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Contribution of the Council of Europe

Education for democratic citizenship and human rights education

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

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) is under way. The Charter is the latest and the most comprehensive text adopted by the Council of Europe member states in this area. It is an important reference point for all of Europe and provides a common framework, a focus and catalyst for action. The current review cycle will conclude with a major conference (June 017), the aim of which is to strengthen the Charter as an effective support tool for the promotion of democracy and human rights through education.

In 2016 two projects are supported by the Council of Europe and the European Union in the framework of the Joint Programme "**Human Rights and Democracy in Action**", and the new call for projects is currently under way. The on-going projects address teaching controversial issues and violence at schools. 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. Networking

On 11-12 February 2016, the Council of Europe Network of Co-ordinators for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education met in Strasbourg at their annual meeting. The focus of the discussions was: 1) strengthening the effectiveness of education policies for the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law; 2) policy implications for the member states (with respect to education for democratic citizenship and human rights) for successful integration of migrants and refugees in Europe; and 3) the right to education and anti-discrimination as pre-conditions for education for democratic citizenship and human rights.

The **EDC/HRE co-ordinators** are appointed by the States Party to the European Cultural Convention. 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 (ex. curricula, teacher training) related to EDC/HRE is provided on a regular basis.

In 2016, regional **Summer Academies** on citizenship and human rights education were organised in Lithuania, Poland and Montenegro in cooperation with the host countries and the European Wergeland Centre. This year the main topic of the Academies was 'Building inclusive environment for all'. The Regional Summer Academies are a training programme dedicated to building a democratic and inclusive culture in schools through strengthening the competences of education professionals and community actors and through encouraging their joint actions and partnerships.

The Academies are a great opportunity for school leaders, teachers, civil society organisations, parents' representatives, local authorities and communities to learn practical tools and strategies on how to create a more inclusive environment for all children through respecting diversity, education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and human rights education (HRE).

The Academies are organised on an annual basis, with financial contributions from Norway and Andorra. This year marked the 5th anniversary of the South East Europe Academy 'Human Rights in Action'.

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 and "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.

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 poster¹.

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.

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. ².

D. Bilateral support

On 14 April 2015, about 350 participants from Turkey and other member states of the Council of Europe met in Istanbul to celebrate the achievements and to reflect on the lessons learned from the four-year comprehensive project on “Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education” (known as “Generation Democracy”) supported by the European Union and the Council of Europe. This programme aimed to put into practice the Council of Europe Charter on Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Turkey, based on the expertise developed in the framework of intergovernmental cooperation programmes of the Council of Europe. The main outputs of this project include a new elective curriculum for secondary school and a new compulsory curriculum for the 4th grade primary school on human rights and democracy, a text book for the elective course and a teaching material for the compulsory course, a democratic school culture framework and accompanying manuals as well as training for teachers, as well as other important actors in the field of education. In November 2014, the project was presented at the World Forum for Democracy, where the results and immediate positive impact of democratic school culture implementation were acknowledged and the project won the Democracy Innovation Award.

E. Inter-institutional Co-operation

The 5th meeting of the **International contact group on citizenship and human rights education (ICG) is foreseen for autumn 2016**. 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.

In 2016, the joint **publication on the curriculum reform** for education for democratic citizenship and human rights produced by the Council of Europe, UNESCO,

¹ 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.

² Funded in the framework of the CoE/EC Joint Programme “Human Rights and Democracy in Action”

OSCE/ODIHR and the Organization of American States (2015) was translated and disseminated in French, Russian and Spanish.

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

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LEARNING THE KEY PRINCIPLES AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION SYSTEM

The project aims to enable European secondary school students to become familiar with the key principles of European law relating to human rights and to understand how the European Court of Human Rights and other important Council of Europe monitoring bodies function.

The case law of the Court and its landmark judgments are the main focus of the project and form a concrete basis for building learning activities for the classroom within the current national school programmes for Human rights Education and Citizenship Education in member States.

The various teaching materials (off-line and on-line), lesson plans and/or school and out-of-school activities aim to help students in the classes concerned to understand how judgments serve as key human rights instruments, how they help establishing European case-law in this field, where they stand in comparison with existing legislation in the member states and how the latter has had to be adapted where necessary.

The project should increase awareness of young Europeans and their teachers (and school heads) about the work done by the Court, introduce European Human rights law to them and help them understanding its links with national law as well as its impact for European societies.

The project aims to encourage participation, dialogue and synergies in the process of implementation among all actors involved: students, teachers, education professionals and policy-makers, judges.

In particular, the documents make accessible to a young readership a number of judgments by the Court, which are of key significance for the evolution of European law, and hence develop a culture of human rights among pupils.

In 2014, the Manual *Learning activities for secondary schools on the Case-law of the European Court of Human Rights*, presenting 12 learning activities linked to 12 selected landmark judgments by the ECHR, together with general presentations about the Convention on Human Rights, the functioning of the ECHR, and an introduction to Human Rights education, was finalised. A research database portal on pedagogical resources and teaching materials on Human Rights education and Education for Democratic Citizenship was also made available. Around 1,000 teaching resources (in English and French) developed over the past 10 years by the Council of Europe were digitalized. Other pedagogical resources, such as videos and animations explaining the

selected judgements of the ECHR in a simple way, were also made available on the website.

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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.

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 2014-5, new translations of the Compass manual were made available, notably in French, Italian, Russian and Ukrainian, and several others are being prepared. The online website of the revised version – which has been designed to be accessible to young people with disabilities – is available to the public, hosting online versions of the different translations (<http://compass.coe.int>).

A programme of national and regional training courses held in Council of Europe member States has been implemented with the aim of promoting human rights education and education for democratic citizenship, notably by associating youth organisations and other stakeholders in non-formal learning to human rights education. The programme is a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. In 2016, courses will take place in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Serbia and the United Kingdom addressing youth trainers, multipliers and leaders as well as teachers and teacher trainers.

In order to further promote and support partners in advocating and implementing human rights education, the Youth Department will organise the 3rd Compass Forum on Human Rights Education at the European Youth Centre in Budapest from 5 to 7 October. The forum is being organised within the frame of the Estonian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. Relevant OSCE departments will be invited to take part in order to contribute their experiences.

Human rights education also plays a central role in the youth campaign for human rights online, the No Hate Speech Movement. The No Hate Speech Movement Campaign has

been prolonged until the end of 2017 by decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe as part of the Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism. It is also part of the Council of Europe Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies (2016-2019). The Campaign is presently being implemented in 43 countries through national campaign committees across Europe, Morocco, Canada and Mexico.

The manual “Bookmarks” on addressing hate speech through human rights education, developed in the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement, was revised in 2015. The new edition incorporates the Council of Europe’s Guide to human rights for internet users and new activities. It has now been translated into twelve languages and more are in preparation. Training courses, using Bookmarks, for youth workers and educators have been organised by various national committees and youth organisations since the summer of 2015, including in Greece (April 2016), Italy (May 16), Belgium (June 2016), Turkey (July 2016) and the United Kingdom (August 2016). Additional courses are foreseen in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, and a regional training course in Albania is planned for autumn 2016.

The Youth Department is working on a manual to develop alternative narratives to hate speech which will support human rights educators and youth workers to empower young people to promote human rights online. It will be published in autumn 2016 and training courses based on the manual are foreseen for spring 2017.

A seminar on combatting anti-Semitic hate speech through human rights education is planned for spring 2017, funding permitted; preparations with campaign partners start in September of 2016.

The Campaign referred to the OSCE’s work on hate crime during the Action Day for the Victims of Hate Crime on 22 July 2016.

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