



# Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2018



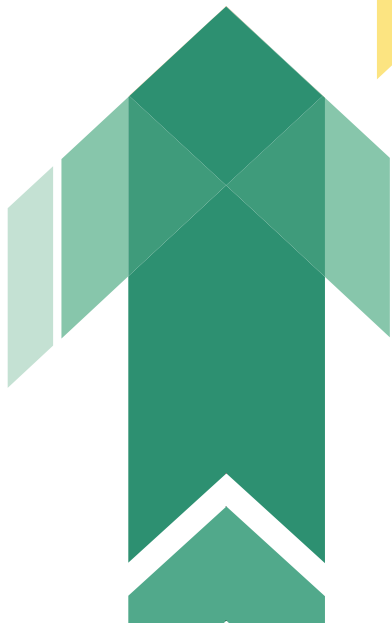
**The European  
Pillar of Social Rights:**  
on the road to  
implementation

**Speed Dating  
and Side Events**

27 April 2018 > Crowne Plaza  
Brussels

*#ACIG2018  
#SocialRights*

*Social  
Europe*



## SPEED DATING SESSION

Discover concrete and effective ways of implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights at local level by meeting people and organisations behind successful projects.

The objective of this sessions is to exchange good practices, and to inspire new and innovative ways of implementing the Pillar through grassroots projects.

- Diakonie housing counselling for asylum seekers and refugees in Vienna
- New Guaranteed Income Scheme in Catalonia
- Fighting Loneliness (FILO)
- Disability, Equality, Security, Careers (DESC)
- Early Vocational Rehabilitation
- The European Pillar of Social Rights meets the European Solidarity Corps
- IRIS NETWORKing: CSOs for protection-sensitive migration management

# Diakonie housing counselling for asylum seekers and refugees in Vienna

Diakonie Austria  
Eurodiaconia

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## CONTEXT

As homelessness rises in most parts of Europe, there is an urgent need to combat the situation. Across Europe, asylum seekers and refugees face extreme social exclusion when it comes to the private housing market. As they try to find suitable accommodation, they face discrimination as well as exploitation. This situation has significant negative impacts on their health (mental and physical) and on their communities.

When asylum seekers in Austria are granted a protection status, they must move out of the collective accommodation centres within four months. Asylum seekers and refugees especially need to be supported in their search for accommodation as they face many risks of becoming and/or staying homeless.

Diakonie housing counselling is a social counselling centre in Vienna. Its target groups are asylum seekers and third country nationals who are beneficiaries of this protection status, and it supports their search for accommodation in Vienna.

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## KEY ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

We provide assistance to a very vulnerable group of disadvantaged minorities, challenged by limited access to housing. The prevention of unlawful and forced evictions is one of our most important activities, as is finding adequate, stable and lasting accommodation to secure social inclusion and facilitate the integration process. Our services include:

- Counselling to help beneficiaries lead a life of independence, increased social inclusion and dignity
  - Assistance to those who offer to share their homes with our beneficiaries or rent their apartments to them, helping build bridges between people in the local society
  - Helping prepare our beneficiaries for an independent life, and providing follow-up counselling after they have moved out of collective accommodation centres
  - Legal advice to prevent evictions and homelessness, and early intervention if problems occur; the knowledge of legal obligations and rights favours fairer opportunities for a marginalised group on the public housing market
  - Workshops to raise awareness of tackling 'rooflessness' and homelessness, as well as evictions
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## SUSTAINABILITY

This project has a long-term impact as it empowers our beneficiaries. The knowledge gained is lifelong and passed on to friends and relatives. It leads to improved social inclusion and protects beneficiaries from violations of their right to personal safety.

Support: Vienna Social Fund (FSW)

# New Guaranteed Income Scheme in Catalonia

Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Families, Catalan Government  
European Social Network

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## CONTEXT

Social inclusion and cohesion policies promote the recognition and acceptance of social integration in the economic, labour, and social and community fields, as well as in the citizenship and participation fields.

In September 2017, the new Law of Guaranteed Citizenship Income came into effect in Catalonia. The Guaranteed Citizenship Income (RGC) scheme is a social benefit which guarantees the minimum of a dignified life for people and families in poverty, in order to promote their autonomy and active participation in society.

## PROJECT

The Guaranteed Citizenship Income is a subjective right and a social benefit of an economic nature. It is aimed at people or families who have insufficient resources to cover their basic needs, provided they meet several requirements. They can be people without work and without resources, pensioners, recipients of benefits and other subsidies, single-parent families, etc.

The project offers two sub-benefits:

- An unconditional amount, always guaranteed
- An additional amount, which is subject to the fulfilment of a plan to improve employability or social inclusion

## OUTCOMES

In its deployment (6 months so far) more than 48 000 applications have been registered. Currently, more than 26 000 families (about 60 000 people) receive the income. The project has been rolled out throughout the territory of Catalonia in coordination with more than 2 000 professionals from the municipalities and around 150 employment consultants. We receive about 1 000 benefit claims weekly. The amounts granted range from € 564 for one person to € 1 062 for five people.

## TRANSFERABILITY

This is one of the few non-pilot projects in Europe which is being successfully applied to the entire population of a region of more than 7 million inhabitants to fight against situations of inequality and poverty and to help disadvantaged people lead a decent life. This type of project could be implemented in other regions or nations in Europe. Although there are other similar projects in the EU, only part of the population is eligible (e.g. Finland, the Netherlands, Spain).

Budget: About € 270 million for 2018

Website: [http://treballiaferssocials.gencat.cat/ca/ambits\\_tematics/pobresa\\_i\\_inclusio\\_social/renda\\_garantida\\_ciudadania/](http://treballiaferssocials.gencat.cat/ca/ambits_tematics/pobresa_i_inclusio_social/renda_garantida_ciudadania/)

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# Fighting Loneliness (FILO)

City of Rotterdam  
European Network of Social Authorities (ENSA)

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## CONTEXT

Society is challenged by a growing number of ageing people who live longer and experience loneliness, and by a change in social cohesion between (groups of) people. Professionals need to know which interventions can be applied, what their role is in implementing them, and the skills they need to carry them out.

The City of Rotterdam is the second largest municipality in the Netherlands with over 600 000 inhabitants. The Department of Social Development provides many services for its citizens, including support for lonely and isolated elderly persons. The project aims at gathering new and effective methods for alleviating loneliness.

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## CONTEXT

The aim of this project is to exchange innovative, effective and efficient practices, approaches and methods for alleviating loneliness among the elderly. It also aims to improve the skills and competences of students, professionals and volunteers in the field of care and welfare.

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## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Gather an overview of effective and efficient interventions for alleviating loneliness in all its different typologies.
  - Introduce methods to alleviate loneliness, including the role of professionals to carry out interventions in a consistent way.
  - Share vocational training methods and materials addressing the challenges of social inclusion for lonely elderly persons.
  - Pave the way for joint international education programmes on loneliness among the elderly.
  - Contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (Health Care and Long-term Care).
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## SUSTAINABILITY

FILO aims to share knowledge and outputs from the project with existing organisations, so that these can be implemented in services, activities and school curricula, in order to improve the skills of the staff and the services available for ageing citizens.

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## TRANSFERABILITY

The results are shared with practitioners and their clients, service providers, formal carers, the educational and training sectors, research centres, and policy makers at local, regional, national and European levels.

Budget: € 104 910 - Erasmus funded project

Contact:

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ENSA Network: Veneto Region's Brussels Office.

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# Disability, Equality, Security, Careers (DESC)

## LADAPT

### European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD)

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#### CONTEXT

In 2013, unemployment rates for those under 25 years old skyrocketed in European countries. Six million young Europeans were registered as unemployed, and a further eight million were not enrolled in studies or vocational training. These rates were proportionally higher for young disabled persons. Data from the Member States showed that this group was much more exposed to unemployment, with rates twice as high on average when compared with non-disabled persons (with strong disparity among European countries).

It is on these foundations that LADAPT (France), EASPD (Belgium), Fundación Emplea (Spain) and Scuola Viva Onlus (Italy) met. Each partner committed to actively promote the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in its respective country. They mobilised political, institutional and entrepreneurial networks from civil society, and applied their know-how and expertise to implement concrete actions in their countries. All of this contributed to the programme's success!

The programme lasted three years, from October 2014 to August 2017.

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#### PROJECT

The European Disability, Equality, Security, Careers (DESC) project aims at promoting equal employment opportunities and securing professional career paths for young people with disabilities in Europe as advocated in Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

The project was divided into three steps:

- Identification of promising practices in securing professional career paths. The best practices guide was disseminated to the professionals of service providers, as well as civil society partners.
  - Conception of a toolkit and training programme on securing career paths and supported employment for staff of service providers' facilities (120 persons were trained in the four participating countries). Its goal is to support young people with disabilities to secure professional career paths.
  - Development of the European Disability Employment Week (EDEW), based on the French 'Semaine pour l'emploi des personnes handicapées' (SEPH). More than 100 people were trained to use the EDEW tools in Europe.
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#### SUSTAINABILITY AND UPSCALING

The project had an impact on ways of working with persons with disabilities (PwD), on perceptions of employment for PwD. It also had a wider impact on companies, society, politics and media. The project also boosted EDEW in Europe (Belgium, France, Italy and Spain).

For these reasons, the partnership chose to continue the project with DESC II, in order to implement the recommendations formulated in DESC I.

DESC II, 'Back to the ground', aims to measure the impact of Supported Employment on PwD and on companies. The partners will create a European evaluation system to collect and analyse information about efficiency and performance. DESC II will also bring together all stakeholders working in the field of social inclusion (housing, health, mobility, culture, etc.) in a sustainable way. All these stakeholders will constitute a solid and efficient network for PwD.

**TRANSFERABILITY (PROVEN OR POTENTIAL)**

The project promotes safe paths and supported employment, whatever the legislative, regulatory or economic context of the country. The project supports change in service providers' facilities to deliver higher quality services for persons with disabilities in every country.

Budget: € 391 216.55 for 3 years

Website: <https://www.desc-project.com/>

Presenter: Solène BUNEL, European project manager for LADAPT (France), and Timothy Ghilain, project manager for EASPD (Belgium) [bunel.solene@ladapt.net](mailto:bunel.solene@ladapt.net) [Timothy.Ghilain@easpd.eu](mailto:Timothy.Ghilain@easpd.eu)

Coordinator: LADAPT <http://www.ladapt.net/>



# Early Vocational Rehabilitation

## Heliomare European Platform for Rehabilitation

### CONTEXT

The Early Intervention Network (Foundation) provides services at an early stage of an individual's absence from work due to illness or disability. They take a multidisciplinary, personalised approach to provide individual and group treatment, guidance and after care. They determine health care or vocational rehabilitation needs, and aim to resume workplace reintegration immediately after the start of rehabilitation.

### PURPOSE

- To reduce medical treatment, medicine use and social costs. Early intervention prevents the chronicity of complaints and, as a result, reduces longer term costs for the healthcare system.
- To improve vocational rehabilitation for the unemployed and/or economically inactive population, employees who are absent in the long term, employees with physical and coping disabilities, people with frequent (para)medical contacts, and people with chronic musculoskeletal pain.

### PURPOSE

- Improved mental and physical health
- Increased self-esteem and independence
- Increased work opportunities for the target population
- Vocational rehabilitation strategies based on good practices and experiences from the network's members
- Members of the network provided with vocational rehabilitation knowledge and skills
- Research and development on vocational rehabilitation carried out
- Improved vocational rehabilitation for other target groups such as people with brain injury or audiology problems

### SUSTAINABILITY

Early vocational rehabilitation reduces social exclusion for the unemployed. This vocational rehabilitation project has been recognised as a success story in the Netherlands. The network works with Fit for Work (NL/EU) and consists of nine rehabilitation centres in 17 locations spread throughout the Netherlands.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES & TRANSFERABILITY

Mainstreaming activities includes organising vocational rehabilitation workshop days for professionals, sharing tools and results, and general approaches for different stakeholders.

Duration: 2002 – 2018.

Budget: 100 000 euro (per/year).

More information at: <http://vroegeinterventie.nl/>

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# The European Pillar of Social Rights meets the European Solidarity Corps

## European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

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### CONTEXT

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) is the new European Union initiative to create opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects, in their own country or abroad, that benefit communities and people around Europe. More than 100 million euros are being invested to support young people through various EU funding programmes under the ESC framework.

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### ACTIONS

Last year, the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) hosted the first two European Solidarity Corps trainees for 10 months. During this period, CEV did as much as possible to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights through the Corps. This resulted in reciprocal influence and support: without a great implementation of the Pillar, we cannot have a great implementation of the Corps programme, and vice versa.

The Corps trainees supported CEV in promoting solidarity through volunteering projects across Europe, and contributed to solidarity in Belgium. This enabled them to get to know not only all sides of Brussels, local and European, but also Belgium more widely. For instance, the trainees were involved in the Tandem project that facilitates volunteering opportunities in solidarity-focused organisations for third country migrants and refugees, in order to support their integration and combat stigmatisation.

In addition to the tasks linked to the activities of CEV, the trainees were also involved in disseminating information to young people and potential hosting organisations about the opportunities offered by the Corps across Europe. They also monitored any barriers to engagement in the Corps that were reported in the early months of the new programme and contributed to CEV's advocacy efforts to reduce these.

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### SUPPORT AND TRAINING

The approach and structure of the Corps traineeship developed by the CEV will be reused with future trainees, and can also be used by other host organisations to ensure fulfilling experiences.

All Corps trainees have a supervisor responsible for planning their activities and supporting them to fulfil their tasks. The trainees work with different members of CEV staff to provide direct support in the implementation of their duties. The trainees also have a mentor and are offered appropriate language support. There is an ongoing evaluation of task execution, personal development and contribution, to help plan the support the trainee needs to fulfil the planned learning outcomes.

# IRIS NETWORKing: CSOs for protection-sensitive migration management

IRIS Network  
Solidar

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## CONTEXT

The recent migration crisis in the Balkans has exposed the challenges facing migration management systems, particularly the lack of coherence between stakeholders in establishing inclusion mechanisms for migrants who are residing for longer periods. Regional cooperation only exists between border management and the police, with minimal opportunities to include civil society organisations (CSOs). Lessons learned in protection-sensitive migration management are still to be communicated, considering the uncertainty of existing and future migration issues. Therefore, CSOs will remain key players in the process of services provision and advocating for more inclusive migration policies.

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## A NEW REGIONAL INITIATIVE BY THE IRIS NETWORK

IRIS Network gathers 203 member organisations providing various types of social services for people with disabilities, children, youth who are at risk, women who are victims of violence, Roma, migrants, asylum seekers and other members of vulnerable social groups. It is the only regional network that brings together social service providers from CSOs in South East Europe.

During December 2017, IRIS Network started a new regional initiative, IRIS NETWORKing, developed by the Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC) from Serbia and its partners from Germany, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to significantly contribute to the improvement of service delivery and policy framework related to migration in the Western Balkans. The main objective of the project is to empower CSOs to be effective, accountable and independent actors and to improve their capacity for dialogue with governments to influence policy and decision-making processes.

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Building the capacity of CSOs in the Western Balkans through the IRIS Network** to improve the quality of social and legal services provided by CSOs. The Project will focus much more on specific CSOs providing social services and their development in terms of building human resources and quality standards for their services.
- **Influencing migration management policy in the Western Balkans** to facilitate strengthened national/regional coordination between CSOs and public institutions in migration management and to influence reform processes in the Western Balkans in order to improve service delivery for the migrant population.
- **Raising awareness** to increase resilience and strengthen social cohesion in local communities through civil society networking initiatives. The project will bring a different voice to the prevailing atmosphere of fear, resentment and prejudice towards migrants.

The established project duration is 40 months (December 2017 – April 2021) with a total budget of 1 093 807 EUR.

## SIDE EVENTS

The Convention's side events will give stakeholders the opportunity to showcase their work and strengthen their relationships with other social policy actors. The goal is to create an open environment which can nurture cooperation and exchange of best practices. The side events are organised directly by civil society and other stakeholders.

This year, the side events focus on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights through different angles.

### 1 How to use transnational human rights jurisprudence and monitoring to facilitate the implementation of the Social Rights Pillar?

*FEANTSA and PICUM, with the support of UNOHCHR and CoE*

This activity will focus on three possible ways of using the transnational human rights framework in the context of the Pillar.

- The European Pillar of Social Rights is to a large extent inspired by the Council of Europe's Social Charter. The European Committee of Social Rights monitors the implementation of the Charter based on reports received from Member States. The Committee has found that most EU Member States are in breach of one or more social rights which are also part of the Pillar.
- How to use human rights case law (Europe/United Nations) to set minimum standards for some of the Pillar's principles. Very few NGOs and other stakeholders have considered case law as a source of binding obligation on Member States. FEANTSA (through the Housing Rights Watch) has conducted an in-depth analysis of transnational case law on the right to housing, which could be a basis for minimum standards for Principle 19 of the Pillar.
- How to use human rights frameworks to allocate EU resources for the Pillar. The Brussels-based office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has published a paper on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The paper suggests five priority areas for EU funding based on a detailed analysis of the human rights record of EU Member States.

### 2 Community-based support and services as pillars for an inclusive European Union? Join the debate!

*European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community-based Care (EEG), COFACE, EASPD, ENIL*

Investment in community-based services offers a holistic way of implementing the Social Pillar. This event will be organised as a dialogue, bringing together stakeholders from different backgrounds (civil society, policy makers, researchers, etc.) to talk about the link between community-based support and the different principles of the Pillar. The discussion will encompass all principles, including inclusive education, training and life-long learning, active support to employment, work-life balance, childcare and support to children, social protection, health care, inclusion of persons with disabilities, long-term care, housing and assistance for the homeless.

## 3 The European added value of investing in children and youth in vulnerable situations

### *EU Alliance for Investing in Children*

Join us as we discuss how empowering children and young people through more child-centred policy making can provide a means of ending the cycle of disadvantage. Such an approach can build on the potential impact of the European Pillar of Social Rights on child development outcomes.

We will set the tone for the discussions by looking at case studies of promoting children's active participation in local communities. The activity will draw connections between the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, child development, and societal wellbeing. The event will highlight how the EU should invest more in these types of interventions to ensure the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including Principle 11. The next Multiannual Financial Framework should ensure that adequate resources are allocated to achieve these objectives.

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## 4 The Future of Work and the European Pillar of Social Rights: How to foster inclusive labour markets to reduce poverty and inequality?

### *EAPN, European Economic and Social Committee, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), SOLIDAR*

The European Pillar of Social Rights can play a key role in responding to the new trends shaping labour markets (non-standard employment, digitalisation, globalisation, the gig economy etc.). The Pillar has an important role in addressing these challenges, to ensure quality and sustainable work and to fight against poverty and inequality.

This activity will bring together social partners, civil society, and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to propose positive ways of working together for a meaningful delivery of the Pillar. It is a timely and crucial discussion in the context of the Social Fairness Package, not least the proposal to expand access to social security to all workers and European Labour Authority, while also looking at the European Semester as key framework for implementation.

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## 5 From principle to action: Implementing the Pillar at local level

### *European Social Network, EUROCITIES*

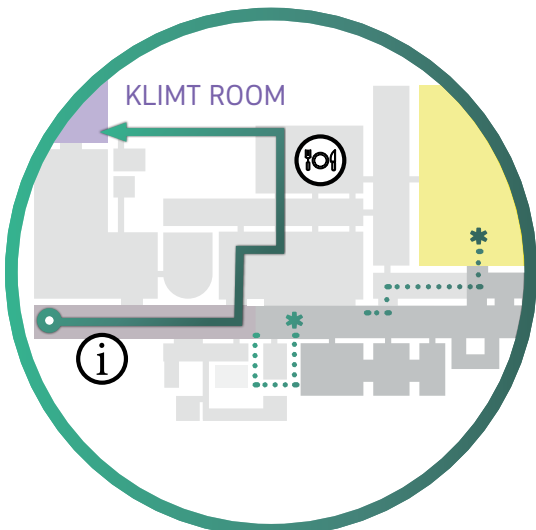
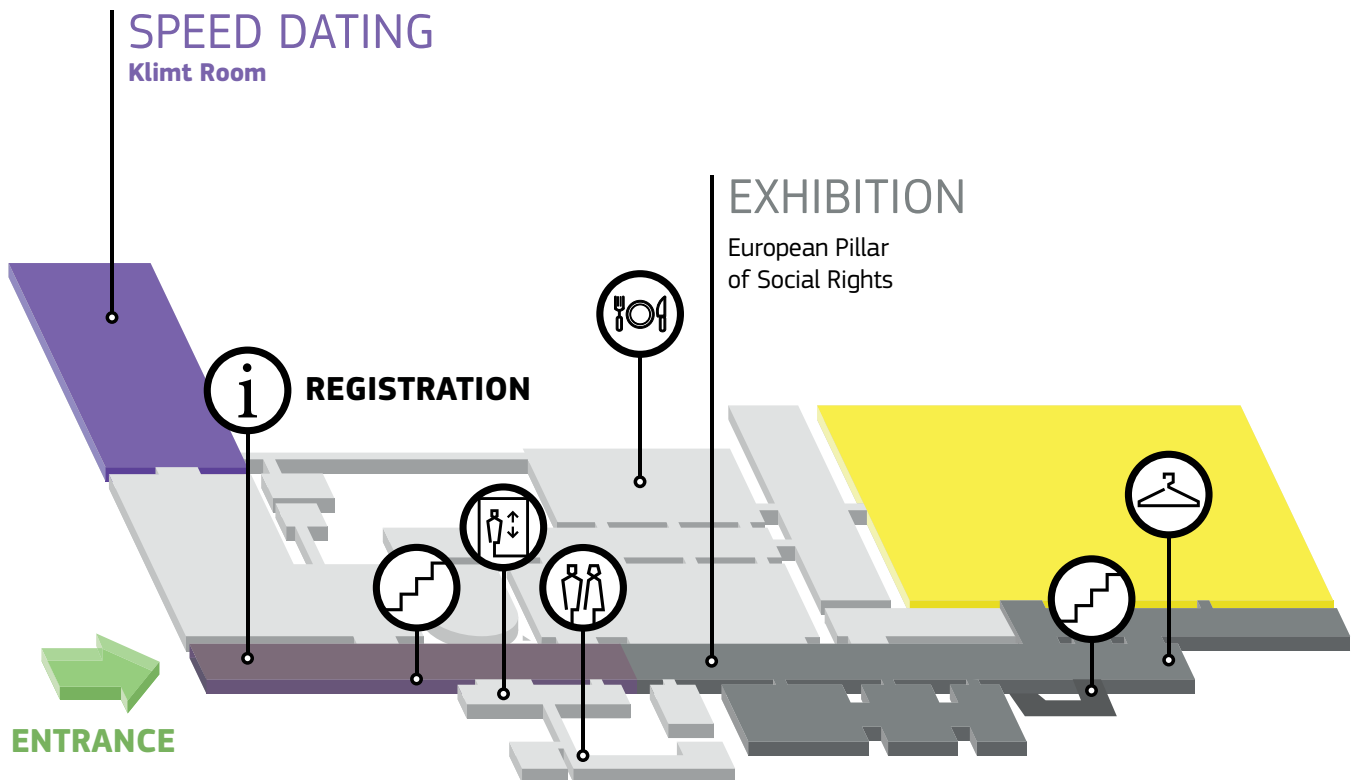
Local authorities and social services are crucial when it comes to the implementation of various principles put forward by the Pillar, specifically in the area of social protection. This side event will explore the relevance of the Pillar for local stakeholders, how the Pillar can act as a framework to support and engage them in its implementation, and specific examples of how local authorities are already implementing some key principles.

This includes innovative children's services that make a difference to children's lives in their most formative years, contributing to Principle 11 of the Pillar, and also how public services are promoting a more integrated approach to ensure social rights are upheld for all. The debate will also explore ways that employment and social services can coordinate in the implementation of the Pillar's principles.

Participants will have the chance to discuss the views on the Pillar of senior local-level professionals and promising implementation examples on these topics.

# Venue Map

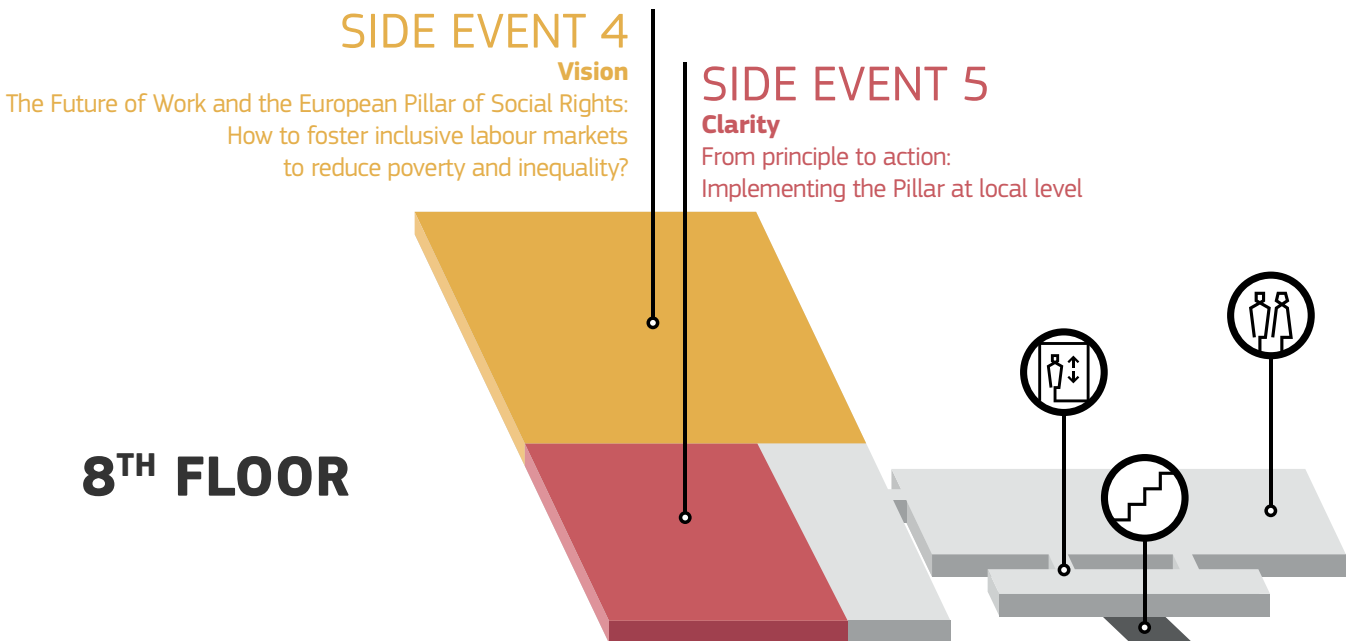
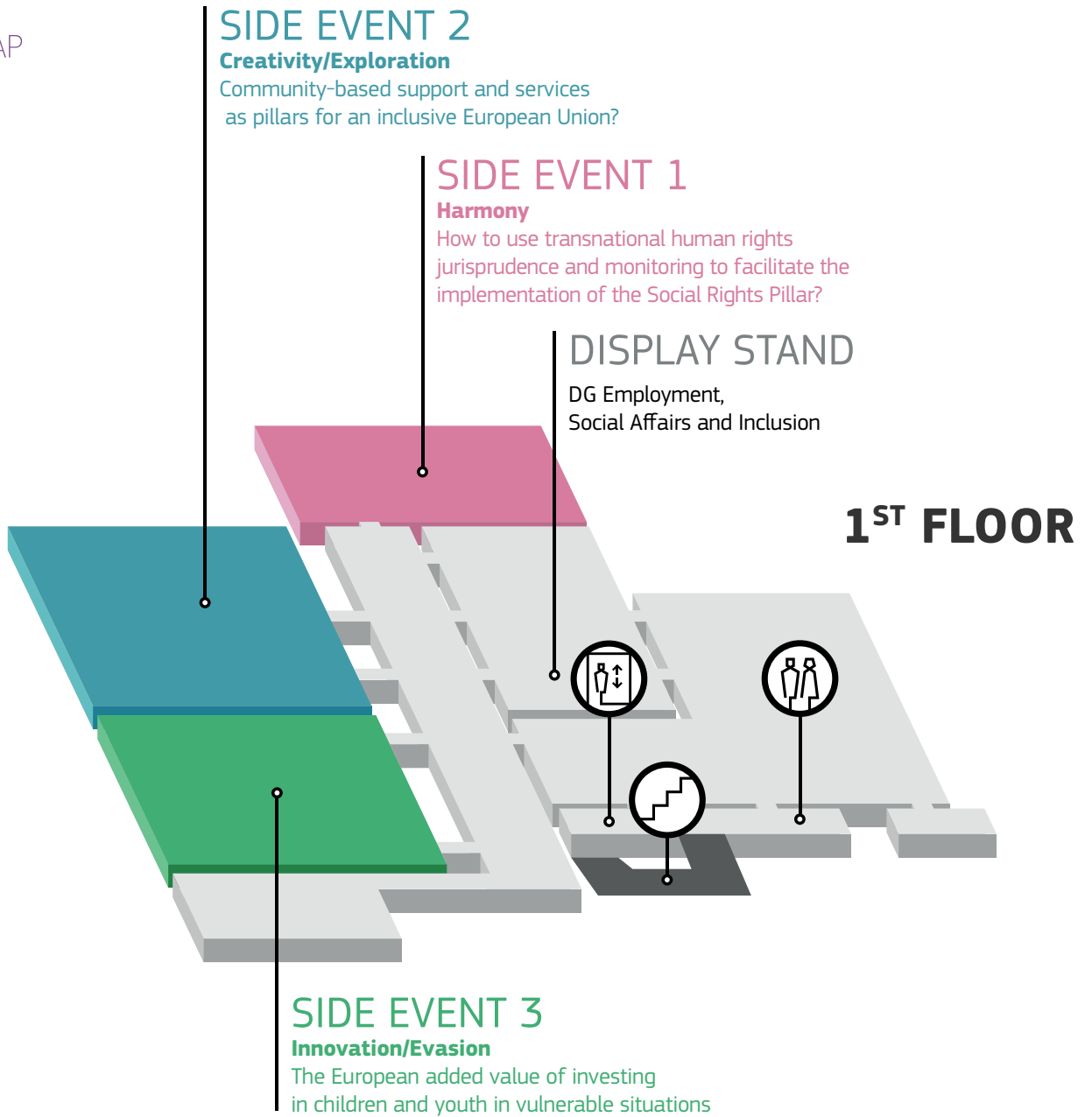
## GROUND FLOOR



Wheelchair access to the Klimt Room via the restaurant



Wheelchair access



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### EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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