



TALENT FESTIVAL 2026

EUROPE MEETS THE RUHR REGION
24 SEPTEMBER 2026 | 10:00 – 18:00
STADIUM AT THE HAFENSTR. | ESSEN

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01. ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

Get insights into the world of discrimination and learn what anti-racism means – at school, at work, and even during your free time. Using examples from everyday life, you'll learn what racism can feel like and explore the issue of prejudice.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Essener Chancen e.V. | language: DE

02. “I AM MORE THAN...” – CREATIVE WORKSHOP ON IDENTITY, BELONGING, AND SOCIAL COHESION

Who am I – and what makes me the person I am? Together, we'll explore what shapes us: language, friendships, experiences, values, background, and interests. Through creative exercises, you'll discover what matters to you – and what others might not see at first sight. In the end, we'll ask: What connects us, even though we're all different?

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Teller ohne Rand e.V. | language: DE

03. YOUR VOICE MATTERS – POETRY SLAM FOR DEMOCRACY AND DIVERSITY

Write your own piece on topics such as democracy, Europe, diversity, participatory decision-making, or even your personal vision for the future. Through creative writing exercises, you will learn how to turn your thoughts into powerful texts. If you'd like, you can present your piece on stage towards the end of the festival.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Jouhaina Lahchachi | language: DE, EN

04. WHO ACTUALLY MAKES DECISIONS IN THE EU?

“The EU has decided...” – but who actually is the EU, and how are such decisions made? Discover how the EU came to be, who's involved, and how differing interests are turned into joint decisions.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Understanding Europe Germany e.V. | language: DE

05. DEMOCRACY TALENTS – VALUES AUCTION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

How can democracy education be engaging and fun? We are trying out a method that allows people to quickly engage in deep conversations about values. In addition, young people share their experiences as peer-to-peer advocates at school.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Common Purpose Deutschland gGmbH | language: DE

06. TRACKING DOWN FAKE NEWS – HOW TO SPOT FALSE INFORMATION ONLINE

TikTok, Instagram, and other social media platforms are full of information, but not everything you see is true. Here you'll learn how fake news is created, why it spreads so quickly, and what tricks you can use to spot it. Through hands-on exercises, you'll become a fact-checking pro and debunk false reports. We will also take a look at deepfakes and discuss how we can deal with manipulated content in the future.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Coding For Tomorrow | language: DE

07. FACT CHECK – HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS

How do fake news arise, what mechanisms and motives are behind it, and why does it spread so quickly? Together, we'll develop methods and practical lesson ideas that you can use to support your students in recognizing fake news, verifying information, and critically evaluating digital content.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Coding For Tomorrow | language: DE

08. HOW CAN STUDENT PARTICIPATION WORK IN CLASSROOMS?

How engaged are students in their classrooms? This presentation shares representative findings from the 2022 International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) for North Rhine-Westphalia. The empirical findings encourage participants to reflect on their own practices regarding student engagement and to further develop opportunities for student participation in the classroom.

type: Lecture | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Universität Duisburg-Essen | language: DE

09. WHAT IS ACTUALLY TRUE? – AI AND DISINFORMATION

Together, we'll explore how and why AI can generate misinformation without any external intervention. The second part focuses on just how powerful AI is in creating targeted disinformation.

type: Lecture | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Sepisight UG | language: DE

10. WHAT DOES AI KNOW ABOUT ME – AND WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DATA WHEN I USE IT?

What information does AI collect about me, and why is it trying to get to know me that well? What happens to my own abilities when I use it for school, college, or work? Together, we'll explore these questions in depth.

type: Lecture | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: Sepisight UG | language: DE

11. YOUNG PEOPLE CHALLENGE POLITICIANS: THE “TOWNHALL IN SCHOOL” PROJECT

The workshop introduces the European “Town Hall in School” project and its implementation in the form of project days. During these sessions, students have the opportunity to directly confront politicians with their concerns, needs, and demands. The concept forces politicians to engage with these issues and deprives them of the space they usually have for self-promotion. The workshop outlines the schedule for the project day and explains its methodology. Participants will have the chance to try out exercises for themselves and discuss them amongst themselves.

type: Workshop | location: 2nd fl. | provided by: EuroSoc#Digital gGmbH | language: DE, EN

12. KICK-OFF FOR FAIR PLAY

Play along or cheer your favourite teams on! Ten consoles will host an exciting FIFA competition. The matches will be commented live and streamed on Twitch – for a real sports experience and plenty of fair play.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: GameCatering Media UG | language: DE

13. GLOBAL BREAKFAST Please sign up at the station in advance

Discover breakfast traditions, from Germany, France, Cameroon, Turkey, and the U.S.: Together, we'll try some typical dishes and talk about sustainability and where our food comes from.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Bildung trifft Entwicklung | language: DE, EN

14. DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS?

Children's rights concern all of us! Find your way out of the escape room, discover exciting facts at interactive stations, and learn how democracy and participatory decision-making work. Teamwork will also be required at the soccer table.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Politik zum Anfassen e.V. | language: DE, EN

15. “ACTING DEMOCRATICALLY” – MAKING ENGAGEMENT VISIBLE

We know there are some truly engaged young people at your school. We want to make this commitment more visible. We're introducing our competition, so you can get started on your application right away!

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: demokratisch handeln | language: DE

16. WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE TO YOU? LIVE ART STATION

What does democracy mean to you – and how do you imagine your future in Europe? Share your thoughts and ideas with our artists and watch as they come together to form a collaborative work of art over the course of the festival.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Artist | language: DE, EN

17. MY CITY – MY VOICE: SHOW YOUR CITY IN A FILM! Please sign up in the room in advance

With the “Stop Motion Studio” app, you will become a director, cinematographer, and creative professional. You'll develop exciting ideas and sets, design characters, and show what makes your city special from your perspective. Step by step, you'll bring your scenes to life and turn photos into a dynamic stop-motion film.

type: Workshop | location: 1st fl. | provided by: DigitalWerkstatt Dortmund | language: DE, EN

18. SAY CHEESE! (PHOTO BOOTH)

Strike a pose, smile, snap the photo – and then you'll have it: your festival photo. Create memories that will last a lifetime!

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr

19. CHILL-ZONE

Take a break! Whether you want to relax, calm down, or just sit together and talk, this is the place to recharge and enjoy the festival at your own pace.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr

20. GLOBAL PEACE PATH – PEACE IN WORDS #NETZTALENTE-PROJECT

What does peace mean to you? Let peace poems inspire you and discover the many ways in which words can express hope and solidarity. Get creative yourself by writing your own poem or jotting down a thought and make the exhibition bigger with your contribution.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr / Mulvaney Berufskolleg Here | language: DE, EN

21. RESPECT TO GO – MESSAGES TO LEAVE BEHIND

Design your own jute bag with your personal message and spin the wheel of fortune for a small prize. Share your idea of respect or peaceful coexistence on our Respect Wall – every message counts.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Jugendamt Dortmund – RespektBüro | language: DE, EN

22. WHAT VALUES DO I ASSOCIATE WITH EUROPE?

What does Europe mean to you? Freedom, respect, peace? Or is it something entirely different? Write down your value on a piece of paper and become part of our shared tree of values.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Cuno-Berufskolleg | Hagen | language: DE, EN

23. TAKE A BREAK AND CREATE!

Create it. Wear it. Keep it. Take a creative break and design your own festival piece – from buttons and T-shirts to bracelets.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr

24. MISSION FACT CHECK – ESCAPE GAME

You are part of the investigative team at FAKTENWERK. The new edition was supposed to be published today, but a hacker has locked the editorial system and published news stories. Some are real while others have been manipulated. Solve the puzzles and find the five-digit security code.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Cuno-Berufskolleg | Hagen | language: DE

25. EUROPEAN GAMES & FUN

Whether it's a quiz, a card game, a board game, or an interactive game, here you can get to know Europe in an entertaining way and test your knowledge.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr | language: DE, EN

26. LANGUAGE LAB – BREAK THE LANGUAGE CODE!

Can you break the language code? Choose a language and team up with others to tackle exciting mini-challenges. At the same time, you will learn the most important words and phrases to strike up a conversation with other festival guests.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr | language: DE, EN

27. SPECIES UNDER PRESSURE: THE CLIMATE QUARTET

Find out why biodiversity is more than just a term from a biology book: In the Climate Quartet, you collect sets of four cards representing animal species, food, habitat, and threats. It might sound like a card game at first, but it quickly shows what climate change does to biodiversity.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Kofferprojekt21 UG | language: DE, EN

28. “TOWNHALL IN SCHOOL” PROJECT – HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR CITIES FIT FOR THE FUTURE? #NETZTALENTE-PROJECT

How can Essen and the Ruhr region become even better places to live? Students from the Maria-Wächter-Gymnasium developed their own ideas, from cooler hangout spots for teens to better cycling options for everyone. Check out their suggestions and share your own ideas: What would you like to change in your city?

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Maria-Wächter-Gymnasium Essen | language: DE, EN

29. YOUR SOUND. YOUR EUROPE.

Music connects people across languages and borders. Share your favorite song and discover new music. Together, we'll create a colorful playlist featuring the sounds and stories of Europe.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr

30. MY EUROPE

Place your flags on the European map. Where are you from? Where have you been? And which countries would you like to explore? This will create a shared map of Europe full of stories, experiences, and future dreams.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr | language: DE, EN

31. MEET CREATIVE CHANGE – INFORMATION, WHEEL OF FORTUNE & MORE

Discover the programs offered by Creative Change. You can pick up some information and get a little surprise from the wheel of fortune. You can also share your thoughts on thought-provoking questions by adding notes to our noticeboard. Drop by, ask questions, and get to know us.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Creative Change e.V. | language: DE, EN

32. 17 GOALS FOR THE FUTURE – WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? #NETZTALENTE-PROJECT

A better world until 2030 – there are 17 goals to make that happen. Which ones are important to you? Take the SDG or Bulshit? quiz, vote for your favorite, and show us what needs to change.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: TalentMetropole Ruhr | language: DE, EN

33. CREATE A PICTURE TOGETHER

Cut, tear, glue, draw, doodle – anything goes here! Together, you'll create a large collage, building on the ideas of your peers and developing them further. In the process, you'll experience what happens when different people and ideas come together to create something new. Stop by, find a spot, and join in the fun!

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Akademie Ruhr | language: DE

34. BUILD YOUR CITY – BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER Please sign up at the station in advance

Using modeling clay, stencils, and other materials, you'll create a small lively town. In the process, you'll experience how democracy works: discussing issues, reaching compromises, taking responsibility, and shaping the future. Every decision affects the next group – just like in a real town.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: KA-Labor f. Kunst u. Architektur | language: DE, EN

35. WAYS TO GO ABOARD

Are you planning to spend time abroad? Learn about the different ways to do just that! From a voluntary social service year to working camps, you can get advice on which program is best for you.

type: Information booth | location: 1st fl. | provided by: aktuelles Forum e.V. | language: DE, EN

36. LEARNING ABOUT EUROPE IN THE CLASSROOM – INTERACTIVE, PRACTICAL, AND READY TO USE

How can students explore Europe and the European Union in a creative and interactive way? The workshop will introduce formats such as Fabulous Council, #DiscoverEurope, and Fact or Fake. In addition, there will be further materials and opportunities to exchange ideas with other teachers.

type: Workshop | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Europäische Kommission | language: DE

37. MIX & VOTE – YOUR DRINK, YOUR VOTE. Please sign up at the station in advance

Mix it. Taste it. Vote for it. Create your own mocktail, try them all, and vote for your favorite. It's not just the taste that counts here – it's your vote, too.

type: Workshop | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Diamenh Juices

38. BECOME A “ZWEITZEUG” – REMEMBERING FOR THE FUTURE

Learn about the work of ZWEITZEUGEN and discover how personal stories of Holocaust survivors can be shared. You can take part in a stop-motion film or pick up your own button. „Zweitzeuge“ is someone who listens to the stories of Holocaust survivors, a witness to the witnesses.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. | language: DE

39. EXPERIENCE THE ZWEITZEUGEN EXHIBITION AND BECOME A “ZWEITZEUG”

Learn about the stories of Henry Chava, Leon, and Wolfgang – all of them were witnesses to the Holocaust. Together, we'll explore what shaped them, what gave them strength, and what their lives were like before and after the persecution. We'll also consider how their stories relate to us and what we can do today to stand up for democracy and against antisemitism.

type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: ZWEITZEUGEN e.V. | language: DE

40. “SAVE MAFASIA'S FUTURE!” – THE ONLINE GAME FABULOUS COUNCIL

Dive into the fantasy world of Mafasia! Take on the role of a magical creature and become part of the Fabulous Council. Together, you'll make important decisions, negotiate compromises, and shape the future of your world. This way, you'll discover why democracy, cooperation, and good decisions are important for everyone.

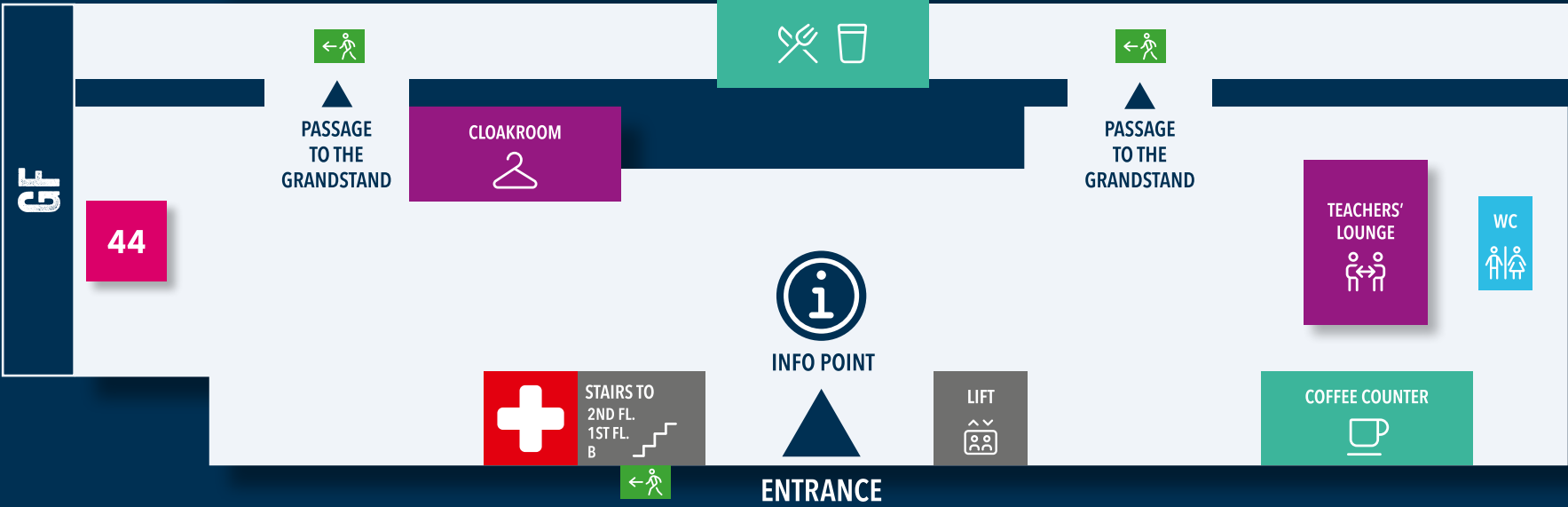
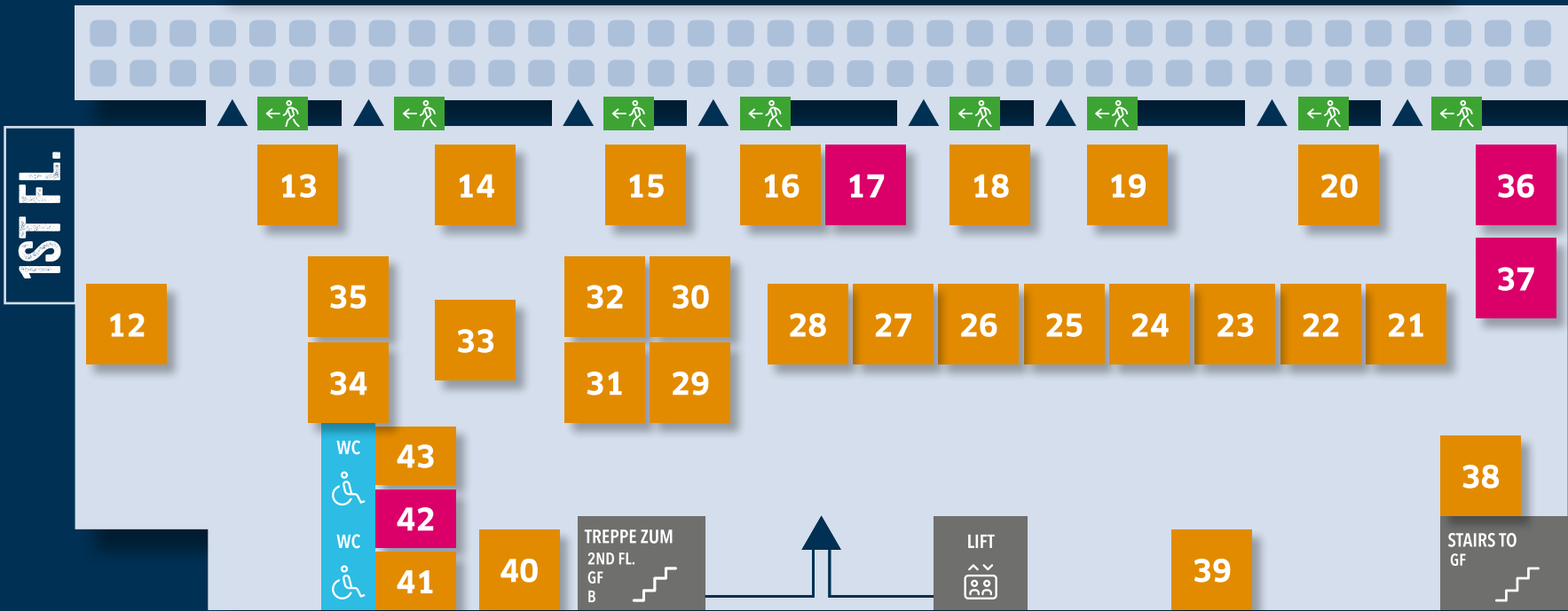
type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Europäische Kommission | language: DE, EN

41. JOIN IN: EU QUIZ, WHEEL OF FORTUNE & PRIZES!

Test your knowledge with a quiz about the European Union, spin the wheel and win a prize! There are also exciting materials about the European Union.

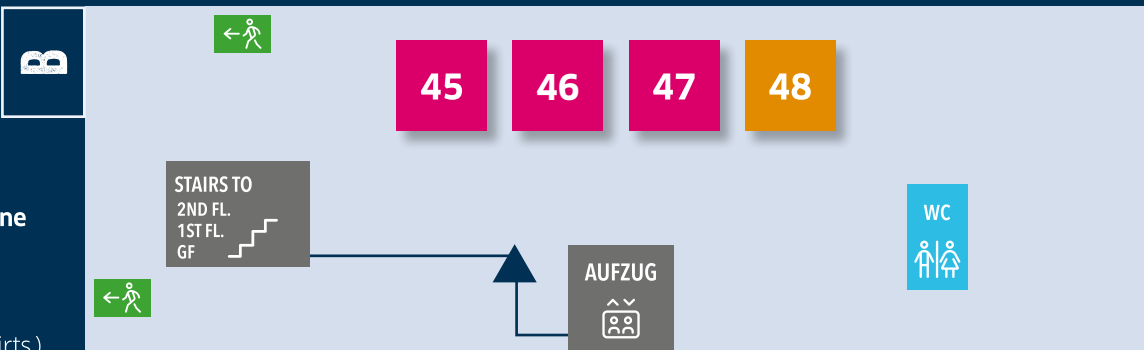
type: Interactive Station | location: 1st fl. | provided by: Europäische Kommission & Europe Direct Essen

HERE YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING AT A GLANCE.



Is there something on your mind, do you need help, or would you simply like someone to talk to?

Our Awareness Team is here for you – confidentially and without judgement. (You can recognise them by their orange T-shirts.)



TalentMetropole
Ruhr
53 Städte,
53.000 Möglichkeiten



Info-Point



Toilets



Accessible Toilets



Food



Drinks



First Aid



Emergency Exits



Workshops



Interactive Stations



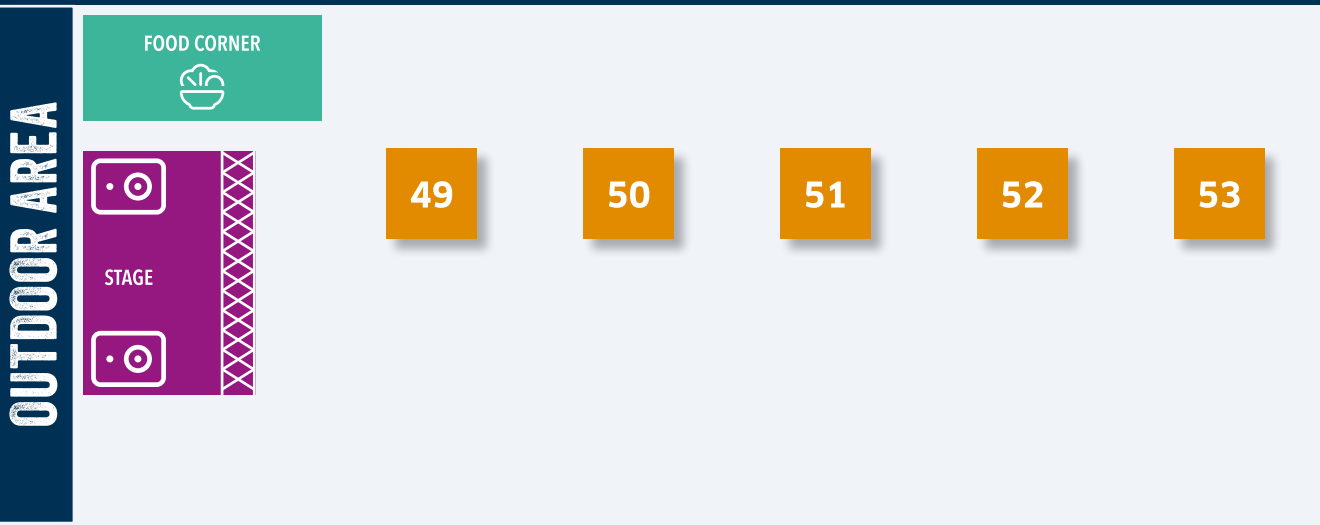
Lectures

WORKSHOPS & INTERACTIVE STATIONS

11:00 – 16:00

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Anti-Racism workshop | 28 How to make our cities fit for the future |
| 2 "I am ore Than..." | 29 Your sound. Your Europe. |
| 3 Your voice matters (Poetry Slam) | 30 My Europe |
| 4 Who makes decisions in the EU | 31 Meet Creative Change |
| 5 Democracy talents | 32 17 goals for the future |
| 6 Tracking down fake news | 33 Create a picture together |
| 7 How to spot fake news | 34 Build your city |
| 8 Student participation in classrooms | 35 Ways to go abroad |
| 9 What Is actually true? | 36 Europe in the classroom |
| 10 What does AI know about me and ...? | 37 Mix & Vote |
| 11 „TownHall in School“ project | 38 Become a "ZWEITZEUGE" |
| 12 Kick-Off for fair play | 39 ZWEITZEUGEN exhibition |
| 13 Global breakfast | 40 „Save Nafasia's Future!" |
| 14 Do you know your rights? | 41 EU quiz, wheel of fortune & prizes |
| 15 "Acting democratically" | 42 Understanding and creating memes |
| 16 What does democracy look like to you? | 43 Art for the neighbourhood |
| 17 My City – My Voice! | 44 Theatre meets democracy |
| 18 Say cheese! | 45 The Ruhr Region meets Europe |
| 19 Chill-Zone | 46 KLIMA"ONair – The podcast workshop |
| 20 Global peace path | 47 Bystander intervention training |
| 21 Respect to go | 48 Far-right extremism & ultranationalism in sporting environments |
| 22 What values do I associate with Europe? | 49 Courage course |
| 23 Take a break and create! | 50 Spray what matters. |
| 24 Mission fact check – Escape game | 51 Football with a twist |
| 25 European games & fun | 52 Bullseye! |
| 26 Language lab | 53 Chill-Zone |
| 27 The CLIMATE QUARTET | |

You can find detailed descriptions of our workshops and interactive stations on the back and on the right.



OPENING ON THE GRANDSTAND

10:00 – 10:45

STAGE PROGRAMME

11:15 – 11:45 Europe Quiz
12:15 – 12:45 Dance Workshop
13:00 – 13:30 Karaoke
13:30 – 13:45 Jugendkompanie tanzhaus nrw
13:45 – 14:00 Europe Quiz or Karaoke
14:00 – 14:30 Dance Workshop
14:30 – 15:00 Dance Workshop
15:00 – 15:30 Poetry-Slam

AFTERSHOW PARTY With DJ and Special Acts

16:00 – 18:00



42. UNDERSTANDING MEMES – CREATING MEMES

Memes became part of our everyday lives a long time ago. They quickly express emotions, opinions, and information, but sometimes they also spread discriminatory or hateful messages that may seem harmless at first. This course will teach you how to recognize such messages before moving on to creating your own memes.

type: Workshop | **location:** 1st fl. | **provided by:** Internationales Begegnungszentrum Friedenshaus e.V. | **language:** DE, EN

43. RÜ STREET ART PROJECT 2026: ART FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

How can you turn a plain gray electrical box into a real eye-catcher? As part of the RÜ Street Art Project, students decorated their neighborhood with their own ideas and designs. Check out what they created and get creative yourself at the hands-on station!

type: Interactive Station | **location:** 1st fl. | **provided by:** Maria-Wächtler-Gymnasium Essen | **language:** DE, EN

44. CREATIVE CHANGE: THEATRE MEETS DEMOCRACY

The play is about democracy, teamwork and making decisions together. It shows how a group faces a specific challenge that requires a solution. Work together to figure out how to solve the problem, come up with possible courses of action and try out your ideas right away.

type: Workshop | **location:** GF | **provided by:** Creative Change e.V. | **language:** DE, EN

45. OUR FUTURE, OUR IDEAS – THE RUHR REGION MEETS EUROPE

Join one of our Barcamps! Here, you decide what we'll talk about: In small groups, you'll have an open discussion about what it means to you to be from the Ruhr region, what you hope for your future, and what Europe means to you.

type: Workshop | **location:** B | **provided by:** Salon5/CORRECTIV – Recherchen für die Gesellschaft gGmbH | **language:** DE, EN

46. KLIMA"ONAIR – THE PODCAST WORKSHOP

How is the climate crisis affecting people, animals, and our future? What's unfair? What makes you angry, and what gives you hope? You'll play games, discuss, gather ideas, and use them to create your own podcast.

type: Workshop | **location:** B | **provided by:** Kofferprojekte21 UG | **language:** DE, EN

47. SHOW COURAGE – THE RIGHT WAY! BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING

At school, on the bus, or on the street – sometimes it takes courage to not just look the other way. Through real-life examples and practical exercises, you'll explore how to demonstrate moral courage in everyday life and learn how to help others without putting yourself in danger.

type: Workshop | **location:** B | **provided by:** mTiger Stiftung | **language:** DE

48. FAR-RIGHT EXTREMISM & ULTRANATIONALISM IN SPORTING ENVIRONMENTS

Sports bring people together—but sometimes it's also used to spread hate, exclusion, and extremist ideologies. Using real-life case studies, you'll learn how right-wing extremism and ultranationalism can manifest in sports. You'll then discuss possible courses of action and develop concrete strategies for how clubs, associations and other stakeholders can effectively counter discriminatory and extremist behavior and strengthen a democratic, diverse sports culture.

type: Workshop | **location:** B | **provided by:** Deutsche Sportjugend im DOSB e.V. | **language:** DE

49. COURAGE COURSE

Along the adventure course, you'll find exciting stations where you can try new things, discover your own limits and push yourself beyond them. You'll discover what you're made of, build your self-confidence and learn that you can master even tricky situations.

type: Interactive Station | **location:** Outdoor Area | **provided by:** Monster Academy | **language:** DE, EN

50. SPRAY WHAT MATTERS. #NETZTALENTE-PROJECT

What words come to your mind when you think of democracy, community, and Europe? Grab a spray can, learn the basics of graffiti, and put your message on the wall.

type: Interactive Station | **location:** Outdoor Area

51. FOOTBALL WITH A TWIST – YOU ARE THE PLAYERS!

Challenge your friends in our in our huge soccer arena. Grab your position, build your team and have fun. Ready, set, kick!

type: Interactive Station | **location:** Outdoor Area | **provided by:** TalentMetropole Ruhr

52. BULLSEYE!

Fancy a quick game of football in between? Grab a ball and try your luck at the goal wall. Take aim, shoot – and hopefully score!

type: Interactive Station | **location:** Outdoor Area

53. CHILL-ZONE

Take a break! Whether you want to relax, calm down, or just sit together and talk, this is the place to recharge and enjoy the festival at your own pace.

type: Interactive Station | **location:** Outdoor Area | **provided by:** TalentMetropole Ruhr