

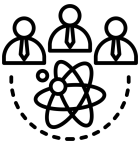
PolyCIVIS Final Conference

2 - 5 June 2026

📍 Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences Humaines et Sociales (MMSH) in Aix-en-Provence, France

Conference Highlights

Scientific Sessions



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The final PolyCIVIS conference, hosted by the **Aix Marseille Université**, will take place from **Tuesday, the 2nd**, to **Friday, the 5th of June 2026** at the **Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences Humaines et Sociales (MMSH)** in Aix-en-Provence, France

Conference Description

In recent years, crises seemed to multiply and grow, with frequent challenges spanning several of the main risk categories—economic, societal, environmental, technological, and geopolitical. Risks include biodiversity loss or extreme weather events coinciding with humanitarian and health crises, including migration, pandemics, or malnutrition; economic instability and rising inequality; political conflicts creating social tension; and, of course, conflicts, wars, human rights violations, and geopolitical instability. At the same time, **society is also witnessing a rise in simplistic interpretations and approaches to these crises**, either individually or taken as a whole, including within the political sphere. **Complexity is often overlooked, and dialogue is sometimes impossible.**

The PolyCIVIS network is committed to fostering discussions and exchanges between researchers from different disciplines and geographies, and policymakers from various fields to jointly advance crisis resilience. For the last three years, the network has focused on a Euro-African interpretation of polycrisis and applied its knowledge and experience in the fields of research, policymaking, teaching, and communication. The final PolyCIVIS conference will be an opportunity to further unpack the complexity of the contemporary

world through discussions involving academics, civil society, and policymakers. The conference will build on Edgar Morin and Anne Brigitte Kern's view of the polycrisis, which states that **"there is no single vital problem, but many vital problems, and it is this complex inter-solidarity of problems, antagonisms, crises, uncontrolled processes, and the general crisis of the planet that constitutes the number one vital problem"** (Morin and Kern, 1993, p. 74). Given this perspective, the conference **will identify concrete interdisciplinary and transnational ways for preparedness and resilience with a focus on the European and African contexts.**

The objective of the conference is to facilitate deepened **scientific exchanges** with a Euro-African approach on the polycrisis, to **showcase the results of the PolyCIVIS project, and to reflect on the PolyCIVIS network's sustainability.** The programme of the conference includes dedicated times for **scientific exchanges, policy discussions, working meetings, and a cultural agenda.**

Scientific Conference

The scientific conference will be organized on **Wednesday, the 3rd of June 2026**, and **Thursday, the 4th of June 2026.** **The opening of the conference on the 3rd of June, 2026,** will be followed by the **presentation of the main project output, an edited volume, "Facing the Polycrisis Together: Context and African-European Perspectives."** It aims to expand on the polycrisis concept by going beyond Euro-centric analyses through interdisciplinary research and to provide governance recommendations. This will be followed by the Discussion Forum and 2 discussion items (see below).

Thursday, the 4th of June, 2026, will be dedicated to a session highlighting the **major milestones and achievements of the project,** illustrating the dynamics of cooperation and the collective outputs of the network. Discussions led by the respective work packages—Management & Governance, Research, Policy, Teaching, and Communications—will be centered around the **role, challenges, and solutions emerging from PolyCIVIS.**

Discussion Forum

On Wednesday, the **3rd of June 2026,** as part of the scientific conference, a **Discussion Forum** will bring together academics, policymakers, youth, and civil society to **consolidate dialogue between African and European partners** and to **foster collective reflection** on the challenges of the polycrisis and how to build resilience and pursue solutions that can be adopted by policymakers and society.

- **Opening of the Discussion Forum:** Polycrisis: Youth resilience in the face of conflict, forced migration, and climate change.

Chair: Malte Brosig (University of the Witwatersrand)

- **Discussion item I:** Youth in Africa and Europe at the epicenter of the polycrisis: Conflict, migration, and climate change as intersecting drivers of vulnerability.

Focus: This discussion will investigate how political governance, conflict, environmental degradation, and migration flows interact to shape the lived realities of young people in Africa and Europe. It will examine:

- The role of climate-induced resource scarcity in escalating conflict and mobility.
- How conflict and displacement disproportionately affect young people's access to education, livelihoods, and security.

- The psychosocial impacts of layered crises, including political governance, on youth identity, aspirations, and agency.
- Structural inequalities (gender, class, ethnicity) that deepen youth vulnerability in polycrisis environments.

Speakers: Karin Bäckstrand (Stockholm University)

Germain Ngoie Tshibambe (Lubumbashi University)

Simona Mariana Ioan Corlan (Bucharest University)

Anaïs Thizy (French YPS, WPS Coalition & EU YPS Network)

Discussant: John Oti Amoah (University of Cape Coast)

- **Discussion item II:** Resilience and solutions: African and European youth-led innovation, governance, and peacebuilding in times of polycrisis.

Focus: Shifting from diagnosis to solutions, this panel will highlight the capacity of youth to lead resilience-building efforts and policy innovation. Topics include:

- Youth-led peacebuilding, security, and conflict resolution initiatives
- Localized climate adaptation practices created or championed by young people
- Digital innovations in humanitarian response, migration support networks, and climate resilience;
- Opportunities and barriers for youth political participation, governance, and multilevel decision-making; and
- Pathways to integrate youth voices into national and international policy frameworks.

Speakers: Amandine Sabourin (PolyCIVIS Board of Advisors/ECDPM)

Fadma Ait Mous (Hassan II University of Casablanca)

Youssef ben Nassirou Ba (Lédéa Bernard Ouedraogo University)

Discussants: Faith Mabere (University of the Witwatersrand)

Cultural Agenda

In the spirit of **Edgar Morin**, a **cultural program will be offered on Thursday, the 4th of June 2026**, to explore local culture and history, and enhance discussions on polycrisis through a new angle. Cultural visits will serve as opportunities to **learn through experience**, with the **Camp des Milles**, an internment camp turned into a *lieu de mémoire* on violence.

Working Meetings

On **Tuesday, the 2nd of June 2026, and Friday, the 5th of June 2026**, the PolyCIVIS consortium will convene project governance meetings, including meetings of the Consortium Council **to discuss project reporting and sustainability**.

Venue



Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences Humaines et Sociales (MMSH)

5, rue du Château de l'Horloge, 13097 Aix-en-Provence cedex 2

To get to the MMSH

- by the Aixpress service: take the Aixpress A bus towards Saint Mitre. Get off at the Thermidor stop. Journey time: 5-10 minutes
- by line 8 from the centre of Aix/SNCF train Station/Rotonde–Bonaparte. In this case, get off at the Horloge stop. Journey time: 15 minutes

Ticket costs 1,20 euros, and the frequency is every 10-20 minutes.

Contacts

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- For any question related to the budget, please write to: cecilia.JUMEZ@univ-amu.fr
- For any questions about the accommodation or logistical details, please write to: maliza.mzimba@univ-amu.fr

Join us in Aix-en-Provence to exchange ideas, build connections, and shape future collaborations across European and African contexts.

Tuesday, 2 June	Wednesday, 3 June	Thursday, 4 June	Friday, 5 June
	9:00-10:00: Facing Polycrisis together – A Euro-African Perspective	9:00-10:30: Participatory and Transdisciplinary Pedagogies for Teaching the Polycrisis in Higher Education : Discussion around the Polycrisis Handbook	9:00-10:30: European projects and funding: What can we do next?
	<i>10:00-10:30: Coffee Break</i>	<i>10:30-11:00: Coffee Break</i>	<i>10:30-11:00: Coffee Break</i>
	10:30-12:00: The Sahel region & the polycrisis	11:00-12:30: BIP Simulation: Teaching Polycrisis Management - The Case of the Kampala Waste Crisis	11:00-12:30: Sustainability: Bilateral Meetings & Speed-Meetings
Lunch break			
13:30-14:30: PolyCIVIS' general reporting – Presentation by the ULB	13:30-13:40: Opening of the Discussion Forum Polycrisis: Youth resilience in the face of conflict, forced migration, and climate change	15:00: Camp des Milles	Optional visit and departures
14:30-16:00: Outcome presentation by each WP	13:40-15:00: Discussion item I: Youth in Africa and Europe at the epicenter of the polycrisis: Conflict, migration, and climate change as intersecting drivers of vulnerability		
<i>16:00-16:30: Coffee Break</i>	<i>15:00-15:30: Coffee Break</i>		
16:30-17:30: Final consortium meeting	15:30-16:50: Discussion item II: Resilience and solutions: African and European youth-led innovation, governance, and peacebuilding in times of polycrisis 16:50: Closing & Wrap up	18:30: Gala Dinner	