



Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

Brussels, 12-13 May 2025

The Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council will meet in Brussels on 12 and 13 May 2025.

On Monday, the meeting will be chaired by **Barbara Nowacka**, the Polish Minister for Education. The morning session (starting at **10.00**) will be devoted to **youth**.

In the afternoon, starting at **15.00**, ministers will turn their attention to **education**. For this session Minister Nowacka will be joined by Deputy Minister for Science and Higher Education, **Andrzej Szeptycki**.

On Tuesday, the morning session (starting at **10.00**) will be chaired by **Hanna Wróblewska**, Polish Minister for Culture and National Heritage, and will be devoted to **Culture, Audiovisual and Media** topics.

In the afternoon, from **15.00**, the Council will turn its attention to **sport**. The session will be chaired by **Piotr Borys**, Polish Deputy Minister for Sport.

The Commission will be represented by **Roxana Mînzatu**, executive vice-president responsible for social rights and skills, quality jobs and preparedness, and **Glenn Micallef**, commissioner for intergenerational fairness, youth, culture and sport.

Press conferences:

Monday:

- +/-12.45: **Youth**, with Minister Nowacka and Commissioner Micallef
- +/-18.15: **Education**, with Minister Nowacka, Deputy Minister Szeptycki, and Vice-President Mînzatu

Tuesday:

- +/-12.45: **Culture**, Audiovisual and Media, with Minister Wróblewska and Commissioner Micallef
- +/-17.35: **Sport**, with Deputy Minister Borys and Commissioner Micallef

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[Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council - meeting page](#)

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

YOUTH

A community of young people in Europe

EU youth ministers are expected to approve Council conclusions on a community of young people in Europe, based on European values for a common and safe Europe. In line with the Polish presidency's priorities, the conclusions explore ways to strengthen European identity among young Europeans. In particular, they focus on enabling young people to engage effectively and responsibly in society by promoting:

- democratic citizenship education and training
- digital and media literacy
- youth work
- community building
- active participation of young people in democratic processes and decision-making

The conclusions also reflect the outcome of the EU Youth Conference, which took place in Lublin in March as part of the EU Youth Dialogue.

[EU Youth Conference in Lublin](#) (website)

Governance of the EU Youth Dialogue

Ministers are expected to approve a Council resolution reviewing the guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue. The resolution aims to bring the governance up to date, taking into account developments and lessons learned since the previous review in 2019, within the framework of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

The text of the resolution establishes more clearly defined roles for the European Steering Group, national working groups, youth delegates, the Commission, and the European Youth Forum. The latter will take on the new task of providing a permanent secretariat for the EU Youth Dialogue, assisted by the Commission, with a view to supporting the trio presidencies in preparing future cycles of the EU Youth Dialogue.

[EU Youth Dialogue](#) (website)

Impact of online disinformation

The Council will hold a policy debate on the topic of disinformation, manipulation and threats in cyberspace and their impact on the lives of young people. This topic is linked to the Polish presidency's priorities of strengthening democratic institutions and fostering an informed youth.

Ministers will be invited to discuss the following questions:

1. How can member states better equip young people with the digital skills, critical thinking skills and media literacy needed to assess online content and build resilience to disinformation and manipulation in the digital environment?
2. At the EU level, what instruments and actions can enhance young people's resilience to online disinformation and manipulation, promote positive and responsible engagement with digital tools, and better prepare them for informed and active democratic participation in the digital age?

[Disinformation, manipulation and threats in cyberspace and their impact on the lives of young people](#) (presidency steering note)

Other business

The following items will be dealt with under other business:

- Outcome of the discussion at the informal EU Youth Dialogue breakfast meeting (information from the presidency)
- The impact of Russia's full-scale invasion on Ukrainian youth (information from the presidency)
- Contribution of EU cooperation through youth policy in fostering shared European remembrance and strengthening EU resilience (information from Lithuania, supported by Estonia and Latvia)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency (information from Denmark)

Informal breakfast

An informal breakfast meeting will take place in the framework of the EU Youth Dialogue. The topic is “Connected but at what cost? Youth, social media and the future of online well-being”. The breakfast will be attended by representatives of the former, current, and two upcoming presidencies of the Council (Hungary, Poland, Denmark and Cyprus), as well as from the Commission, the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and the European youth organisations. Representatives from the Polish Safer Internet Centre and from Mental Health Europe are also expected to take part.

EDUCATION

Higher education package

As part of the higher education package announced by the Commission in 2024, the Council is expected to adopt a recommendation on a European quality assurance and recognition system in higher education. The recommendation focuses on improving quality assurance systems in higher education to enhance trust, accountability, and transnational cooperation across the EU. It includes a set of criteria on the basis of which the joint European degree label may be awarded. Such a label would be granted to joint programmes delivered through transnational cooperation between higher education institutions from different countries, including at least two EU member states.

The Council will also seek to approve a resolution on a joint European degree label and the next steps towards a possible joint European degree. This text sets out the Council's vision for a joint European degree label and proposes a roadmap with three phases to be carried out by 2029.

[European degree](#) (Commission website)

Inclusive, learner-centred practices

EU education ministers are expected to approve conclusions on inclusive, learner-centred practices in early childhood education and care and school education. The conclusions reflect the need to build more resilient and inclusive education and training systems, and to ensure access for everyone to high-quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning. According to the conclusions, inclusive education:

- caters for the needs of all learners
- needs to be designed and operate within a systemic approach
- should be monitored with a view to the effectiveness of its strategies and approaches

Improving quality, equity and inclusion in education and training is one of the areas of focus of the European Education Area (EEA). Moreover, the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning is the first principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

[European Education Area](#) (background information)

[European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (background information)

Union of Skills

The Council will hold a policy debate on the role of the Union of Skills in strengthening the European Education Area (EEA). The Commission's communication on the Union of Skills was published on 5 March 2025 with the aim of addressing labour and skills gaps to boost competitiveness in the EU. The debate will examine how the Union of Skills and the EEA are interlinked, including in the context of the upcoming evaluation of the first EEA cycle.

Ministers will be invited to address the following questions:

1. How could the Union of Skills and the EEA best complement each other in ensuring high-quality, inclusive education and training for all learners, while avoiding duplication and unnecessary administrative burdens?
2. Following the first cycle of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training, which key elements of the Union of Skills should be prioritised in order to support – rather than shift the focus away from – the objectives of the European Education Area, and

how could governance be simplified so as to ensure greater coherence and faster, more agile decision-making?

[The role of the Union of Skills in strengthening the European Education Area](#) (presidency steering note)

[The Union of Skills](#) (Commission communication)

[European Education Area](#) (website)

Other business

The following items will be dealt with under other business:

- Promoting EU awareness through education (information from the presidency)
- The negative impact of the use of smartphones in schools (information from Austria, Italy and Sweden)
- Informal conference in Rome, 27-28 June 2025: One year after the ministerial meeting of the G7 on education, what steps should be taken to further improve cooperation on education? (information from Italy)
- Contribution of EU cooperation in education for increasing awareness on totalitarian regimes and strengthening EU resilience (information from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania)
- 7th OECD Global Forum on the Future of Education and Skills 2040 in Bratislava, 24-26 November 2025 (information from Slovakia)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency (information from Denmark)

Informal lunch

An informal lunch debate will take place on the resilience and preparedness of education and training systems.

CULTURE/AUDIOVISUAL

Audiovisual media services

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on the assessment of the legal framework for audiovisual media services and video-sharing platform services.

The Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) is the main legal act regulating the EU audiovisual media market. It was reviewed in 2018 and is currently at the implementation stage. At the EYCS Council on 26 November 2024, the Commission announced its intention to table a proposal to review the AVMSD in 2026. The conclusions set out the Council's views on the priority areas and issues to be examined by the Commission in its ex-post evaluation of the directive.

[Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#) (text of the 2018 directive)

Early-career artists

Ministers are expected to approve Council conclusions on supporting young artists and cultural and creative professionals in starting their careers. Artists and cultural professionals, and support to the cultural and creative sectors, are among the main priorities of the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026. However, young artists and creators continue to face many challenges, and these conclusions aim to address those challenges through a number of suggested initiatives and actions.

[EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026](#) (Council resolution)

The Culture Compass and the future of Creative Europe

Ministers will take part in a policy debate focusing on two topics: the future Creative Europe programme, and the upcoming strategic framework for culture known as the "Culture Compass".

The EU's Creative Europe programme is due to expire on 31 December 2027. The Commission is expected to submit its interim evaluation of the programme to the European Parliament and the Council in the summer of 2025.

The Culture Compass for Europe is one of the flagship initiatives of the Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, Glenn Micallef. The Commission is expected to present the Compass (in the form of a communication) by the end of 2025. It will be accompanied by a joint declaration to be signed by the presidents of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

[A new approach to culture in the European Union: the Culture Compass and the future of the Creative Europe Programme](#) (presidency steering note)

[Creative Europe](#) (website)

Other business

The following items will be dealt with under other business:

- Successes of the European funding and regulatory model for cinema (information from France, accompanied by film director, screenwriter and producer Cédric Klapisch)
- Kiruna as European Capital of Culture 2029 (information from Sweden)
- Chemnitz White Paper: 40 recommendations from 40 years of ECoC (information from Germany)

- Contribution of culture to EU preparedness: long-term preservation of digital cultural heritage (information from Estonia)
- The value of the culture and creative sectors in the development of AI: safeguarding copyright and related rights and ensuring transparency in the Code of Practice under the AI Act (information from Spain and Portugal)
- Mondiacult 2025: UNESCO's World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (Barcelona, 29 September – 1 October 2025) (information from Spain)
- Transparency of media ownership and funding (information from Croatia)
- Catalysing global support for Ukraine's culture and cultural heritage at the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 (information from Italy)
- Contribution of EU cooperation in culture to shared European remembrance and strengthening EU resilience (information from Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency (information from Denmark)

SPORT

Sport in education

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on an integrated approach to sport and physical activity in the educational context. The conclusions aim to address current challenges to increasing physical activity levels among children and young people and to promote sport as a tool for physical and mental health, specifically by examining how the school context (during and outside classes) can be used to incorporate physical activity into everyday life. This includes:

- making the sporting infrastructure in schools more accessible
- supporting teachers in making physical activity part of teaching
- monitoring and comparing data on children's and adolescents' levels of physical activity, fitness and physical literacy
- promoting a cross-sectoral approach and synergies between sport, education, youth, health and urban planning

The role of athletes

Ministers will take part in a policy debate on the role of athletes in creating sports policies. The debate will emphasise the value of athletes' experience and professional insight and explore ways to actively involve them in shaping and implementing sports policies at all levels, particularly as regards identifying challenges, proposing solutions, and ensuring policies reflect the needs of the sports community.

The Polish presidency has proposed three questions to steer the debate:

1. What opportunities and challenges are associated with athletes' participation in decision-making processes regarding sports policy?
2. What are examples of initiatives taken in your country to include athletes in the process of creating sports policies?
3. How can the European Union support member states in building platforms for dialogue with athletes?

[The role of athletes in creating sports policies](#) (presidency steering note)

Other business

The following items will be dealt with under other business:

- The impact of Russia's full-scale invasion on Ukraine's sports sector (information from the presidency)
- The European and social dimensions of the XXV Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, Milano-Cortina 2026: major sporting events, the European Sport Model, and the role of volunteering (information from Italy)
- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA): Meeting of the Foundation Board on 5 December 2024 (information from a representative of the EU member states on the WADA Foundation Board)
- 9 May 2025: Sport celebrates Europe Day (information from Spain)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency (information from Denmark)

Informal lunch

Sports ministers will take part in an informal lunch debate on the topic of cross-sectoral cooperation to promote sport and physical activity in schools.
