



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

Warsaw, 11 to 22 September 2017

Contribution of the Youth Department

Human Rights Education and Youth

The youth sector of the Council of Europe has made human rights education with, for and by young people a priority and a pillar of its youth policy. It was defined as one of the priorities by the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth affairs (Kyiv, October 2008) and the subsequent resolution of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe). The aim is to improve the capacity of youth organisations and multipliers, involved in human rights education and democratic participation and citizenship, to develop standards and tools in these issues for youth policy and youth work actors.

In 2010, the Council of Europe adopted its Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) which aims to provide all persons with the opportunity for EDC/HRE.

The Human Rights Education Youth Programme aims to consolidate and support the role of non-governmental youth organisations as actors in the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter. It does so by combining the development and dissemination of tools and resources for human rights education and capacity-building activities for trainers, multipliers and advocates of human rights education as a human right.

The project was launched in 2000 with the aim of bringing human rights issues into the mainstream of youth work and non-formal learning practice. It has been built around *Compass*, a manual for human rights education with young people, European training courses, support to national and regional training courses, pilot projects and study sessions organised by youth organisations. Other educational materials have been developed to accompany *Compass*, such as *Compasito*, *Gender Matters*, *Charter for All!* and the *Enter Dignity Land!* game on social rights.

Every year, more than 700 youth leaders and multipliers participate in international and national-level activities promoting human rights education (including gender equality and sustainable development) and youth participation. Educational resources, particularly the "Compass" and "Compasito" manuals (human rights education manuals for young people and children) are distributed in member states and in regions outside Europe.

In 2016-17, new translations of the Compass and Compasito manuals were published, notably in Bulgarian, Portuguese and Romani and several others are being prepared. A programme of national and regional training courses, associating youth organisations and other stakeholders, has been implemented in Council of Europe member states to promote human rights education and education for democratic citizenship using non-formal learning methodologies.

In 2016-2017, the Youth Department and non-governmental organisations were involved in the review of the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter. The review highlighted the growing concern over the political importance given to and expectations for EDC/HRE's response to the challenges of current times, and over the cuts in funding and political challenges to the work of non-governmental organisations. The review with both governments and civil society is available [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/edc/report-on-the-state-of-citizenship-and-human-rights-in-europe) (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/edc/report-on-the-state-of-citizenship-and-human-rights-in-europe>). In 2016, an evaluation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme of the Youth Department highlighted its achievements and the challenges faced in the period 2009-2015. This evaluation showed that the programme is as relevant as ever for both governments and youth organisations.

The results of the evaluation and review were presented to the 3rd Compass Forum on "Human Rights Education – Learning Equality. Living Dignity." (5-7 October 2016), which gathered more than 200 representatives of decision makers, youth organisations and trainers, EDC/HRE co-ordinators and international organisations. The participants adopted a [message to the Council of Europe](#) highlighting the need to invest further in supporting human rights education for and with young people. The International Contact Group on Human Rights Education (featuring all major institutions involved in HRE, including the OSCE) was held in parallel to the Forum, and featured a round table with the Forum participants on the role and contribution international organisations can make to further develop and support EDC/HRE.

In 2017, the programme also included the organisation of a conference on the future of EDC/HRE (June 2017, Strasbourg) which brought together 300 stakeholders, among which 70 representatives of the youth sector including state authorities, student and youth organisations as well as representatives of children. The conference reviewed the results of the report on the state of EDC/HRE in Europe and proposed further guidelines and goals for the next five years for the Council of Europe, the member states and other stakeholders involved in EDC/HRE.

National and regional training courses on human rights education are organised on the initiative of national organisations or institutions interested in introducing and developing the provisions and quality of human rights education. The courses develop the competences of key multipliers for human rights education such as youth leaders, trainers, youth workers, teachers and teacher trainers. They are usually accompanied by the publication of Council of Europe educational resources in the language(s) of the country concerned, especially Compass, Compasito and, lately, Bookmarks.

Following the decision of the Committee of Ministers to prolong the No Hate Speech Movement Campaign until the end of 2017, candidates for organising courses in 2017 were invited to link with the campaign objective of addressing hate speech through

human rights education. In 2017, courses will take place in Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Iceland, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Co-operation with OSCE/ODIHR

Consultations with ODIHR colleagues are held regularly and they participated in the programme of the 3rd Compass Forum on Human Rights Education and in the conference on the future of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (Strasbourg, June 2017).

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