European youth between education and employment
Improving young people's participation in society

Place: The Hague, Netherlands
Date: 4-5 June 2015
Contact: Kim Nikolaj Japing
Tel: +44 (0)1273 739 039
Email: kim.japing@esn-eu.org

This event is organised with the support of a Dutch ESN member, the Quality Institute of Dutch Municipalities (KING/VNG).
Welcome word

Dear colleagues,

We would like to warmly welcome you to our ESN workshop European youth between education and employment - improving young people's participation in society organised in cooperation with the Quality Institute of Dutch Municipalities (KING/VNG), a member of the European Social Network (ESN).

We are delighted to host this event in the city of The Hague, as the Netherlands will be part of the EU presidency next year. For this reason, The Hague has also recently been chosen as host city for ESN’s 24th European Social Services Conference in 2016.

At this workshop, we will focus on young adults, as youth employment has become a major concern for European policy makers. Collective action for young adults has been undertaken in various fields through efforts to reduce early school leaving and to improve school-to-work transitions. These efforts acknowledge that young adults’ active and positive participation in education and training systems as well as in the labour market is key to building inclusive and sustainable societies and is vital to improving their life chances.

However, young adults are not a homogeneous group, and some youth groups are more vulnerable than others, having complex needs, and requiring a person-centred support. At this workshop, we will share policies and practices for vulnerable young adults aged 18 to 25 and we will focus on three selected vulnerable groups: young adults with mental health problems, young adults leaving care, young adults with a third country background.

ESN believes that an integrated approach between social services, education and employment can deliver better quality in policies and services oriented towards the personal needs and aspirations of vulnerable youth. Public authorities at the local and regional level are well-placed actors to assume leadership in the design, planning and implementation of integrated services due to their involvement with communities and their context.

We hope the workshop will be a great opportunity for you to learn more about experiences and expertise from within our network and exchange policies and practice for vulnerable young adults. We encourage you to continue the discussions online on Twitter @ESNsocial and on our LinkedIn group Social Services in Europe.

With very best wishes,

John Halloran
Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network
### Thursday 4 June

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<td>Lunch <em>(open buffet)</em></td>
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#### ESN’s work on young people – Past, present, and future
John Halloran, Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network

#### Decentralisation in the Netherlands – Transformation processes in the social domain
Marieke Hebbenaar, Policy Advisor, Association of Netherlands Municipalities, Netherlands

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<td>Vulnerable youth between education and employment – European and national perspectives</td>
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**Chair:** John Halloran, Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network

**A European perspective on early school leaving**
Pedro Cunha, Deputy Director-General for Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Portugal

**School-to-work transitions via the Youth Guarantee Scheme**
Ulrike Storost, Team Leader Youth Employment, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission

**A national perspective on youth – Participation in education and employment of vulnerable young adults**
René Paas, Director, Dutch Association of Directors of Social Services, Netherlands

#### Questions & Answers

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<td>15:00 – 15:30</td>
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**Chair:** Stefaan Lambrecht, Social Services Director, OCMW Bruges, Belgium

**Evidence and projects around school drop-out of young adults with mental health problems in the Nordic countries**
Dr. Lidija Kolouh-Söderlund, Project Leader, Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues, Sweden

**Community-based social inclusion for young people leaving care in Spain**
Carlos Santos Guerrero, Head of services for coordinating community social services, Regional Ministry of Labour and Welfare, Autonomous Community of Galicia, Spain

**A regional transition management system – experiences gathered from young people with a third country background in Germany**
Dr. Matthias Schulze-Böing, Chair, The Association of Local Employment Policy, Germany

#### Questions & Answers

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<td>Transfer to restaurant</td>
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<th>Addressing the complex needs of vulnerable young adults in school-to-work transitions and in the Youth Guarantee</th>
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**A one-stop government approach to the Youth Guarantee through local guidance centres for young adults in Finland**

Prof. Lasse Siurala, Special Consultant, Finnish Network of Local Government Youth Work, Finland

**The “Garantie Jeunes” in France – Adapting the Youth Guarantee towards the complex needs of vulnerable youth and young people leaving care**

Martin Lebègue, Project Officer, County Council of Pas de Calais, France

**Horizontal and vertical cooperation in Poland to bring disadvantaged young adults into employment**

Dr. Sergo Kuruliszwili, Director, Institute for the Development of Social Services, Poland

**Providing person-centred pathways into employment for young adults with mental health problems in Northern Ireland**

Dr. Ann Gray, Senior Lecturer, Institute for Research in Social Sciences, Ulster University, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

**User involvement in youth services promoting mental health and peer-to-peer support**

Charlene Mullan, Area Youth Worker, Education Authority Youth Service, Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

**Questions & Answers**

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<td>Group discussions on improving vulnerable young adults’ participation in society</td>
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- Group discussions on an integrated perspective on social services, education, and employment
- **Moderators**
  - John Halloran, Chief Executive Officer, European Social Network
  - Thomas Land Christiansen, City of Copenhagen, Denmark
  - Milou Haggenburg, Dutch Association of Directors of Social Services, Netherlands
  - Kim Nikolaj Japing, Policy Officer, European Social Network

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| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch (open buffet) |
Background

The active and positive participation of young people is vital to building inclusive and sustainable societies. Their participation in the educational system and in the labour market is particularly important, as it enables them to improve their life chances. In recent years, young people’s opportunities have however been severely affected by the socio-economic crisis, leading to high rates of social exclusion.¹ This has highlighted the challenges for young people in general and their vulnerability. For the purpose of this workshop, we will address policies and services for young people aged 18 to 25.

This workshop will explore how local public social services support young people with complex needs to participate in education and employment. In particular, the workshop will focus on young people with mental health problems, young people leaving care, and young people from a third country background.

The European policy context

The economic crisis has caused a lasting effect on European labour markets by too often decreasing young people’s chances for regular employment, leading in various European countries to unprecedented levels of youth unemployment.² In this socio-economic context, challenges around young people are high on the European policy agenda.

The European Union (EU) has emphasised the challenges in education and employment in its European 2020 Strategy³, which envisages a reduction of the school drop-out rate below 10 per cent and an employment rate of 75 per cent in the 20 to 64 age group,⁴ for which higher rates of youth employment are indispensable.⁵

The Social Investment Package (SIP)⁶ provides a policy framework, which acknowledges the particular challenges of vulnerable young people and seeks to design social protection

⁴ European Commission: Europe 2020 Targets. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/targets/eu-targets/index_en.htm (last accessed on 07 January 2015).
systems in order to respond effectively at critical stages in young people’s lives through social investment.⁷

Particular policy issues around youth such as school-to-work transitions and early school leaving have received considerable attention at the European level. For example, the European Commission supports Member States in their implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme in order to provide a quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of leaving school or becoming unemployed.⁸ EU Member States submitted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans,⁹ of which the implementation will be monitored through an Indicator Framework.¹⁰ The Youth Guarantee Scheme is expected to contribute to raising the overall employment rate and lowering the barriers for young people to get into work.

Early school leavers, as an explicit target group of the Europe 2020 Strategy, can be defined as young people aged 18 to 24, who have attained no higher than lower secondary education and who are not currently receiving any education or training. Their lower educational attainment makes them more likely to be unemployed.¹¹ To confront these challenges, the Council of the European Union has issued a recommendation to reduce school drop-out rates and to monitor the phenomenon at national, regional and local levels.¹²

**Participation of vulnerable groups in education and employment**

Young people are a diverse group, and there are large varieties among them.¹³ Recognising their heterogeneous life circumstances, this workshop will address how local public social services can work across sectors to facilitate the social and active inclusion of young people with mental health problems, young people leaving care and young people with a third country background.

**Young people with mental health problems**

A mental health condition can have a “damaging effect” on a young person’s educational

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and professional career.\textsuperscript{14} In the fields of education and employment, this leads to the need for targeted support. In education, young people with mental health problems may have Special Educational Needs (SEN),\textsuperscript{15} which requires them to have special support (e.g. psychological support), whereas in employment, a young person with a mental health condition may benefit from in-job training.\textsuperscript{16}

\textbf{Young people leaving care}

Young people leaving care often experience a more abrupt and riskier transition to adulthood within a shorter period of time.\textsuperscript{17} In this transition, they regularly face the consequences of lower educational attainment, which can be reflected in either early school leaving or a more troubled entry into the labour market.\textsuperscript{18} Often having disadvantaged backgrounds, many have been in contact with the justice and law enforcement system.\textsuperscript{19}

\textbf{Young people with a third country background}

Young people with a third country background (e.g. asylum seekers, young migrant workers) may face a range of challenges in accessing education and employment during their transition to adulthood.\textsuperscript{20} This may lead them to being less well-prepared for independence.\textsuperscript{21} Independent participation at the local level is crucially relevant for successful integration,\textsuperscript{22} and local public authorities can assume a vital role here by developing effective policies and services.\textsuperscript{23}

\textsuperscript{17} Mike Stein: Resilience and young people leaving care. Overcoming the odds, 2005, p. 1. Available at: http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/185935369x.pdf (last accessed on 20 February 2015).
\textsuperscript{18} As a local example, see Empowering People in Care (EPIC): ‘My voice has to be heard’: Research on outcomes for young people leaving care in North Dublin, 2012, pp. 19-20. Available at: http://www.epiconline.ie/attachments/download/41/Outcomes_for_young_people_leaving_care_in_North_Dublin_2012.pdf (last accessed on 23 February 2015).
\textsuperscript{20} UNHCR, Council of Europe, Youth-Jeunesse: Challenges faced by young refugees and asylum seekers in accessing their social rights and their integration, while in transition to adulthood Available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Documents/2011_Report_CM_Young_Refugees_Asyylum_Seekers_en.pdf (last accessed on 18 March 2015)
The role of local authorities

Social services departments in local authorities are well-placed actors to design, plan, and implement services addressing the diverse needs of young people linking with the education and employment sectors.

This workshop will feature a number of social services practices from different European countries and local contexts. It will focus on the challenges and opportunities in promoting a multidimensional approach to promoting the social inclusion of young people, particularly linking with education and employment. The workshop intends to answer the following questions:

- How is the Youth Guarantee being implemented at local level?
- In particular, what elements of the Youth Guarantee are being developed to ensure the social inclusion of the most vulnerable young people?
- How are local education and social services working together to reduce early school leaving and to support vulnerable young people in education?
- How are local social services working with education and employment to ensure the participation of young people, particularly the most vulnerable?
Session 2: Vulnerable youth between education and employment – European and national perspectives

The participation of different vulnerable youth groups can be supported through a variety of mechanisms. For **young adults with mental health problems**, the OECD recommends targeted support both inside and outside the workplace.\(^{24}\) For **young adults leaving care**, it needs to be acknowledged that there is an ambiguous relationship between care leavers’ health and wellbeing on the one side, and them leaving care on the other side. Whilst the transition out of care as such may trigger health and wellbeing problems, already pre-existing health and wellbeing problems can make a transition even harder.\(^{25}\) Prior to and in the course of transitions, person-centred support along a life-course model is particularly important. For **young adults with a third country background**, pathways such as self-employment, social enterprises and work with NGOs have been more important due to pre-existing barriers to integration.\(^{26}\)

The European policy context

Providing high-quality education and training aligned with the needs of the labour market is crucial to address challenges in youth employment.

*Early school leavers*

On average, the early school leaving rate in the EU-28 was at **11.1 per cent in 2014**.\(^{27}\) When looking across EU member states, a strong divergence of early school leaving rates needs to be acknowledged. Whilst the rate in 2014 was lowest in Slovenia with 4.4 per cent, it was highest in Malta with 20.04 per cent.\(^{28}\)

Awareness of the reasons, barriers and costs derived from early school leaving have grown in recent years, thus policy makers at European level have increasingly tackled the challenges around early school leaving:\(^{29}\)

The **Council of the European Union** issued a number of recommendations to reduce school drop-out rates and to monitor the phenomenon at national, regional and local level. This includes the coordination of policies across sector and a call to collect comparable


\(^{26}\) OECD: Ensuring Labour Market Success for Ethnic Minority and Immigrant Youth, pp. 36-38. Available at: [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5kg8g2l0547b.pdf?expires=1431338282&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=D1EBE0F331464D64F802F5CC699AC32](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5kg8g2l0547b.pdf?expires=1431338282&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=D1EBE0F331464D64F802F5CC699AC32) (last accessed on 11 May 2015).


evidence.\textsuperscript{30} The \textbf{European Parliament} issued a study on early school leaving in 2011, which acknowledges the high lifetime costs of about one to two million Euros per school leaver.\textsuperscript{31} Within the strategic framework ‘Education & Training 2020’\textsuperscript{32}, the \textbf{European Commission} coordinated a number of working groups between 2011 and 2013. The Thematic Working Group on Early School Leaving analysed conditions for successful policies, evidence-based policies against ESL, as well as measures of prevention, intervention, and compensation.\textsuperscript{33}

Efforts to reduce school drop-out rates have had some success. Even though the Europe 2020 target of decreasing school-drop-out below 10 per cent has not yet been achieved, it should be emphasised that early school leaving has steadily declined each year. In 2003, school drop-out was still at 16.4 per cent as compared to the 11.1 per cent in 2014.

\textbf{Youth employment}

The problem of young people being more vulnerable than established professionals concerns all member states. However, youth employment is particularly high on the European policy agenda, given that youth unemployment has reached unprecedented rates in parts of the EU.\textsuperscript{34} Notably, the Mediterranean countries in Europe’s south have received increased attention against the backdrop of dramatic figures.

Figures like these paved the way for a discourse around a ‘lost generation’. For young people, periods of unemployment, especially if over a prolonged period of time,\textsuperscript{35} can cause a ‘scarring effect’,\textsuperscript{36} which can last over their entire career. This effect may go along with weaker professional attainment reflected in lower salaries and more repeated periods of unemployment.\textsuperscript{37} However, profiles of unemployment vary profoundly, some young adults being more vulnerable than others.

\textsuperscript{31} European Parliament: Reducing early school leaving in the EU study, p. 53. Available at: \url{http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=9591&langId=en} (last accessed on 11 May 2015).
\textsuperscript{35} Mattias Strandh, Anthony Winefield, and Karina Nilsson, Anne Hammarström: Unemployment and mental health scarring during the life course. Available at: \url{http://eurpub.oxfordjournals.org/content/24/3/440.abstract} (last accessed on 11 May 2015).
\textsuperscript{37} David N. F. Bell and David G. Blanchflower: Young people and the Great Recession. Available at: \url{http://oxrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/27/2/2417?ijkey=b92281e5363237d3ad416d3964fc73365af8d&keytype2=tf_ipsecsha} (last accessed on 11 May 2015).
Session 3: The participation of vulnerable young adults in education and training

At European level, the groups of early school leavers and those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs) have received a lot of attention: NEETs constitute around 7.5 million young people aged 15 to 24 years who were either not in employment, education or training in Europe in 2011, which represents 12.9 per cent of all young people in that age group. Early school leavers can be considered as disadvantaged people as their lower educational attainment attributes them with reduced life chances. Both groups comprise a variety of different sub-groups including young people with mental health problems, young people leaving care, and young people with a third country background. Participation of vulnerable young adults in education and training is a key area for European and national policy makers. The 2014 Education and Training Monitor concluded that there are more than 5 million early school leavers in Europe. What is problematic about this group is their vulnerability towards social exclusion, which is underlined by their average unemployment rate of around 41.0 per cent. 

The European policy context

Early school leaving
A recent study found that tackling early school leaving in the governance arena requires cross-government cooperation at all levels, including both horizontal and vertical collaboration and involvement of political decision-makers. In terms of the policy fields for cooperation, the involvement of different policy fields, like employment, social affairs, youth services, health, or housing, is important. Some countries have long-standing traditions of involving social affairs in matters of early school leaving (e.g. Germany, Slovenia, Portugal, and the German-speaking parts of Belgium), others are currently developing different forms of such an involvement (e.g. Austria, Poland, Bulgaria). In four countries with specific early school leaving strategies – Belgium, Spain, Malta and the Netherlands – specialised bodies were set up. Vocational education and training
Vocational education and training (VET) is important, and the national contexts are specific as well as the entry rates into VET systems between countries, with VET systems most popular in the Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia and least popular in Iceland, Ireland and Portugal. VET spans over a wide range of different forms of education and training.

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42 Ibid., 68.
43 Ibid., 70.
Across Europe, the approaches towards VET differs considerably in terms of length, objectives, content, and work placements.45

EU member states have put in a lot of effort in recent years to improve their VET systems with regards to quality assurance and quality management.46 The Council of the European Union issued a recommendation to establish the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training47, which contains quality criteria, indicative descriptors and reference indicators to develop VET systems.

The role of local authorities

Social services departments in local authorities are well-placed actors to design, plan, and implement services addressing the diverse needs of young people linking with the education and employment sectors. Youth work can imply involving other actors from the housing and health sector, or from the local community.

At the local level, youth workers and social workers are key stakeholders in implementing social services on the ground. Social workers assume a crucial role in, for example, crises interventions, whereas youth workers play a vital in providing general support and non-formal learning opportunities.48

An example of local youth services of public authorities in the UK would be the mapping and tracking of young people’s life circumstances. Such forms of data collection are helpful to shed a spotlight on the factors associated with drop-outs from education or training. These factors can be health problems, exclusion from schools, being an early parent or having the role as informal carer.49

Session 4: Addressing the complex needs of vulnerable young adults in school-to-work transitions and in the Youth Guarantee

Youth unemployment is a major source of concern among European and national policy makers, given that in 2014, **4,960 million youngsters (under 25)** were unemployed in the EU-28, which equalled a rate of **21.4 per cent**. Across countries, there were large differences in 2014; whilst Germany had the lowest rate with 7.2 per cent; Spain faced the highest rate with 51.5 per cent.**50** A EUROFOUND study estimated the total costs of **NEETs** for Europe in 2008 at around €119.2 billion, which is approximately 1 per cent of the aggregated GDP.**51** The NEET group spans across different sub-groups with varied profiles in their vulnerability.**52**

The European policy context

The Council of the European Union adopted recommendations on 22 April 2013, which calls on all EU Member States to implement Youth Guarantees.**53** EU Member States submitted Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans,**54** of which the implementation will be monitored through an Indicator Framework.**55** The scope of implementation leaves a margin of manoeuvre in transposing the scheme along the national political systems and socio-economic contexts. In **Germany**, the implementation plan includes the creation of options for young people not in education, employment or training registered with the public employment service.**56** Key goals embrace the stabilisation and strengthening of personally and socially disadvantaged young people. In **Finland**, the implementation of the youth guarantee acknowledges the barriers and needs of particular sub-groups like young immigrants.

Participation of vulnerable groups in employment

Young people with mental health problems, young people leaving care, and young people with a third country background can be found among particularly vulnerable youth.**57** For

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**Notes:**


those target groups, measures such as the youth guarantee scheme might need to be adapted to their individual needs to offer a quality scheme. In a recent review of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee Scheme, the Court of Auditors highlighted the risk of not offering “good quality” opportunities and recommended a reflection on what elements should be part of a “good quality” offer.58

For the various vulnerable youth groups, the risks and challenges are often very individual. For young adults with mental health problems, their mental health problems can be either a barrier to employment or the result from unemployment.59 For young people leaving care, the housing uncertainty poses a problem60 and the age limit, until when they can receive services.61 In this transition, they regularly face the implications of lower educational attainment and of a more troubled labour market entry.62 Needs assessments, personal advisors and pathway plans may help their transition.63 Young people with a third country background and their inclusion in the labour market are seen as important for inducing growth and competitiveness into Europe’s economy.64 However, they may face a range of challenges in accessing employment during their transition to adulthood.65

65 UNHCR, Council of Europe, Youth-Jeunesse: Challenges faced by young refugees and asylum seekers in accessing their social rights and their integration, while in transition to adulthood. Available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Documents/2011_Report_CM_Young_Refugees_Asylum Seekers_en.pdf (last accessed on 18 March 2015)
### Speakers & Chairs

**Thursday, 4 June**

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<tr>
<td>John Halloran</td>
<td>is the Chief Executive of ESN and helped to found it in 1998, having established the first European Social Services Conference in 1993. He has worked in social service management in France and England, where he was responsible for residential and community services for the elderly, people with disabilities and family and child protection services. He was an advisor to various local authorities, government departments and NGOs in the UK and internationally.</td>
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<td>Marieke Hebbenaar</td>
<td>works as a Policy Advisor and Programme Manager for the Association of Dutch Municipalities. She acts as Project Leader in the field of transformation for youth in the social domain. She possesses expertise with regards to transformation processes in the social sector with notable regard to the role of local authorities. In addition to past projects on investment and policies for youth, she organises the 7th ENCFC European conference on children and youth for researchers, policymakers and professionals in Gent (Nov. 2016).</td>
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<td>Pedro Cunha</td>
<td>has been Deputy Director General in the Portuguese Ministry of Education and Science since 2010. He is responsible for school improvement and social inclusion programmes and also for after-school programs, lifelong guidance services, health education, and special needs services. He has also worked as school career counsellor and developed projects with at-risk youth. Pedro Cunha managed community development programmes in deprived neighbourhoods and acted as Programme Director for the Aga Khan Foundation. Recently, he performed as a ‘critical friend’ for schools dealing with drop-out, low achievement, and violence.</td>
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<td>Ulrike Storost</td>
<td>is the Team Leader of the Youth Employment Team at the European Commission, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in Brussels, Belgium. She acquired expertise on the evaluation and monitoring of training schemes, the Youth Guarantee, NEETs, and the use of the ESF. She has previous work experience with UNESCO, UNHCR and in national administration in the fields of education and social affairs. Ulrike Storost holds a M.A. equivalent in Educational Science as well as a certificate in European affairs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>René Paas</td>
<td>has been the Chair of the Dutch Association of Directors of Social Services since 2009. He acts as Supervisor for a fund for cultural participation, for a long-term care organisation, and the Brain Foundation. He is also the Chair of the Health Innovation Forum. Paas studied Business Administration. Between 1992 and 1996, he worked for BDO Management Consulting. Then between 1996 and 2005, he was a City Counsellor in Groningen and responsible for Environment, Health, Sports, and International Relations. René Paas is married and has three children.</td>
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### Session 3
The participation of vulnerable young adults in education and training

**Chair**

**Stefaan Lambrecht** has been the head of the Department of Social Services in the City of Bruges (Belgium) since 2012. He started as a Social Worker in Bruges and became the Head of Department for Work, Education, Housing, and Debt Counselling in 1992. He has also been responsible for social planning since 2008. In addition, he managed several projects in the fields of housing and care for homeless people, employment, education and pedagogy. Stefaan Lambrecht is trained in strategic planning, and project management.

**Speakers**

**Lidija Kolouh-Söderlund** works for the Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues. She is responsible for the project ‘Young People in the Nordic Countries: Mental Health, Employment and Education’ with a focus on vulnerable youth. She worked for the Swedish Government National Agency for Youth and Civil Society as a senior research officer. She published reports for the Swedish Government, EUROFOUND and the Swedish Social Fund on youth policy issues with focus on influencing opportunities for youth, marginalized groups and unemployment issues.

**Carlos Santos Guerrero** has been responsible for the coordination of the funding of community social services provided by the municipalities of Galicia since 2005. Since 2007, he has also been Secretary of the Board of the Public Foundation for the Guardianship of Adults. He has been involved in several European social services projects such as a twin project with Morocco, the DART Project (INTERREG IV-C) and an ESF-funded transnational network. He began to be involved with ESN in 2010 and has represented his organization in the Board several times.

**Matthias Schulze-Böing** holds the position as Head of Department for Employment, Statistics and Integration Policies in the City of Offenbach am Main (Germany), where he works on social planning issues. He acts as Director of the MainArbeit-Jobcentre Offenbach, which delivers local social and employment services. He chairs the Bundesnetzwerk Jobcenter, the national association of jobcentre directors and he is a member the Committee for Social Assistance and Social Policy within the German Association for Public and Private Welfare. Matthias Schulze-Böing obtained his Ph. D. in Social Sciences and Economics.

### Friday, 5 June

**Session 4**
Addressing the complex needs of vulnerable young adults in school-to-work transitions and in the Youth Guarantee

**Chair**

**Chris Kuypers** is the General Secretary of LCGW, the National Association for Local Governments of Social Welfare in the Netherlands. LCGW is an association of professionals from local governments who are working on the participation of communities. They constantly look for new directions and they dare to experiment with new directions. Chris has decided to boost innovation within LCGW. Personally, he is an adventurer and an idealist. He and his partner live together with their 4 daughters.
Speakers

**Lasse Siurala** is an Advisor to the Finnish Network of Local Government Youth Work and works as Lecturer at the Pedagogical College of the University of Tallinn (Estonia). He is a former Director of Youth and Sports at the Council of Europe and a former Director of Youth at the City of Helsinki. He also taught as Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota. He is a Board Member of the recently established European Network for Local Government Youth Work (InterCity Youth) and an Adjunct Professor at the Aalto University, Helsinki.

**Martin Lebègue** is a Projects Officer for the County Council of Pas-de-Calais (France), which joined ESN in 2015. Martin Lebègue’s areas of work include the coordination of policy integration for recipients of the earned-income supplement and for young people. He is involved in the development of professional and social integration procedures and in the implementation of the ‘Garantie Jeunes’. He holds a Master’s Degree in ‘Management of Health and Social Institutions’ from the Institute of Political Science (Lille).

**Sergo Kuruliszwili** has been the Director of the Institute for the Development of Social Services (Poland), after serving as Deputy Director between 2010 and 2012. Since 2010, he has been the coordinator of research and training projects on social services, including ‘The Professional Social Worker’ and ‘The Coordination of Active Integration’. Since 1998, he has been a university teacher at the Academy of Special Pedagogy. He coordinates the involvement of his organisation within ESN. Sergo Kuruliszwili holds a Ph. D. in Humanities (Pedagogics).

**Ann Marie Gray** reads as Senior Lecturer in Social Policy at Ulster University and acts as Policy Director of Access Research Knowledge Northern Ireland. Her interests include health and social care issues, devolution and social policy, and youth policy. She has held Open Society Institute International Scholarships at the State Economic University in Azerbaijan and at the State University in Moldova. She is chair of the organisation YouthAction. Her institute is an ESN member since 2014. Ann Marie Gray graduated with honours in Social Policy and holds a PhD.

**Charlene Mullan** has been an Area Youth Worker with the Education Board Authority Youth Service (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom) since November 2014. In 2009, Charlene was employed by YouthAction N.I. and worked while receiving weekly training. The apprenticeship gave Charlene the work experience and qualifications to prepare her for University. In 2010, Charlene applied for the Part time Degree in Youth Work and was successful. She then secured a subsequent Youth Work Apprenticeship whilst completing her Degree course.
Practical information

MEETING VENUE

The event will take place in **two different venues**:

On the first day, **4 June**, the meeting will take place at the Hilton The Hague, in the “Mesdag Ballroom”. Delegates will meet for an open buffet lunch at 12:30 in front of the meeting room and the workshop will start at 13:30.

On the second day, **5 June**, the meeting will take place at the premises of **VNG**, an ESN member. Their offices are located at 5 minutes walking distance from the Hilton. The address is Nassaulaan 12. A member of ESN staff will meet the delegates in the hotel lobby and walk with them to the venue.

DINNER

An evening meal will be arranged on 4 June (formal dress not required). Delegates will meet in the hotel lobby at 19:15 and walk to the restaurant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alberto Dotta</td>
<td>Projects Officer</td>
<td>Kim Nikolaj Japing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:alberto.dotta@esn-eu.org">alberto.dotta@esn-eu.org</a></td>
<td>Mobile: +44 (0) 77 46 42 83 00</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kim.japing@esn-eu.org">kim.japing@esn-eu.org</a></td>
<td>Mobile: 0044 (0) 74 74 03 38 04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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MAP

The Hilton The Hague
Zeestraat 35, The Hague
Tel: +31-70-710 7000
Email: amshh_fosup@hilton.com
Fax +43 1 227 37-9999
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Organisation</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Land Christiansen</td>
<td>Social Services Director, City of Copenhagen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedro Cunha</td>
<td>Deputy Director General for Education, Ministry of Education and Science</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Marie Gray</td>
<td>Senior Lecturer in Social Policy and Administration, Ulster University</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milou Haggenburg</td>
<td>Knowledge Integration Coordinator, Dutch Association of Directors of Social Services</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marieke Hebbenaar</td>
<td>Policy Advisor, Association of Netherlands Municipalities</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lidija Kolouh-Söderlund</td>
<td>Project Leader, Nordic Centre for Welfare and Social Issues</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sergio Kuruliszwili</td>
<td>Director, Institute for the Development of Social Services</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Kuyppers</td>
<td>Secretary, National Association of Local Governments for Social Welfare</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefaan Lambrecht</td>
<td>Social Services Director, Public Social Services Brugge</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonas Laniauskas</td>
<td>Head of Youth Division, Vilnius City</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Lebègue</td>
<td>Projects Officer, Pas-de-Calais County</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Maassen</td>
<td>Careers Officer, Federal Employment Agency</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlene Mullan</td>
<td>Area Youth Worker, Education Board Authority Youth Service</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Nørrelund Hansen</td>
<td>Social Services Director, City of Copenhagen</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>René Paas</td>
<td>Chair, Dutch Association of Directors of Social Services</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adina Patroc</td>
<td>Social Inspector, County Agency for Payments and Social Inspection Bihor</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raúl Perales Acedo</td>
<td>Director, Andalusian Youth Institute</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henri Rauch</td>
<td>Strategist, Quality Institute of Dutch Municipalities</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Santos Guerrero</td>
<td>Head of services for coordinating community social services, Autonomous Community of Galicia</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthias Schulze-Böing</td>
<td>Chair, The Association of Local Employment Policy</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lasse Siurala</td>
<td>Special Advisor, Finnish Network for Local Government Youth Work</td>
<td>Finland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulrike Storost</td>
<td>Team Leader Youth Employment, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</td>
<td>EU</td>
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# European Social Network Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Halloran</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Nikolaj Japing</td>
<td>Policy Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberto Dotta</td>
<td>Projects Officer</td>
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# Join the conversation

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**LinkedIn group:**
Social Services in Europe