

# EU/CoE Joint Programme “Supporting Education Policies in EDC/HRE in Eastern Partnership Countries

Kyiv, 4-5 June 2015



*The European Resource Centre on  
Education for Human Rights,  
Democratic Citizenship and Intercultural  
Understanding*



# The European Wergeland Centre (EWC)

- European Resource Centre on education for human rights, democratic citizenship and intercultural understanding
- Created by the Council of Europe and Norway ( 2008): “privileged partner” to implement its policy into practice in 47 CoE member states



# From policy to practice

- May 2009: CoE, Polish Ministry of Education, ORE and EWC launched the Regional Summer Academy “Democracy at School”
- Eastern Partnership countries, Poland and Russia

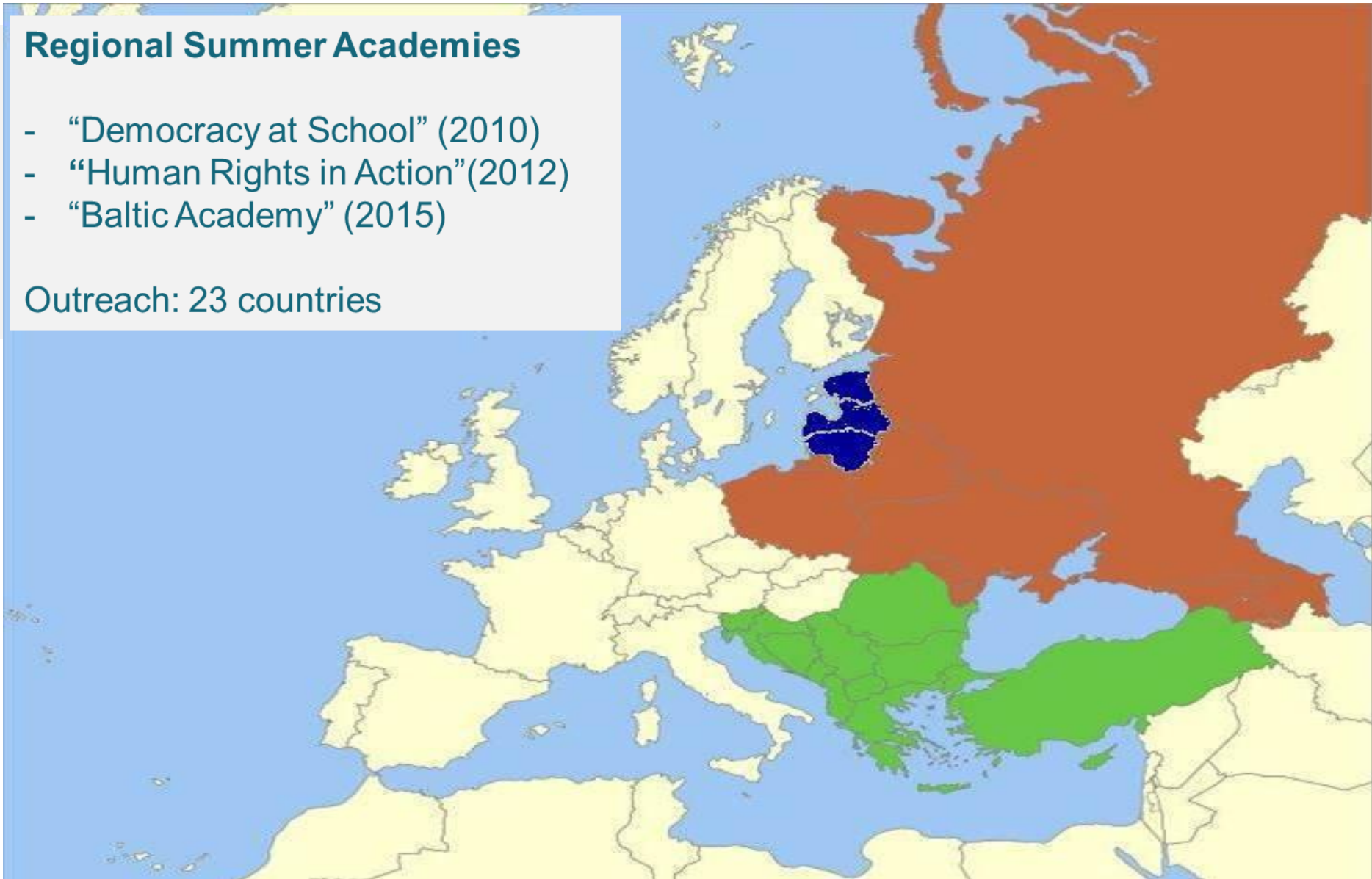


# Regional Summer Academies

## Regional Summer Academies

- “Democracy at School” (2010)
- “Human Rights in Action”(2012)
- “Baltic Academy” (2015)

Outreach: 23 countries



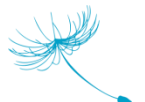
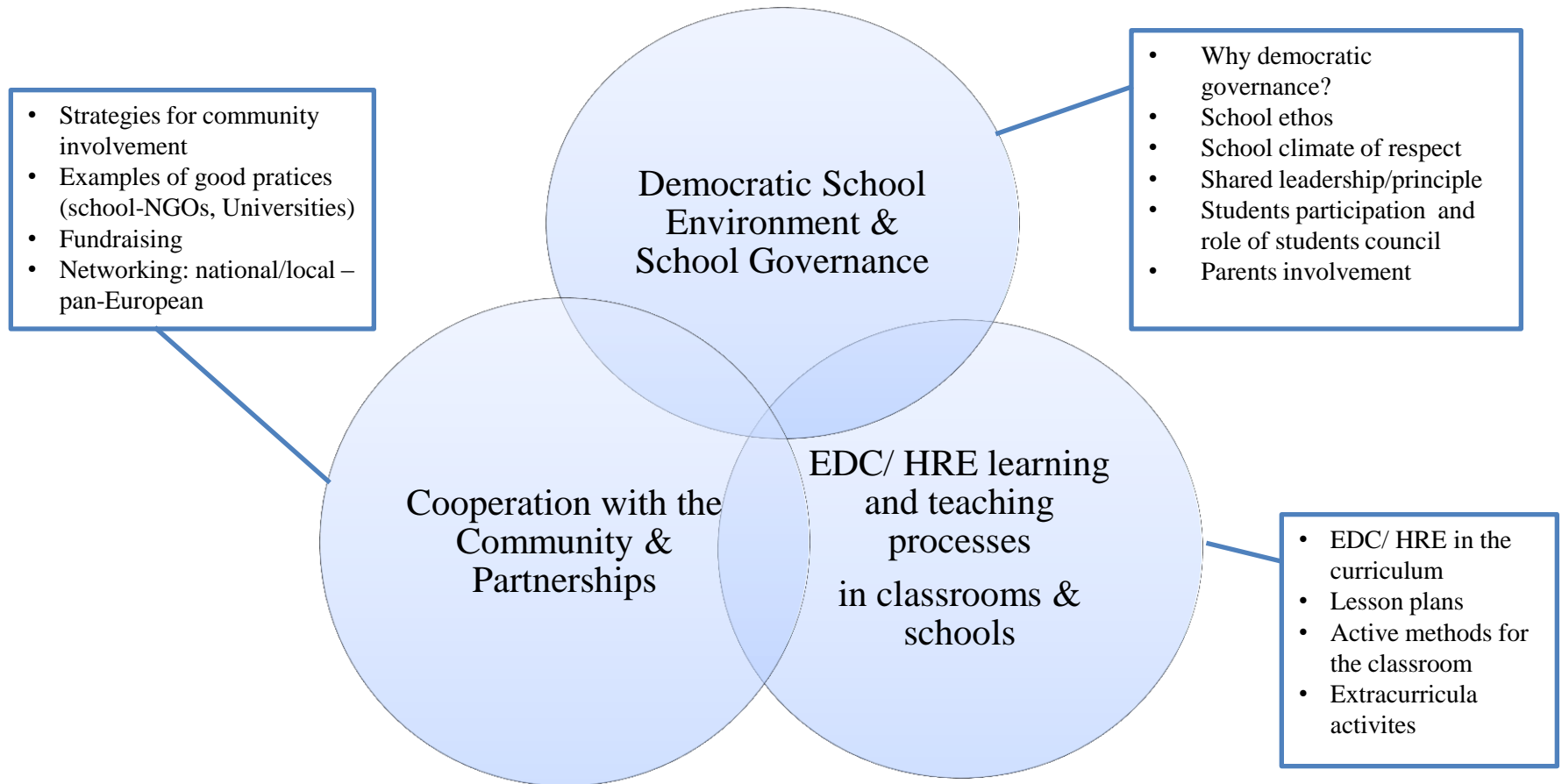


## Why Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education?

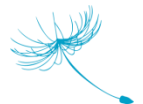
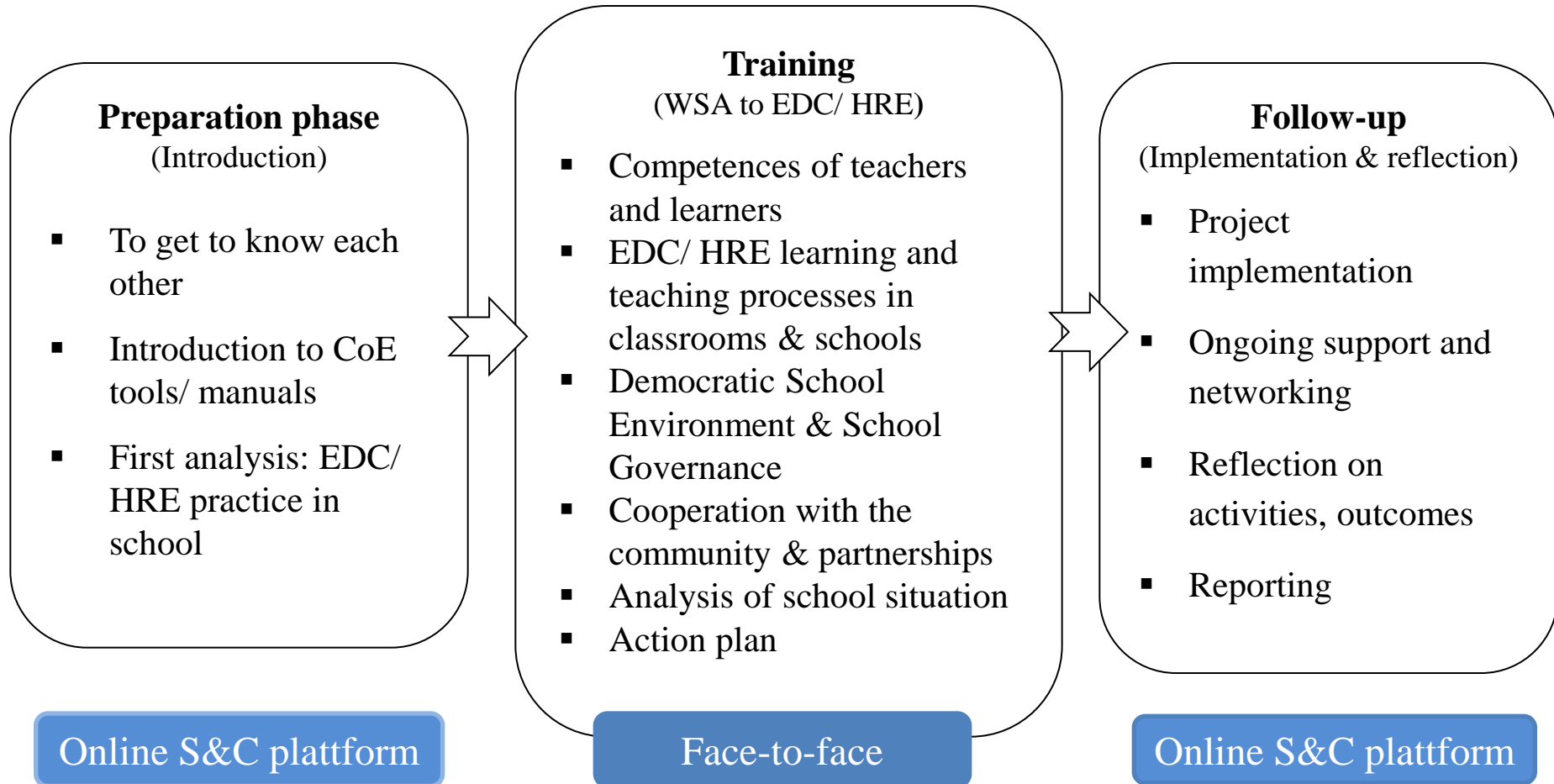
- Formal reasons: international commitments
- Nowadays challenges require citizens that learn «**how to think**»
- Improves the school climate:
  - Provides a nicer working environment for everybody in the school
  - Enhances teamwork
  - Reduces conflict
- **EDC/HRE is effective**: improves motivation and therefore enhances the learning outcomes
- Secures the future existence of sustainable democracies



# The approach – Content & Components



# Training phases and content



# Lessons learned during the last 6 years:

## EDC/ HRE areas/ topics

- School climate – lack of respect, cooperation and openness
- Traditionalistic governance at school, decisions are made by few stakeholders only
- Lack self-governance mechanisms /low students participation (no students council or passive role)
- Poor relations/ communication between stakeholders (e.g. student-student; parents-teachers; teachers-students)
- Lack of parents' involvement in school life
- Lack of civic engagement
- Traditional ways of teaching/ low motivation among students for learning
- Reduction of violence, discrimination, bullying/cyber-bullying, etc.





## Outputs:

- Students council set up/ reactivated
- Lesson plans developed and implemented, stand-alone HR courses
- School ethos /rules were revised / newly set up
- Space for dialogue/participation: civic education/ debate clubs, online forum to discuss school-wide issues
- Partnerships:
  - for financial support: local authority; National bank;
  - for general support: MoE, authorities;
  - for expertise: NGOs; Universities

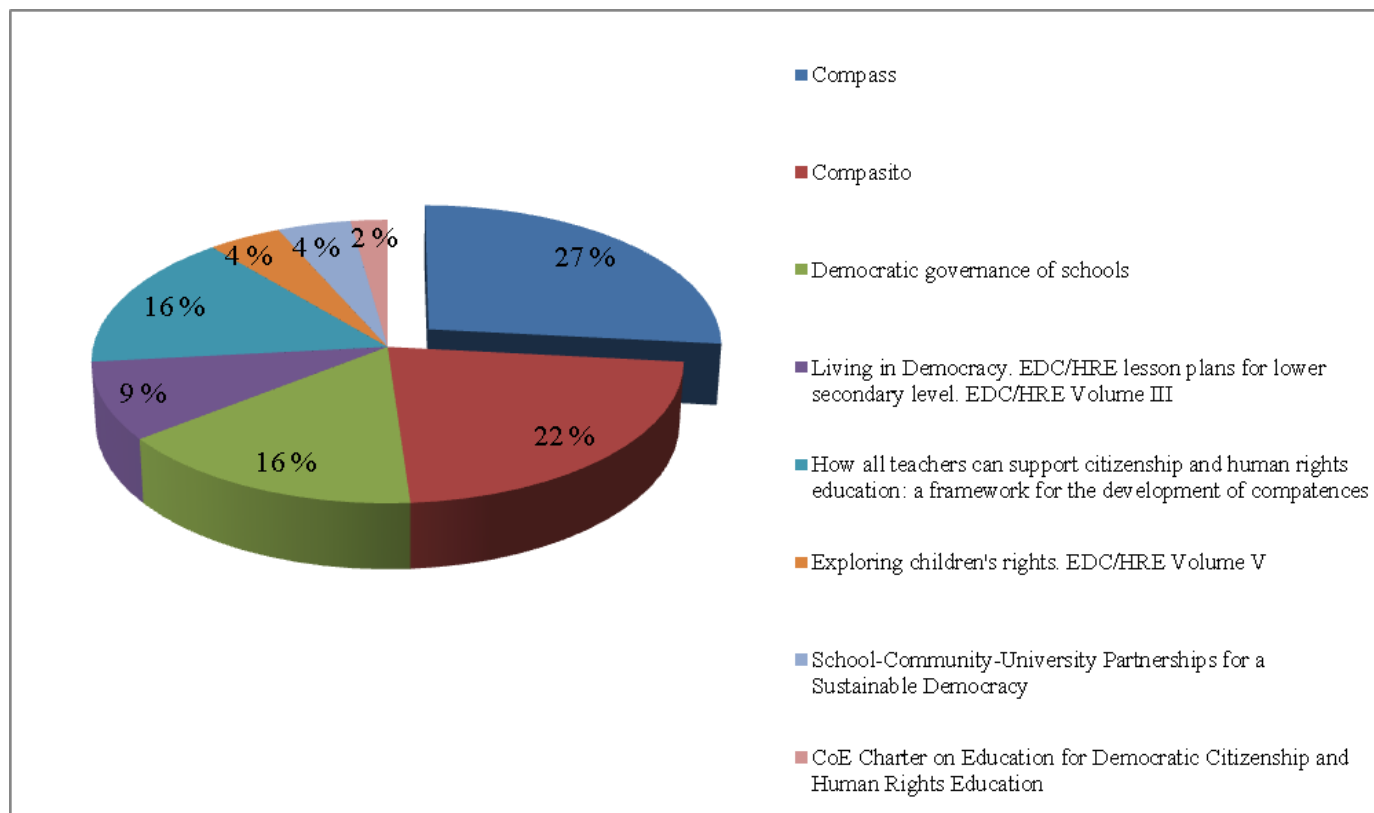


## Outcomes:

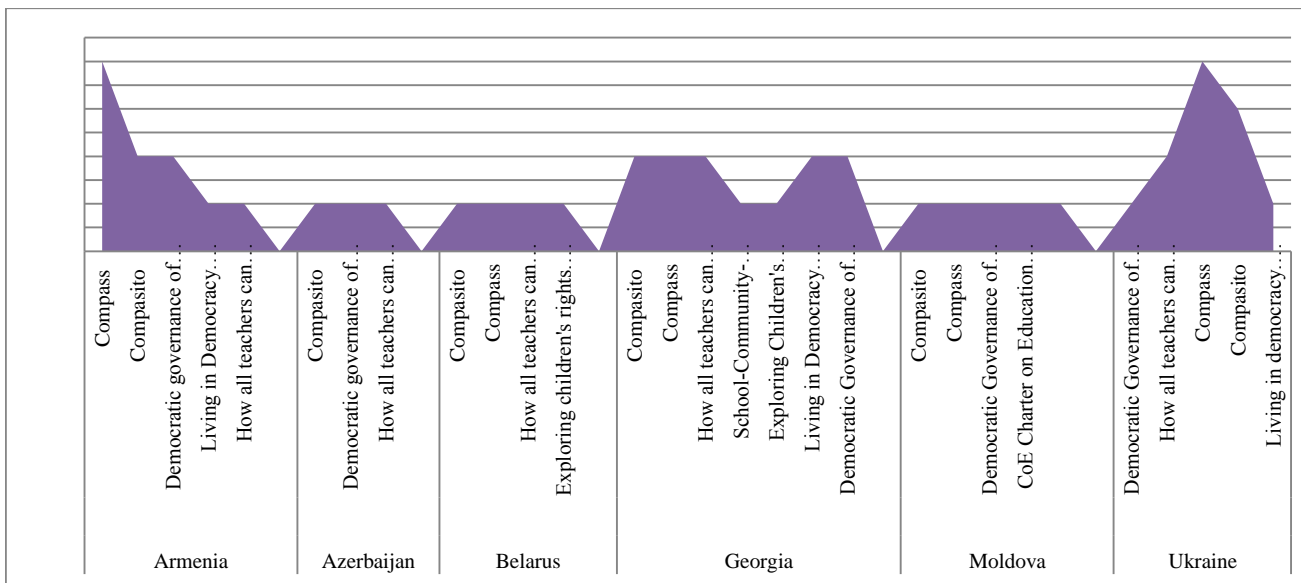
- Changes in school climate: more openness of schools towards different stakeholders; “positive atmosphere”, climate allows to discuss problems/solutions openly
- Empowerment of students lead to stronger engagement
- Improved relations between different stakeholders, especially parents
- Teachers changed ways of teaching; lead to stronger interest for classes among students



## Council of Europe Tools & Materials Regional Summer Academies (Eastern Partnership countries) 2011-2014



## CoE Tools & Materials Use by country



## Challenges (during project implementation):

- **Lack of educational materials in local languages**
- Resistance to change (teachers, senior students, etc.)
- Changes through EDC/ HRE slow, wish to see fast changes
- Parents involvement was low
- Contacts/ support from educational authorities
- Lack of resources and time



## Potential/ wish for future actions:

- Resources adapted to specific context (e.g. lessons plans, teaching materials)
- Alumni highly skilled, ready to take over stronger role as multipliers / resource persons
- Networks for EDC/ HRE (local school networks, national networks online EWCs' Share&Connect)
  - Dissemination of information and good practices
  - Multiply established models locally/ nationally
- School-school partnerships at European level (students exchange, learning from each other)
- Tandem-projects across EEP (Ukraine-Belarus)

*Foto: the Summer Academy Alumni Club in Armenia*





*Foto: 2014 Regional Summer Academy in Poland*

## What can EWC offer?

- Training models
- Expertise
- Associate trainers and experts
- An online community of practice
- Alumni network in your countries



«But the most important benefit was that the programme proved once again **how important school democracy is for high quality of education and the harmony of working and learning together in school settings**»

Regional Summer Academy, participant from Georgia