

# European Youth Week

**Kick-Off Event – Friday, 24 April 2026**

**European Parliament in Brussels**

## Full Programme

07:30 - 09.15	<p><b>Arrival of participants</b></p> <p><b>Security check and accreditation</b></p> <p><b>Welcome breakfast</b> (Room: espace Yehudi Menuhin)</p>
09.15 - 11:00	<p><b>Welcome and opening plenary session</b> (Room: Hemicycle)</p> <p>This session will be <b>web streamed</b> via the <a href="#">European Youth Portal</a></p> <p>Hosted by <b>Ariel Bianucci</b> and <b>Myrto Vamvakoudi</b>, Masters of Ceremony</p> <p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ by <b>Roberta Metsola</b>, President of the European Parliament (video message)</li><li>▪ by <b>Ursula von der Leyen</b>, President of the European Commission (video message)</li></ul> <p><b>High-level session</b> featuring <b>dynamic paired conversations</b> between high level speakers and inspirational young people</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Pia Ahrenkilde Hansen</b>, Director General of DG EAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Nela Riehl</b>, Member of the European Parliament and <b>Yuliya Ralko</b>, Belarusian youth advocacy expert and journalist</li><li>▪ <b>Glenn Micallef</b>, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport and <b>Magnus Lenngren</b>, Vice President of Red Cross Youth Norway</li><li>▪ <b>Marios Panayides</b>, Permanent Secretary at the Cyprus Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth and <b>Lars Westra</b>, EU Youth Delegate to the United Nations</li><li>▪ <b>Rareş Voicu</b>, President of the European Youth Forum and <b>Anastasia Andreou</b>, Digital Communications Expert and Inclusion Advocate</li></ul>

	Interactive participation of the audience on specific questions via the voting buttons on the seats in the Hemicycle.
	<b>Artistic performance and closing of the plenary session</b>
11:00 - 17:30	<b>Marketplace &amp; interactive activities*</b>
11:30 - 12:45	<b>1<sup>st</sup> round of breakout sessions*</b>
12:45 - 14:00	<b>Lunch</b> will be provided to all participants (Room: espace Yehudi Menuhin) <b>Parallel activity “Networking event”</b> (Room: Mickey Mouse Café)*
14:30 - 15:45	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> round of breakout sessions</b>
16:30 - 17:45	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> round of breakout sessions</b>
17:45 - 19:00	<b>Closing reception</b> (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 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of volunteering funded by the European Union. An online version of the exhibition will also be featured via the [European Youth Portal](#).