



**OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on
Prevention of Racism, Xenophobia and Hate Crimes through Educational and
Awareness- Raising Initiatives**

Vienna, 10-11 November 2011

Contribution by the Council of Europe

DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

Citizenship and human rights education play a crucial role in the prevention of racism, xenophobia and hate crimes. Since 1997, the Council of Europe has been supporting a programme of activities on this topic, in the framework of which reference texts were developed, exchange and co-operation were facilitated, and high quality materials were produced.

A. Reference texts

The most recent and the most comprehensive text developed on this topic in the Council of Europe framework is Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the **Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education**. It was adopted on 11 May 2010 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and representatives of the 47 Council of Europe member states at the 120th Session of the Committee of Ministers. The Charter – which was developed over a period of several years with wide consultations - is an important reference point for all of Europe and is being used as a basis for the Council of Europe's work in this field.

In 2012, it is foreseen to prepare a report on the implementation of the Charter in the member states, based on governments' replies to a questionnaire. The conclusions of the report and future cooperation activities will be discussed at a Council of Europe conference to be held in November 2012.

B. Networking

The CoE supports a **network of EDC/HRE co-ordinators** appointed by the Ministries of Education. These co-ordinators meet at least once a year and are a major contributor to both the CoE's work, on the one hand, and implementation within member states on the other. Many of the coordinators are currently working on reforms in their countries regarding EDC/HRE, or have recently been involved in preparing and implementing such reforms. Through the network

of the coordinators, support on specific questions (curricula, teacher education) related to EDC/HRE is provided by the Council of Europe to its member states on a regular basis.

In addition, the CoE supports **regional networks** on EDC/HRE, including a South East Europe EDC/HRE Network, a Baltic/Black Sea Network and a Nordic Network.

C. Materials

The CoE has produced a wealth of materials. The major ones, called the '**EDC/HRE Pack**' are the following:

- Tool 1: Policy Tool for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE) : Strategic Support for Decision Makers
- Tool 2: Democratic Governance of Schools
- Tool 3: How all teachers can support citizenship and human rights education: a framework for the development of competences
- Tool 4: Quality Assurance of Education for Democratic Citizenship in Schools¹
- Tool 5: School-Community-University Partnerships for a Sustainable Democracy: Education for Democratic Citizenship in Europe and the United States of America

These instruments have been developed in consultation with a large number of experts from all member states, including the EDC/HRE coordinators.

A series of high quality **materials for teachers** for use in the classroom in the field of EDC/HRE were recently produced, including

- Teaching democracy* (collection of models for democratic citizenship and human rights education)
- Living in democracy* (lesson plans for lower secondary education)
- Exploring Children's Rights* (projects for primary schools)

D. Bilateral support

While most of the CoE's work is inter-governmental, some bilateral assistance has been provided in this field through joint programmes with the European Commission, in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina and more recently in Turkey and Kosovo.²

E. Inter-institutional Co-operation

The Council of Europe works closely with other major organisations working in the field of citizenship and human right education in order to avoid overlap and create synergies. For instance, it was agreed with the United Nations that the CoE would support the European region in the implementation of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education, adopted by the

¹ Published jointly by UNESCO, Council of Europe and the Centre for Educational Policy Studies

² All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

UN General Assembly in 2005. The European Commission has asked for CoE assistance in this field, including when developing indicators for active citizenship.

At the initiative of ODIHR, the Council of Europe, OHCHR, UNESCO and OSCE/ODIHR have developed jointly a "Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: a **Compendium of Good Practice**" (published in 2009). Following another initiative from ODIHR in 2010, the Council of Europe and UNESCO joined forces in a project to develop "**Guidelines for Educators to counter intolerance and discrimination against Muslims**" (to be finalised in 2011).

The Council of Europe regularly hosts and organises inter-institutional meetings on EDC/HRE whereby 20 major international organisations, NGOs and foundations meet. The last meeting was organised in March 2011. As a follow up to this meeting, and **International contact group on citizenship and human rights education** was set up, and a letter of cooperation was signed by the OHCHR, UNESCO, European Commission, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, OSCE/ODIHR, ALECSO and the Council of Europe.

In May 2009, the Norwegian government inaugurated the [European Wergeland Centre](#), a European resource centre on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship. This Centre (located in Oslo) has been set up in close cooperation with the Council of Europe and is being governed in cooperation by the CoE and the Norwegian government.

Further information is available at the following address: www.coe.int/edc .

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