

INGO Conference

Evaluating the implementation of the
action plan – quantitative feedback

Last version 19 November 2017

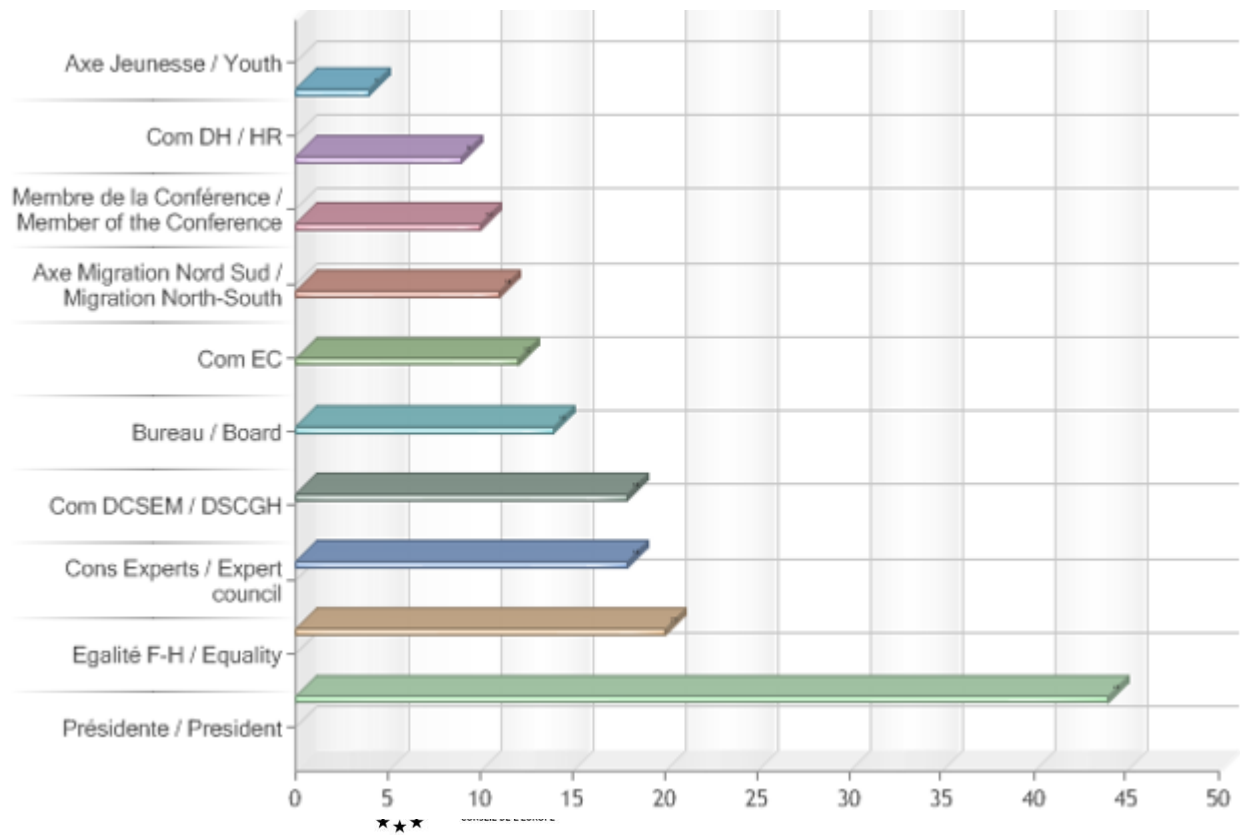
Context

- The need to evaluate the implementation of the action plan adopted in June 2014
 - The evaluation focused on the period from January 2015 to November 2017
- Evaluation questionnaire on the activities carried out
 - Sent out between the end of April and October 2017
 - Sent to each member of the Standing Committee, as well as each working group leader and official representative of the Conference
 - It aimed to analyse the activities related to the objectives and challenges set out in the 2014-2017 action plan
- This presentation summarises the main responses to the questions asked. This is an evaluation that needs to be supported with a separate, more qualitative analysis.

Data Base

- 132 activities carried out
- Good representation of the different Conference bodies in this initial questionnaire

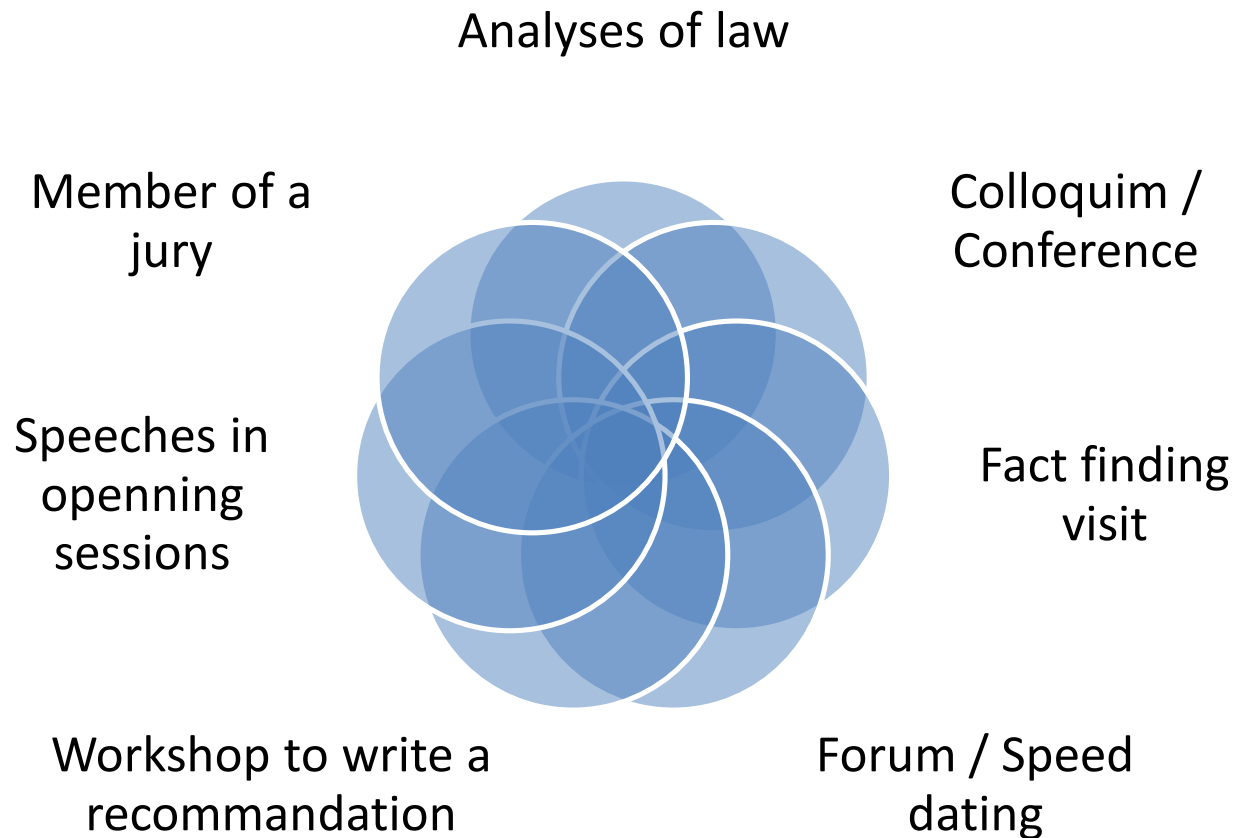
- 160 organisers or co-organisers



Type of actions

- Very diverse activities, mainly :
 - Events open to the general public or conferences
 - Participation in a working group
 - Written contributions, speeches, etc.
 - Visits to member states
 - Analyses of laws or legal opinions
 - Training sessions

Very diverse actions



Contribution to one of the external thematique objectives

1. To enhance civil society's participation in the decision-making process at local, national and European level so as to expand the democratic space in Council of Europe member states and in Belarus (85/132)

2. To establish dialogue when policy directions chosen by states and intergovernmental organisations constitute a threat to the universality and indivisibility of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (60/132)

3. To do everything possible to promote the ratification and application of Council of Europe legal instruments by member states (50/132)

Number of participants

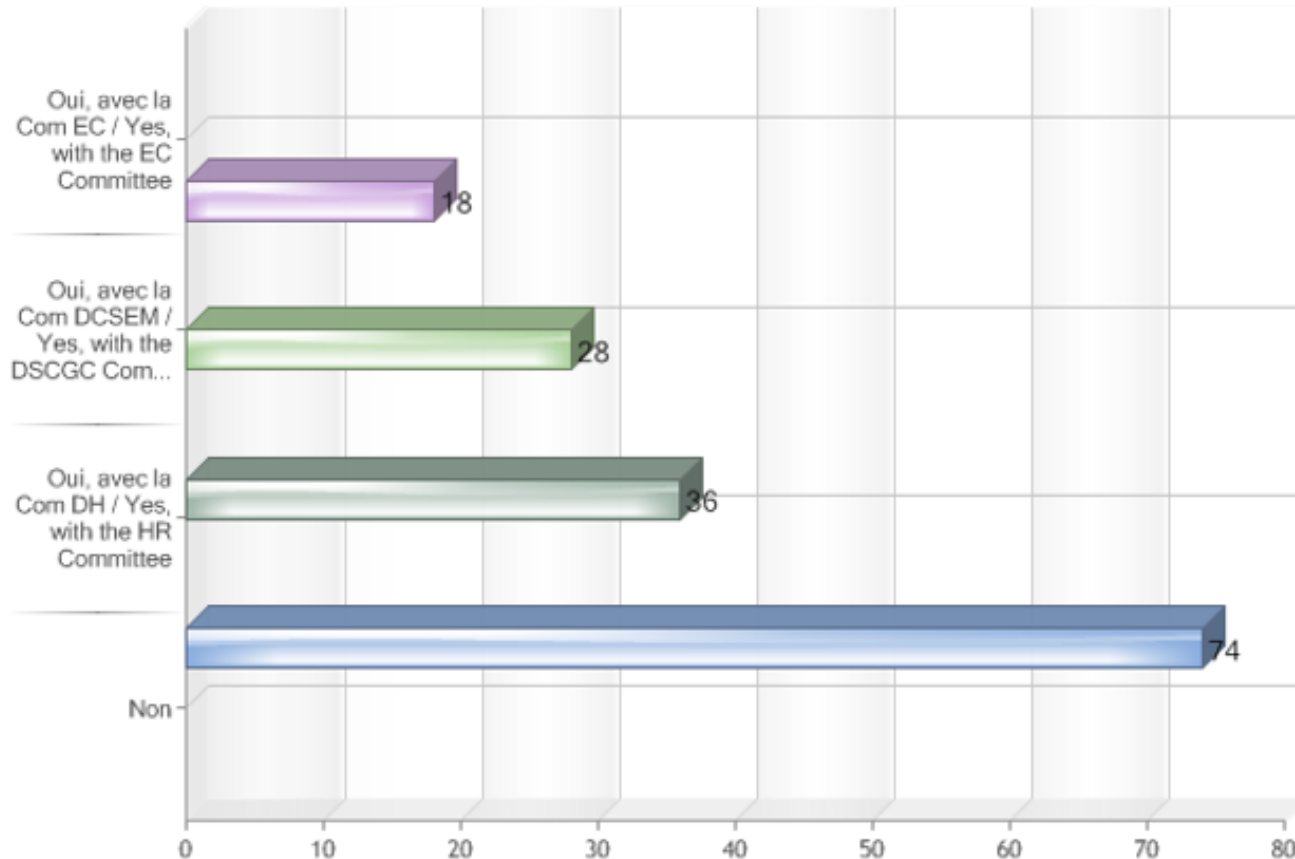
- On average, over 110 participants in widely varying group sizes
 - Ranging from 1 to 2 000
 - Average difference of 237
- This highlights the great diversity in the types of activities carried out

Openness of these actions

- 35 activities specifically invited youth organisations (26% of all the activities carried out)
- 61 activities specifically targeted the issue of gender equality (46% of all the activities carried out)
- 73 activities promoted the participation or involvement of people who have little to do with European institutions (55% of all the activities carried out)

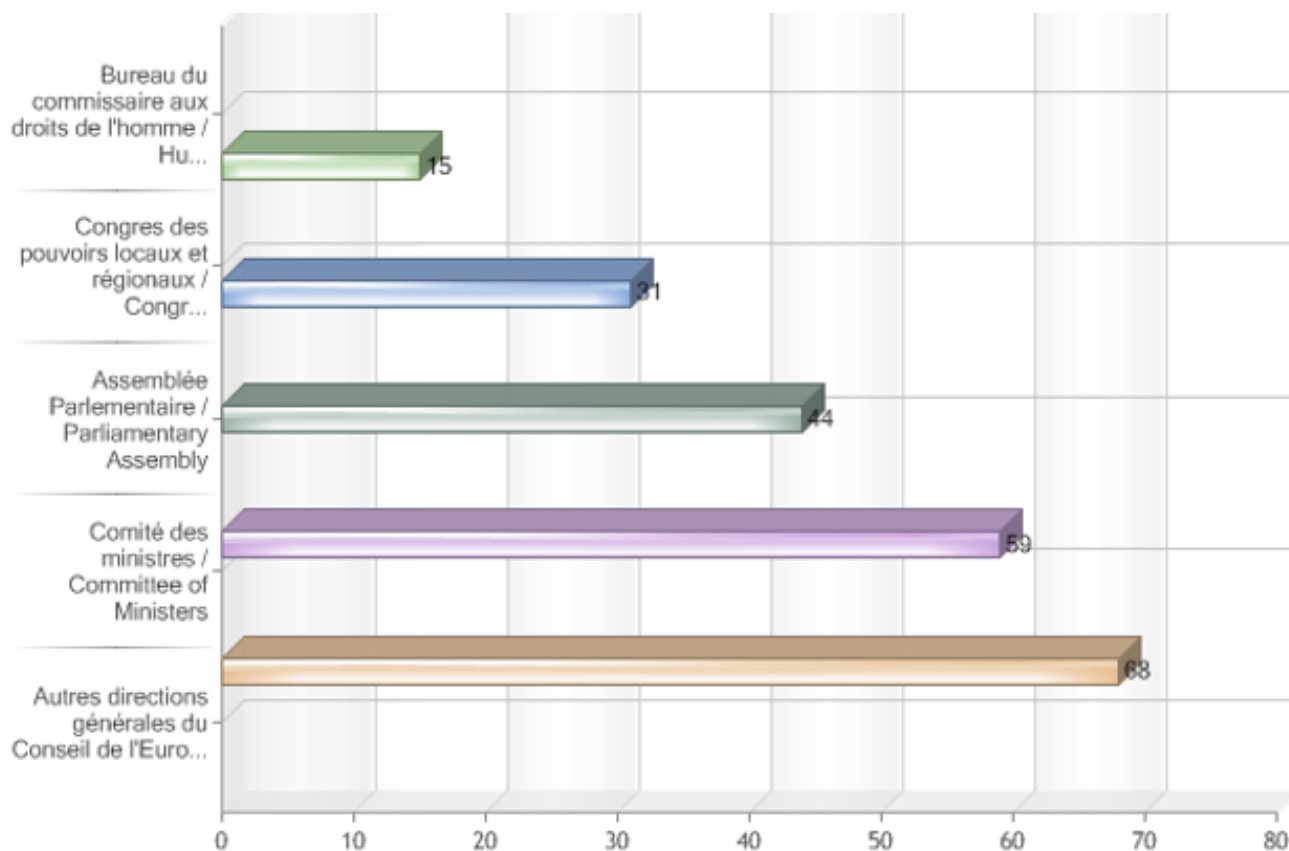
Links between commissions

- 74 activities were not linked to any committee
- The others were broken down as follows:

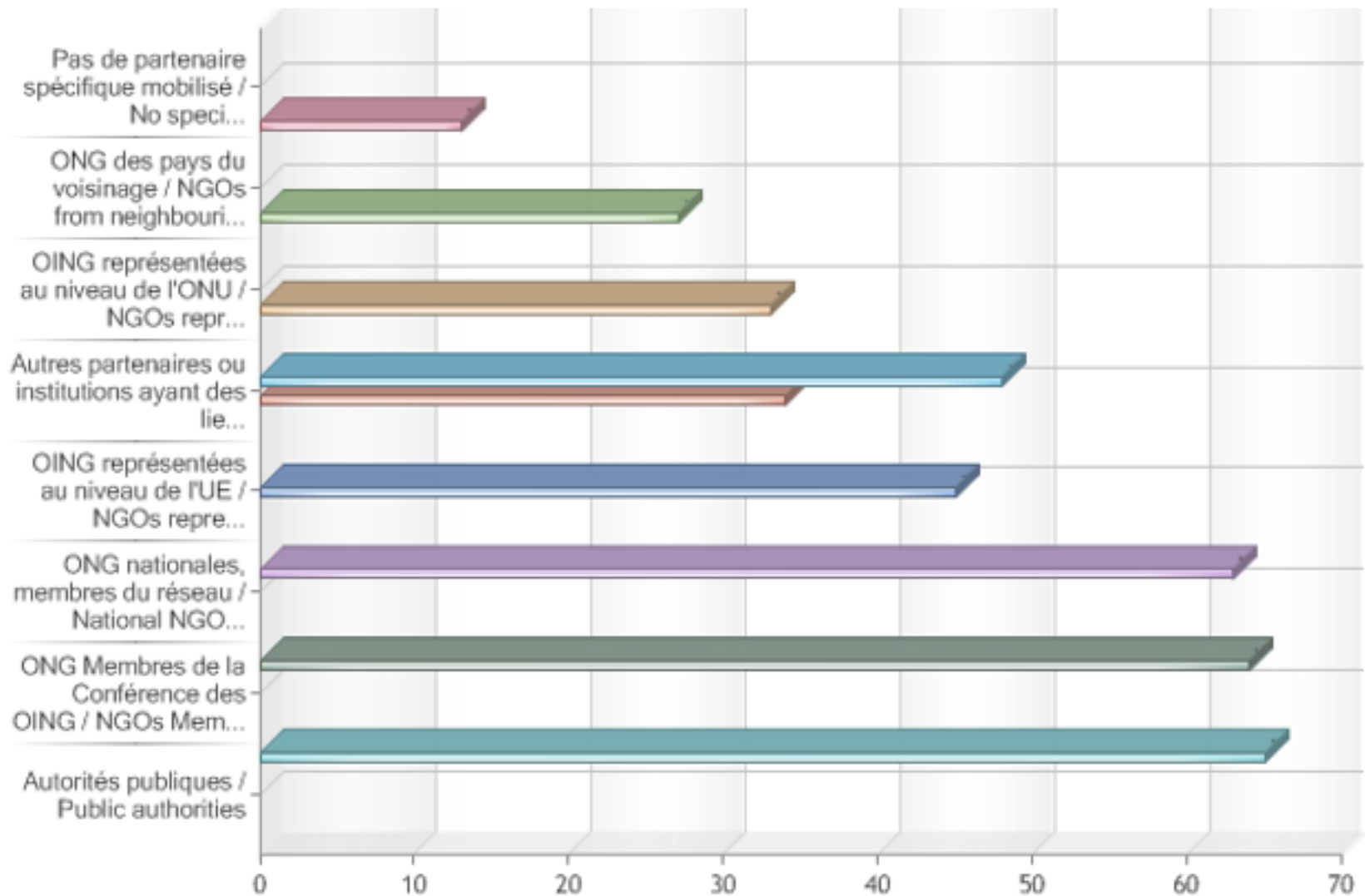


Links with the main organs of the CoE

- Activities often linked to the work of the Committee of Ministers, other directorates general and/or the PACE
- 37 activities (out of 132) had no connection to CoE bodies



Links with other partners



Communication around the actions

- 105 activities led to the publication or production of a text or a summary at the end of the event
- 80 activities led to the posting of an article or a text on the Conference website, Facebook or Twitter, etc., at the end of the event

Other remarks (verbatims - abstracts)

“Increased awareness of what could arise from efforts to seek dialogue based on ‘working together’ and not just ‘living together’

- an example and encouragement for the NGOs present*
- a call for solidarity in receiving people in host countries”*

“The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October gave a voice to people living in situations of poverty and provided an opportunity to assess the seriousness of their situation. They were able to express their desire to take action and the event made it possible to identify individuals’ resources for doing so.”

“This type of activity presents arguments in a form in which they are more likely to be heeded than if they were presented in another way. (...) These activities are rarely featured on the Conference website; however, they can almost all be found on the Committee’s website, to which there is a link on the Conference website.”

“Much envied participation in this panel bears witness to the position of NGOs responsible for local and regional themes at the Council of Europe, their credibility in the field and the trust established with the different participants and partners of the Council of Europe. It is traditional for us to speak in all opening speeches of conferences linked to the prize and that we present the prize to one of the winners.”

Other remarks (verbatims - abstracts)

“Most of the proposals adopted by the working group were taken into account by the CDDG, which set up a new internal working group in which I participated. The final document will shortly be submitted to the Committee of Ministers. While it has not been possible to keep terms such as “co-decision”, co-development is one of the key aspects of the text.”

“Real progress has been made, in particular, due to the quality of participants (their past and present functions). When asked, the two participants expressed a strong interest in our work and wanted to join us! Ms Petrescu is to stand as Committee vice-chair. Paul Maassen included us in his OGP public and restricted networks.

Note that when I mentioned the links to the site, I meant a publication on the Committee website (the only one completely available to us) and my Twitter and Facebook”

“With our visibility and networking, youth NGOs want to contribute to the Conference’s work (see, for example, the candidates for the June 2017 elections!)”

“The Conference was able to demonstrate its ability to use its skills on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue in its networks”

“The need to anticipate the increase in climate change refugees in the decades to come is included in the forum’s conclusions, which were sent to the Committee of Ministers and to the member states of the Council of Europe and neighbouring countries”

Suggestions on the questionnaire (verbatim - abstracts)

- “The questionnaire produced a list/description of the activities. In order to evaluate them, we need a qualitative evaluation protocol (results obtained, critical analysis, theorization, prospects for innovative activities).”
- “The questionnaire produces a description of the work carried out. We believe this is necessary but does not go far enough. We should develop a method of evaluating immediate results, in the short term and medium term. This would enable us to measure the involvement of INGOs in the Conference’s work and their contribution to the dissemination of the Council of Europe’s priorities.”
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- Some respondents wanted the option of coming back to the questionnaire (come back to it, make changes after validation, etc.)
 - Possible if we send a personalized link to each individual and not a general link, but would therefore need a centralized distribution system
- Some wanted to be able to add links, attachments and documents
 - Possibility of a write-in option, but not technically effective, and impossible to attach documents with the tool used
- Some comments on certain questions whose wording needs to be changed

Analysis of the results

Strengths

- A dynamic Conference which produced and contributed to several activities over 3 years
- A great variety of activities
- Willingness to work with the main CoE bodies and other civil society organisations
- The (nearly) systematic preparation of papers/reports following activities

Points for improvement

- The need to work on the “types of activities” so as to be more precise in a future questionnaire and, in particular, to have an action strategy clearly linked to the Conference objectives
- More systematic integration of youth organisations and further work to address issues involving people
- The opportunity to step up liaison between committees in the development of these activities
- The need to work on new tools for carrying out and communicating about these activities, in order to promote them and make them more attractive

Perspectives

- Prospects: what are the evaluation criteria for the activities to be carried out by the next Standing Committee?
- Chance to work on the appropriateness, efficiency and effectiveness of the activities that are to be carried out?... and, in particular, their impact on
 - The positions of the Council of Europe?
 - Activities conducted by members of the Conference of INGOs?

Thank you !

A big thank you for helping to promote the activities carried out. It shows the dynamism of the different components of the Conference and a true willingness to work together, with other civil society organisations and with Council of Europe bodies.