

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION
(GEC)**

COMBATING GENDER STEREOTYPES IN AND THROUGH EDUCATION

FOLLOW-UP TO THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE

Introduction

The Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 recognises that gender stereotyping presents a serious obstacle to the achievement of real gender equality and feeds into gender discrimination. Combating gender stereotypes and sexism is one of its five strategic objectives.

Combating gender stereotypes in and through education has been in the focus of the work and activities of the Transversal Programme, the Gender Equality Commission and the National Focal Points (NFPs) during 2014 and includes:

- i. The organisation of a very well-attended and highly appraised Conference on “Combating gender stereotypes in and through education” gathering representatives of governments, civil society, research and academic institutions as well as other regional and international organisations.
- ii. The collection and dissemination of the compilation of good practices to promote an education free from gender stereotypes and identifying ways to implement the measures which are included in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in education.
- iii. Discussions, findings, recommendations and measures emanating from the above, provide the foundation for further action in this area within the Council of Europe’s Transversal Programme on Gender Equality.

The GEC is invited to consider and agree on future activities and concrete follow-up action including:

- 1. Continue to update, expand and disseminate the compilation of good practices to promote an education free from gender stereotypes and identifying ways to implement the measures which are included in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on gender mainstreaming in education**

The compilation which was distributed to the participants of the Helsinki Conference and published on-line received a lot of positive feedback. It would be worthwhile to continuously add best practices to the compilation and to encourage those member states not included in the publication to contribute.

The good practices will be disseminated through the Gender Equality website and an updated compilation could be produced in both English and French one year after Helsinki.

2. Preparation of a reference handbook on combating gender stereotypes in and through education - based on the compilation of good practices

Aimed at policy makers and other schools actors (principals, teachers, students...) and inspired by the discussions and conclusions of the Conference, the handbook will be aiming at the promotion of a coherent and multidisciplinary reference framework in this field that can be used in teaching and training in both formal and non-formal education.

The content of this handbook should be based on the existing collection of good practices prepared before the Conference and cover a range of topics associated with gender stereotyping in education that correspond to some of the key elements and competences that the Council of Europe is considering as fundamental in combatting such stereotypes by all actors concerned.

The handbook might also be seen as a tool for promoting gender equality sensitivity among other education actors such textbook authors and publishers.

3. Conduct a study of challenges related to on-line cyber-misogyny

Digital citizenship education will be a new action to be developed by the Education Department in the new programme of activities 2016-2017. This new action should contribute to a reshape of the role of education for the "creation of digital citizens" and the promotion of positive measures with regard to children's "full digital participation in society". Focusing on the promotion of positive measures by school authorities for the development of digital competences for teachers and students, the new project will also deal with issues related to cyberbullying and cyber-misogyny and sexting in an on-line school environment.