



Putting into Practice the Charter on Citizenship and Human Rights Education

achievements, challenges and future prospects

*Learning and living
democracy for all*



Why is the Charter important?

- The Charter represents a shared understanding of citizenship and human rights education
- The Charter is a tool for a systematic and structured pan-European dialogue and cooperation
- The Charter is a way of applying the Council of Europe operational dimension – standard setting, monitoring and assistance - to education (while bearing in mind the non-binding character of the Charter)

Challenges and opportunities

- The economic (and democratic) crisis and the need to engage with the current debate on democracy and human rights
- The diversity of needs in different countries
- Changes of governments can have negative consequences on the priority given to citizenship and human rights education
- The risk of complacency and taking for granted that democracy and human rights are valued

What has been achieved in 3 years

- The Charter exists in 21 languages
- A child friendly version was published
- A report by governments and an NGOs survey was prepared
- The EDC/HRE Conference 2012 was organised
- The pilot project scheme was launched
- The International Contact Group was established

The emerging strategy

- Multilateral cooperation with equal participation of the countries (ex. EDC/HRE coordinators network)
- Multilateral cooperation with opportunities for participation for all countries (ex. Pilot Project Scheme)
- Regional cooperation (ex. Summer Academies)
- Bilateral cooperation through country-tailored assistance programmes (ex. Joint Programmes)
- Interinstitutional cooperation (ex. International Contact Group)

What needs to be achieved?

- The support mechanisms need to be made sustainable (ex. the review process with the report and the conference, the Pilot Projects Scheme)
- Evidence of the use of the Charter and the Council of Europe cooperation programme as a tool for change needs to be collected
- Information about the Charter needs to be broadly disseminated, and partnerships need to be developed

EDC/HRE Coordinators

– key actors

- Dissemination (ex. country profiles, links to the Charter from the Ministries' websites)
- Feedback on the draft publications and the draft report on the programme 2010-2014
- Participation in the 2014 events, other than the coordinators' meetings (1-3 coordinators per event)
- « Ambassadors of goodwill » for citizenship and human rights education

Questions for discussion

- What are the challenges and opportunities in this area in your country?
- How can the EDC/HRE network be further strengthened and developed?
- What are examples of good practice of cooperation between the EDC/HRE coordinators and other partners? How can the Council of Europe be of help?

Thank you!

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