Parliament
- ❑ **Youth perspectives on Schools at the intersection of Democracy, Opportunities, and Rights**, presented by Project’s Youth Activist **Iryna Yuriv** (Italy), **Vanesa Evbuomwan** (Greece) and **Anastas Krusińska** (Poland)

12.05 - 12.30 Winners’ selection

12:30h End of the event