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Strasbourg, 20 July 2012

Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead

The impact of the Council of Europe Charter on
Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human
Rights Education

29 – 30 November 2012
Strasbourg, France

Call for Youth Participants

Deadline: 15 September 2012

Fulfilling the promise! Your input is needed

The adoption of the Recommendation (2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education on 11 May 2010 constituted one of the most important developments for human rights education in Europe and beyond. The Charter is an important reference point and will be used as a basis for the work of the Council of Europe in human rights education. It is also an important tool for advocacy and policy development that further supports and builds on the experience at local and national level.

The Charter marks a turning point in the Council of Europe's work in promoting citizenship and human rights education and is the culmination of the project on Education for Democratic Citizenship and of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme. The Human Rights Education Youth Programme, developed and implemented by the Youth Department from 2001 contributes to mainstream human rights education in youth work and youth policy. Young people and their organisations are not only beneficiaries; they are also educators and advocates for human rights. The programme had developed around Compass, the manual on human rights education with young people. Published in 2001, Compass is translated in more than 30 languages and is used by human rights educators in formal and non-formal education alike. Within the programme, capacity-building activities for trainers and multipliers have been organised at European level creating a strong network of advocates and resource people in human rights education. Furthermore, support has been offered to key regional and national training activities for human rights educators and to pilot projects carried out by young people has been provided by the European Youth Foundation. The programme supports the mainstreaming of human rights education in youth policy and youth programme of the Council of Europe and innovation through activities such as the Advanced Compass Training in Human Rights Education and the Living Library methodology.

In addition to Compass, the Human Rights Education Programme has also provided the context for the development of other resources for human rights education such as: *Compasito - manual for human rights education with children*, *Gender Matters – manual on gender-based violence affecting young people*, *Companion*, A campaign guide about education and learning for change in Diversity, Human Rights and Participation.

The two Forums on Human Rights Education with and by young people, organised in 2000 and 2009, paved the way to mainstreaming human rights education in youth policy and youth work, and highlighted the importance of human rights education for the work done for human rights by the institution.

Two years after the adoption of the Charter, the Council of Europe initiates a review process on its implementation and influence in making citizenship and human rights education a reality for us all in Europe. The process of review involves the cooperation of the Youth Department and the Education Department of the Council of Europe, together with the European Commission and the European Wergeland Centre. This includes a survey among stakeholders on the implementation of the Charter and a Conference to take stock of the progress achieved, gather main stakeholders and give guidance for the action of the Council of Europe in human rights education.

The Education Department of the Council of Europe is thus coordinating a questionnaire to member states. In order to have also the view of other stakeholders

and actors in EDC/HRE, the Youth Department carries out a similar survey among non-governmental organisations – youth organisations included.

The survey for non-governmental partners is open for contributions until 15 September 2012 and available at: <http://youthapplications.coe.int>

Aims and objectives of the Conference

The aim of the conference *Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead* is to bring together representatives of the states party to the European Cultural Convention responsible with education and youth policy, education practitioners, youth and civil society representatives and other partners to take stock of the results achieved and to plan future co-operation and strategies for the promotion of EDC/HRE through the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

The objectives are as follows:

- To discuss challenges and opportunities in the field of citizenship and human rights education;
- To exchange information on the impact and implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in the member states by public institutions and NGOs;
- To discuss how to further enhance EDC/HRE through the use of the Charter in the coming years, and to contribute to the development of sustainable mechanisms for the implementation of the Charter both in member states and the Council of Europe;
- To discuss concrete future co-operation initiatives among national and international institutions and organisations and between formal and non-formal education sectors.

Expected outcomes of the Conference

At the policy level:

- Strengthening Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights based on the Charter through a better understanding of effective ways of promoting Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in all educational settings;
- Increased visibility of the role of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education for the future of democratic societies and of the work of the Council of Europe in this field;
- Strengthening cooperation of all involved parties on the international and national level to capitalise on synergies and ensure complementarity, and initiate plans for concerted actions.

Specific outcomes:

- A conference report, including feedback on the questionnaire report, conclusions and recommendations;
- A conference website, including speeches, presentations and multimedia products (ex. interviews with participants).

Pre-conference events

Two pre-conference events will be organised to support the conference. The events will take place on 28 November 2012 in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

In the morning of 28 November 2012 an *Informal Meeting* with the participants in the Conference selected by the Youth Department will take place. The meeting aims to inform the participants on the latest developments in youth policy at European level concerning human rights education, to offer participants a space to get to know each other and share experiences of work in human rights education with young people and to evaluate and reflect on the Human Rights Education Youth Programme of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

In the afternoon of 28 November, the first edition of the *Janusz Korczak Seminar* will take place having as theme: 'Education and Democracy'. The seminar aims to give recognition to the contribution of Janusz Korczak to education philosophy and in particular its practical application as pedagogy; to reflect on the interrelation of pedagogy and democracy, between the choice of pedagogical approach and the development of competences necessary for the future of our democratic societies and to discuss and exchange on the wider aspects of education and democracy.

Profile of participants

The conference will gather about 200 participants including representatives of the Ministries of Education and other public authorities, national coordinators for education for democratic citizenship, and non-governmental and civil society activists.

The Youth participants in the Conference and related events should be either:

- representatives of youth policy decision making bodies at national and regional level;
- members of the Statutory Bodies of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe involved with human rights education;
- representatives of youth organisations involved in human rights education and education for democratic citizenship active at local, national and international level;
- representatives of non-governmental organisations and networks active in the practice and advocacy for human rights education
- trainers and education professionals involved in human rights education at national and international level;
- organisations involved in translation of Compass and Compasito;
- organisers of National and Regional Training Courses in Human Rights Education and organisers of pilot projects in Human Rights Education.

All participants should also:

- be able to communicate fluently in English or French;

- be able to participate for the entire duration of the Conference and the two mentioned pre-events (arrive on 27 November 2012 and depart on 1 December 2012);
- be able to support and contribute to the discussions related to the implementation of the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and have, preferably, been involved in the completion of the survey on the implementation of the Charter;
- be residents in a state party to the European Cultural Convention.

Facilitators and rapporteurs

A limited number of participants will be selected to act as facilitators or rapporteurs within the Conference. Facilitators and rapporteurs will have a specific role in the two rounds of parallel workshops taking place during the conference. Facilitators are required to have previous experience in facilitation on human rights issues of diverse and large groups. Both facilitators and rapporteurs are required to have a high command of English and/or French and to be available for the entire duration of the Conference and the pre-events. A preparatory process for those taking such a specific role will start early October.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Board and lodging

Out of the 200 participants in the conference, fifty will be invited by the Youth Department and be provided board and lodging at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

Travel costs of the participants invited by the Youth Department will be reimbursed according to the Council of Europe rules for activities taking place at the European Youth Centre; all participants are expected to attend the full duration of the conference, and the pre-conference events.

Working languages

The Conference and the pre-events will be held in English and French. Participants are expected to be able to independently communicate in one of the two languages.

How to apply

All those interested in the conference and fulfilling the criteria for participants outlined above are invited to complete the on-line application form in English or French at <http://youthapplications.coe.int> by **15 September 2012**.

Other activities of the Youth Department

If you are interested in this activity, but your profile does not fully correspond with the requirements of this course, please note that the Youth Department organises other training courses and activities for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from the Youth Department: <http://www.coe.int/youth>.

Further information

For further inquiries, please write to eyc.programme@coe.int.

Draft programme of the Conference and pre-events

Tuesday, 27 November 2012

Arrival of participants
Registration at the European Youth Centre
19.00 Dinner
20.30 Welcome evening

Wednesday, 28 November 2012

European Youth Centre, Room 0.1

9.30 - 11.00 Meeting of the youth representatives
11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00 Meeting of the youth representatives

13.00 Lunch

14.30 - 16.00 Janusz Korczak seminar
16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break
16.30 - 18.00 Janusz Korczak seminar
19.00 Dinner

Thursday, 29 November 2012

Agora Building of the Council of Europe, Room G3

09.00-10.00 Opening session chaired by Jorma Kauppinen, Chair of the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and Seija Astala, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth (t.b.c.)

Welcome addresses by
- Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General Council of Europe;
- Jan Truszczyński, Director-General, European Commission
- Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

10.00 The Council of Europe's work in the field of citizenship and human rights education – joint presentation by education, youth and children's programmes

Citizenship Education in the Europe 2020 strategy - European Commission

10.30 -11.00 Coffee break

11.00 -11.30 Reviewing the implementation of the Charter:

Presentation of the Questionnaire report on the implementation of the Charter in the member states – Mr David Kerr, Citizenship Foundation, United Kingdom

Presentation of the results of the survey on the implementation of the Charter carried out by the Youth Department among non-governmental partners

11.30 -12.30 Parallel workshops 1: Report on the implementation of the Charter: key findings, follow up and examples of good practice (6 parallel groups)

12.30 -14.00 Lunch

14.00 -15:30 Parallel workshops 1 - continued: Report on the implementation of the Charter: key findings, follow up and examples of good practice (6 parallel groups)

15.30 -16.00 Coffee break

16.00 -17:30 Plenary session chaired by Ms. Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe

Overview of results of Workshop 1

Three examples of innovation in practice and cooperation:

1. "Putting the Charter into practice: The Swiss-Ukrainian Pilot Initiative" – Mr Rolf Gollob, Switzerland, and Ms Raisa Yevtushenko, Ukraine
2. "Democracy and Human Rights in Action": Regional Summer Academies in Poland and Montenegro
3. Educational materials of the Council of Europe "Compass - A manual on human rights education with young people" (Compass 2012) and the "Charter for All" – a child-friendly version of the Charter

18.00 Reception and Information Market

19.00 Dinner

Friday, 30 November 2012

Agora Building of the Council of Europe, Room G3

09.00 - 09.30 Introduction to Workshop 2

09.30 - 10.30 Parallel Workshops 2: Current challenges, possible solutions and future priorities (8 parallel groups as follows):

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| Group A: | Formal and general education (including curriculum development) (Article 6) |
| Group B: | Higher Education (Article 7) |
| Group C: | Democratic governance (Article 8) |
| Group D: | Training (Article 9) |
| Group E: | Role of non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and other stakeholders (Article 10) |
| Group F: | Criteria for evaluation (Article 11) |
| Group G: | Research (Article 12) |
| Group H: | Skills for promoting social cohesion, valuing diversity and handling differences and conflict (Article 13) |

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 12.30 Workshop 2 - continued

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 16.00 Plenary Feedback on Workshop 2
Reactions and discussion of follow-up action

International contact group on EDC/HRE – Round table discussion on the role of international cooperation in the promotion and development of EDC/HRE

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.30 Summing up of the conference conclusions by the Audrey Osler, General Rapporteur
Closing addresses by:
Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
Pierre Mairesse, Director, DG Education and Culture, European Commission, and
Ólöf Ólafsdóttir, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation Council of Europe