



20th Meeting of the Council of Europe network of Coordinators for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE)

Strasbourg, France, 14-15 November 2013

Preliminary Conclusions

Objectives of the meeting:

1. To share information on the latest developments in the States Party to the European Cultural Convention, in the Council of Europe and in other international organisations.
2. To discuss future co-operation activities to be organised in the framework of the Programme “Learning democracy and human rights” in 2014.
3. To contribute to the development of the Programme of Activities 2015-2016.

Social and political context

- Economic crisis.
 - Almost 20 % of the population living in difficult conditions. Deterioration of the situation of vulnerable groups. Their voice must be heard. Youth interest to have a chance of being employed. Giving priority to *economic* issues can be a problem for EDC goals.
- Hate speech und bullying amongst youths and in education institutions.
- Rising importance of internet and social media.
- New need of liberties in the member states and worldwide.
- Importance of the every day's school life.
- EDC/HRE more important than ever.

Key activities in 2012-13

- Follow up meeting to the EDC Conference 2012
- Development of material
- Establishing of standards
- Addressing violence in school
- Regional activities – Summer academies

- EU/CoE Joint programmes
- Interinstitutional activities (s. publication on the curriculum reform for EDC/HRE)

Challenges

- Fighting all forms of discrimination becomes a priority also within ED/HRE.
- Inclusiveness has a political, social and cultural dimension.
- Human rights dimension has clearly to be focussed in curriculum revision, school life and teacher training.
- Finding out the needs of partner organisations.

More Challenges

- Inserting project results into the ongoing curriculum reforms
- Do not underestimate the differences between the education systems of the CoE member states

Pedagogic specifics

- Development of a tolerant personality
- Teacher awareness of the relation to students
- Preparing and reflecting community service
- Students feedback for teachers
- Support of children's initiatives
- Peer teaching
- Support by EDC-focussed sciences / universities

Sustainability

- **Time**
- Saving the experiences
- Fostering consciousness of politicians
- Co-operate with non-formal education
- Mixed experience exchange circles
- Improving parents' participation
- Getting involved the NGOs
- Visiting EDC/HRE practice together
- Building EDC/HRE networks