



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting

Warsaw, 23 September- 4 October 2013

Working session 2 – Tolerance and non-discrimination II

Contribution of the Council of Europe

Promotion of mutual respect and understanding through intercultural education

Following the project "The challenge of intercultural education today: religious diversity and dialogue in Europe" from 2002 to 2006 and the publication "Religious diversity and intercultural education: a reference book for schools" (ISBN 978-92-871-6223-6), in 2008 the Committee of Ministers adopted [Recommendation CM / Rec \(2008\) 12 on the dimension of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education](#) (ISBN 978-92-871-6594-7).

- A new project entitled "[Education and Religious Diversity in the Western Mediterranean](#)" was launched in 2010 by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chairs of the Universities of Bergamo, Rioja, Tunis and Marrakech. The project aimed at improving educators' understanding of the issues of religious diversity and non-religious convictions in education systems in a range of countries in the western Mediterranean region, namely Spain, Italy, Morocco and Algeria. A final publication will be published in 2014 reporting on the studies in the four countries on the place of religion in the school books and curricula.
- The Wergeland Centre and the Council of Europe Education Department jointly launched in 2011 a project to evaluate the impact of the Council of Europe [Recommendation CM / Rec \(2008\) 12 on the dimension of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education](#) (ISBN 978-92-871-6594-7) on individual member states. A reference document will be published in 2014 (guidelines, actions, indicators of progress, etc.) for the further implementation of this recommendation.

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http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_cooperation/education/Intercultural_education/Intro.asp#TopOfPage

Teaching Remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity

The Council of Europe is in close contact with the OSCE/ODHIR regarding the work done in the field of Teaching Remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity. Dr Carole Reich participated in March, in Prague, in the Conference Confronting Anti-Semitism in Public Discourse..

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Tolerance and Non-Discrimination in the youth field

The Council of Europe promotes at local, national and European level intercultural dialogue in the youth field on the basis of the guidelines and recommendations set out in the "White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue". The overall objective is to improve the capacity of young people and youth organisations to promote intercultural dialogue, conflict prevention, conflict transformation and social integration in a European and global context.

Every year, more than 20 successful and documented training courses, seminars, intercultural language courses and other events are organised in co-operation with non-governmental youth organisations, public authorities and other stakeholders of youth policy. The Council of Europe also develops educational and training materials and distributes them widely. The programme comprises: study sessions on issues related to racism and intolerance, training courses with young Roma on human rights based approaches against discrimination, dissemination of educational resources with a particular emphasis on the quality control of the translation of non-formal education manuals, promotion of the "Living library" approach, study sessions on conflict prevention and conflict transformation.

The annual *Youth Peace Camp* with young people from conflict and post-conflict areas (in 2012, young Kosovars of Serbian and Albanian descent, young Armenians and Azerbaijanis, young Israelis and Palestinians, young Georgians and Russians) was held at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

A regional youth peace camp will be held for the first time in Kosovo¹ with participants from the region.

A project to promote peace-building initiatives in member states, the *Youth Peace Ambassadors* project, has been launched in 2011 and will train 75 youth multipliers from civil society to promote the values and approaches of the Council of Europe in conflict-stricken communities.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors are currently developing their own projects and preparing their network.- A seminar on cross-community cooperation is scheduled in Bosnia and Herzegovina, alongside a training seminar about the gender equality and conflict transformation.

The Youth Department pays special attention to cooperation with the neighbouring regions on intercultural dialogue and cooperation, namely with the Mediterranean and Arab regions. This includes:

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- The preparation of the Euro-Arab youth forum together with the League of Arab States and the European Youth Forum, in Qatar on Human Rights, Participation and Intercultural Dialogue
 - A training programme on democratic youth participation to be held at the European Youth Centre in December.
- This adds to activities held in the framework of the “South” Joint Programme:
- A training course for trainers from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, focusing on training multipliers and youth leaders for democratic youth participation
 - An interregional seminar on the role of youth research in promoting participatory youth policies.

The International Dialogue Camp in Kaluga, Russian Federation, together with three seminars for youth leaders and members of youth parliaments from the Russian Federation and other CIS countries has also contributed to involve youth leaders and organisations from Central Asian countries.

A *Roma Youth Action Plan* is being implemented, focusing on youth participation, human rights education and combating antigypsyism.

No Hate Speech Movement
www.nohatespeechmovement.org

Young People Combating Hate Speech Online is a project of the Council of Europe's youth sector running between 2012 and 2015. It aims to combat racism and discrimination in their online expression of hate speech by equipping young people and youth organisations with the competences necessary to recognise and act against such human rights violations.

The campaign seeks:

- To raise awareness about hate speech online and its risks for democracy and for individual young people
- To promote media and Internet literacy
- To support young people in standing up for human rights, online and offline
- To reduce the levels of acceptance of online hate speech
- To mobilise, train and network online youth activists for human rights
- To map hate speech online and develop tools for constructive responses
- To support and show solidarity to people and groups targeted by hate speech online
- To advocate for the development and consensus on European policy instruments combating hate speech
- To develop youth participation and citizenship online.

Although based online, the campaign will also have important *offline* elements and activities like training courses, seminars, conferences, youth events, festivals and flashmobs.

The local and linguistic aspects of a country are taken into account; the online campaign elements are designed to give the possibility of *adjusting to national cultural and linguistic* realities. All dimensions of hate speech should be considered when assessing

and acting, making the system sensitive to motivation, content, tone, context, targets, and potential implications of hate speech.

The Campaign will pay particular attention to involving school environments as much as non-formal education and youth work activities.

The campaign is based on a European platform and programme of activities run by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe – under the responsibility of the Joint Council on Youth. This European dimension of the campaign provides the umbrella under which national/local campaigns will be carried out.

The national campaigns are to be implemented with the active involvement of non-governmental and governmental actors in the field of youth, in the spirit of co-management. While responsibility for initiating the campaign committees lies with the governmental youth partners of the Council of Europe (through the European Steering Committee on Youth); in cases where no committee is set up, the Council of Europe welcomes joint initiatives from non-governmental partners in the countries concerned.

National campaign committees are currently operating or being set up in 36 member states.

The implementation of the project and, especially, of the campaign No Hate Speech Movement were accelerated in 2013 in the running up to the launching event and through the workshop for national campaign coordinators held and co-organised with the Bureau International de la Jeunesse (French-Speaking Community of Belgium).

The campaign was launched by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 22 March 2013. The first national campaign was launched in Serbia in February.

The online platform for the campaign and the reporting tool – Hate Speech Watch – are open and active.

The online campaign is structured around European Action Days – the first was on 17 May at the occasion of International or European Day against Homophobia and Transphobia.

The campaign issues, chiefly the promotion of human rights online, is being picked by various partners, chiefly non-governmental organisations. Important connections are being made with other initiatives and projects, such as the InSafe and EuroSchool Net. Participation in activities on Internet Governance links strongly the project to the broader issues of youth participation and netcitizenship.

The campaign is expected to run until the end of 2014.

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Promotion of mutual respect and understanding through global education and history teaching (North-South Centre)

The NSC has worked for more than 15 years promoting global education. Global Education is understood as an holistic education dealing with the growing

interconnectedness between local and global realities. It encompasses Human Rights Education, Education for Citizenship as well as Development Education, Education for Sustainability, Education for Peace and Conflict Prevention and Intercultural Education.

The **Global Education Guidelines (GEG)** - pedagogical handbook for educators to understand and implement global education, as well as the **global education on-line training courses**, offered several times a year, are important tools of the NSC Global Education programme. As to the E-learning scheme, two dimensions of the Global Education are covered: *human rights* and *intercultural dialogue*, both including a conflict prevention aspect. In 2012 the NSC is introducing a residential training of trainers in the field of Global Education for Mollina University on Youth & Development as well as the sister regional African and Latin American universities.

A NSC network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship was constituted this year, including Mollina University on Youth & Development as well as the sister regional African University on Youth & Development and Latin America University of Participation and Citizenship. Intercultural learning and conflict prevention are two fundamental dimensions in the functioning of the above Universities and their network.

The work developed by the NSC in the more specific area of Intercultural education builds on the complementarity between existing programmes, initiatives and tools developed by NSC's partner organisations such as the Alliance of Civilization, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Swedish Institute of Alexandria, the European Wergeland Centre and the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI).

In May 2011 the NSC co-organised in Lisbon, with Anna Lindh Foundation, the Georg-Eckert Institut and the Swedish Institute of Alexandria, an explorative workshop on cooperation opportunities in the field of intercultural and interreligious education in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The recommendations of this workshop projected areas of joint actions to be further explored between participants (among others the European Wergeland Centre, EMUNI, EUROCLIO, UNAOc).

History teaching and intercultural learning is an important dimension of the NSC activities on Intercultural Dialogue and Global Education. The Council of Europe and its North-South Centre have developed a joint action in the field of history teaching in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean. The NSC ambition is to extend the CoE expertise, multiperspective approach and interactive working methods in the field of history teaching beyond Europe and specifically to the Southern Mediterranean. The NSC is increasing its collaboration with Euroclio. It will actively contribute to the future project promoting innovative and responsible history, citizenship and heritage education in North Africa and the Middle East. In addition the NSC is streamlining its activities with the Anna Lindh Foundation and the League of Arab States, in particular through the elaboration of pedagogical tools and training for educators from Euro-Mediterranean region.

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