

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

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Working session 15: Fundamental freedoms II (continued)

Contribution of the Council of Europe

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.

Every year, more than 700 youth leaders and multipliers participate at international and national level in 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.

The updated and revised version of Compass manual was published in English in 2012. The new version has been welcomed by many organisations and a new process of translation in other languages has been initiated in 2013. The first language published (after English) has been Estonian, by the Estonian Institute for Human Rights.

A new web portal for the manual is currently being developed by the Youth Department and will become available by the end of the year; its main feature will be its high degree of accessibility for people with disabilities.

A European training course for trainers on human rights education with young people is was held in 2013 and 2014 with a focus on project work and advocacy for human rights education.

A programme of national and regional training courses held in member states of the Council of Europe has been implemented with the aim to promote human rights education and education for democratic citizenship, notably by associating youth organisations and other actors 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 2014, courses

have been or are being organised in Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Ukraine, addressing youth trainers, multipliers and leaders as well as teachers and teacher trainers.

Human rights education is also a major element of the youth dimension of the Action Plan on Ukraine, namely through the publication of “Compass” in Ukrainian and the preparation of a training course for trainers and youth leaders from Ukraine.

Human rights education has a central role in the youth campaign for human rights online, the No Hate Speech Movement. “Bookmarks”, the manual for combating hate speech online through human rights education, was published in 2014 and is now available also in French. The manual is the basis for a training programme of educators and campaign activists (Belgium, October).

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