OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

Warsaw, 11 - 22 September 2017

Contribution of the Education Department

Education for democracy and human rights

Education plays a crucial role in the promotion and development of democracy and human rights. The Council of Europe supports cooperation activities on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (EDC/HRE), in the framework of which reference texts are developed, exchange and mutual assistance are facilitated, and a broad range of publications and materials are produced, with a view to encouraging and supporting relevant educational reforms in the 50 States Party to the European Cultural Convention.

A.   Reference texts: Support to the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter

The Council of Europe is developing a Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture[1], to be adapted for use in primary and secondary schools and higher education and vocational training institutions throughout Europe as well as national curricula and teaching programmes. The CDC Framework, which will be completed by the end of 2107, consists of a model of 20 competences (adopted by the 25th Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in Brussels on 11 – 12 April 2016), a set of indicators and supporting documents.

The 2nd review cycle of the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7) was organised in 2016-2017. This review exercise is part of the follow up to the conclusions of the 25th Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education, which undertook to support the development of a long-term strategy for a more coherent and comprehensive approach to education for democratic citizenship and human rights at European level and requested the Council of Europe – inter alia - to consider ways of increasing the impact of the Charter. The Charter review is also part of the Council of Europe's contribution towards the United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education and the United Nations' 2030 Education Agenda (Target 4.7). This exercise consisted of a preparation of the Report on the State of citizenship and human rights education in Europe and a major conference on "Learning to loive

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[1] http://www.coe.int/en/web/education/competences-for-democratic-culture

together: a shared commitment to democracy. The future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe" (June 2017).

 The aim of the Conference was to strengthen the Charter as an effective support tool for the promotion of democracy and human rights through education. The Conference brought together over 400 participants and produced a "Declaration, Key Actions and Expected Outcomes on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights". The Conference was organised in cooperation with the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), which supports the Council of Europe member states in implementing the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) at the national level. The OSCE/ODIHR representative took part in a round table of international institutons organised in the framework of the conference.

In 2016-2017 four projects with the participation of up to 15 countries are supported by the Council of Europe and the European Union in the framework of the Joint Programme "Human Rights and Democracy in Action". The current projects address democratic governance at school, promotion of competences for democratic culture, digital citizenship and parnerships for citizenship and human rights education. The Programme supports cooperation initiatives among States party to the European Cultural Convention which aim to put the Charter's principles into practice. The Programme fosters peer-to–peer learning among and within the countries, and facilitates the collection and sharing of information on all existing forms of citizenship and human rights education.

B. High level conference

As part of the Chairmanship of Cyprus of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, Cyprus hosted a high-level conference on the theme of "Securing Democracy through Education" in Nicosia on 22 – 23 March 2017. The conference gathered delegates from most States party to the European Cultural Convention, including some 10 Ministers and Deputy Ministers. The conference focused on the role of education in meeting three key European challenges: building inclusive societies, valuing diversity and dialogue; fighting violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism; and education provision for refugees, from short term solutions to long term integration.

C.   Communication and dissemination

The Council of Europe has produced a wealth of materials, which are available for download in many languages on the EDC/HRE website (www.coe.int/edc).

Examples include a comprehensive 'EDC/HRE Pack', composed of manuals for various target audiences on a broad range of topics from policy development and democratic governance to teachers' competences and quality assurance, "Living Democracy" – a series of manuals for teachers for use in the classroom, "Freedom(s)" – Learing activities for secondary schools on the case law of the European Court of Human Rightsas well as "Human Rights Education in the School Systems of Europe, Central Asia and North America: a Compendium of Good Practice" published by the OSCE/ODIHR, OHCHR, UNESCO and Council of Europe and a manual on Curriculum development and review for education for democratic citizenship and human rights produced jointly by the Council of Europe, UNESCO, OSCE/ODIHR and the Organization of American States. The

publication **"**Democracy and Human Rights Start with Us: Charter for All" is the child-friendly version of the the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. It comprises a brochure for children, a guide for teachers and a poster[2].

The video "Education for democracy and human rights in 10 steps" explains in a succinct and accessible way the objectives and principles of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. The Council of Europe's film "Beat Bullying" shows how whole-school human rights and citizenship education programmes equip students and pupils with the understanding, skills and confidence they need to help stop bullying and violence at school, including cyber-bullying. The video is available on YouTube in English, French, German and Russian, and has reached over 3 million viewers. A series of videos on **"**Democracy at School**",** which was inspired by a comic strip competition, aims to raise awareness of relevance of the principles of democracy and human rights for the everyday life at school. [3]

E.   Inter-institutional Co-operation

The 6th meeting of the International contact group on citizenship and human rights education (ICG) **was held in Strasbourg in June 2017 at the margins of the above-mentioned conference on the Future of citizenship and human rights education**. The Contact Group brings together the OHCHR, UNESCO, European Commission, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, OSCE/ODIHR, ALECSO, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Council of Europe. The aim of the Contact Group is to ensure close cooperation among the regional and international initiatives in this field. The OECD representative attended two latest meetings, and experessed an intention to join the ICG.

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

Contact:
Ms Yulia Pererva (yulia.pererva@coe.int)
Ms Katerina Toura (katerina.toura@coe.int)
Ms Sarah Keating (sarah.keating@coe.int)
Ms Katia Dolgova-Dreyer (katia.dolgova-dreyer@coe.int)

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[2] These materials were produced jointly by the Council of Europe Youth and Education Departments, and in cooperation with the Programme "Building Europe for and with Children", with a financial contribution from Finland.
[3] Funded in the framework of the CoE/EC Joint Programme "Human Rights and Democracy in Action"