

European Youth Week

Kick-Off Event – Friday, 24 April 2026

European Parliament in Brussels

Full Programme

07:30 – 09:15	<p>Arrival of participants</p> <p>Security check and accreditation</p> <p>Welcome breakfast (Room: espace Yehudi Menuhin)</p>
	<p>Welcome and opening plenary session (Room: Hemicycle)</p> <p>This session will be web streamed via the European Youth Portal</p> <p>Hosted by Ariel Bianucci and Myrto Vamvakoudi, Masters of Ceremony</p> <p>Opening video messages by Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament and by Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.</p>
09:15 – 10:20	<p>High-level session moderated by Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen, Director General of DG EAC between high level speakers and inspirational young people.</p> <p>Nela Riehl, Member of the European Parliament and Yuliya Ralko, Belarusian youth advocacy expert and journalist.</p> <p>Marios Panayides, Permanent Secretary at the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and Lars Westra, EU Youth Delegate to the United Nations.</p> <p>Rareş Voicu, President of the European Youth Forum and Anastasia Andreou, Digital Communications Expert, Inclusion advocate and International Relations Secretary of the Board of the Cyprus Youth Council.</p>
10:25 - 10:35	<p>Closing of the plenary by Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, featuring a dynamic conversation with Magnus Lenngren, Vice President of Red Cross Youth Norway.</p>

10:40 - 11:00	Interactive participation of the audience on specific questions via the voting buttons on the seats in the Hemicycle. Artistic performance and closing of the plenary session
11:00 - 17:30	Marketplace & interactive activities*
11:30 - 12:45	1st round of breakout sessions*
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch will be provided to all participants (Room: espace Yehudi Menuhin) Parallel activity “Networking event” (Room: Mickey Mouse Café)*
14:30 - 15:45	2nd round of breakout sessions
16:30 - 17:45	3rd round of breakout sessions
17:45 - 19:00	Closing reception (Room: espace Yehudi Menuhin)

***Marketplace & interactive activities:** There will be 27 stands and interactive activities, at which youth initiatives, policies and/or EU programmes that concern young people will be presented. Participants will be able to visit the stands to discuss and share their ideas and perspectives.

***Breakout sessions:** There will be 43 breakout sessions taking place across 3 rounds, which aim to bring together stakeholders and participants to share relevant topics of interest for young people. Participants can register for up to 3 sessions via the EP Events app, one per round total.

***Networking event:** Participants will have the opportunity to take part in a networking event, where they can meet with EU policymakers to learn more about related EU policies and career pathways.

Exhibition “Three Decades of Solidarity”: With the support of the National Agencies for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, an exhibition “Three Decades of Solidarity” will be held on the Esplanade Solidarność 1980 outside the European Parliament in Brussels from **22 April to 6 May 2026**. It aims to celebrate the 30th anniversary of volunteering funded by the European Union. An online version of the exhibition will also be featured via the [European Youth Portal](#).