



Organization of
American States

Letter of cooperation in view of establishing the International Contact Group on Citizenship and Human Rights Education

Following the conclusions of the inter-institutional meeting on “Strategies for the Implementation of Regional and International Texts on Citizenship and Human Rights Education” hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, on 14 March 2011,

Having regard to the United Nations initiatives in the area of human rights education and training, including the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-ongoing) and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,

Having regard to the European Commission strategic objective of promoting equity, social inclusion and active citizenship within Education and Training 2020,

Considering the adoption by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and representatives of the 47 Council of Europe member states of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education at the 120th Session of the Committee of Ministers,

Recalling the shared commitment of many international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Arab League Education, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Council of Europe to supporting the development of citizenship and human rights education,

The international organizations signatory of the present co-operation letter agree on establishing an International Contact Group on Citizenship and Human Rights Education.

The mission of the Contact Group is to ensure close co-operation among regional and international initiatives in the field of citizenship and human rights education.

The co-operation among the signatory organizations of the present letter will consist of regular sharing of information as well as the implementation of joint activities concerning citizenship and human rights education, taking into account the different institutional structures, mandates and responsibilities of each organization. Concrete co-operation tools and methods will be developed in consultation with signatory organizations.

The co-operation between the signatory organizations is based on the principles of reciprocity and complementarity in the implementation of their respective programmes of activities.

The representatives of the member organizations of the Contact Group will meet once a year. The Council of Europe offers to host the annual meeting and to write the report of the meeting. If any other member organization offers to host one of the meetings this can be done upon agreement.

This co-operation letter cannot be interpreted as a legal partnership between the signatory organizations.

Done in Strasbourg, on 4 July 2011.

Council of Europe:

Ólöf Ólafsdóttir, Director, Directorate of Education and Languages

OSCE/ODIHR:

Snježana Bokulić, Head, Human Rights Department

UNESCO:

Mark Richmond,
Director, Division of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

European Commission:

Pierre Mairesse,
Director - Lifelong learning: horizontal policy issues and 2020 strategy
DG Education and Culture

Fundamental Rights Agency:

Morten Kjærum, Director

OHCHR:

Marcia V.J. Kran, Director
Research and Right to Development Division

ALECSO

Mohamed-El Aziz Ben Achour,
Director General

Organization of American States

Lenore Yaffee Garcia
Director
Office of Education and Culture
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development