

Strasbourg, 20 November 2012

CC-ERYICA(2012)PV23

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ERYICA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Joint Co-ordinating Committee

23rd meeting

Malta, 11-12 October 2012

Report

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alexis Ridde, Chair of the CDEJ. The list of participants is included in Appendix I.

The Committee,

Adopted the agenda of its 23rd meeting held in Malta on 11-12 October 2012 as included in Appendix II.

2. Adoption of the draft report of the 22nd meeting, held in Paris on 30 November 2011

The Committee,

Adopted the report of its 22nd meeting held in Paris on 30 November 2011.

3. Recent developments within the Council of Europe and ERYICA respectively

Council of Europe

André-Jacques Dodin (Council of Europe) underlined the following developments within the Council of Europe:

Reform of the Council of Europe: the reform process as such is finished but a number of decisions are still being implemented, in particular in terms of budget rationalisation, development of transversality and cross-sectoral co-operation, notably between Youth and Education;

9th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth: Two hundred and fifty-two participants and observers attended the conference, including one hundred and seventy-one members of national delegations from forty-four States Party to the European Cultural Convention, as well as ninety youth representatives. Twenty-nine countries had included at least one youth representation in their national delegation; additional youth delegates had been selected by the Advisory Council on Youth, by the European Youth Forum and the National Youth Council of Russia.

In spite of an agreement among member States on most of the content of the draft final declaration of the conference, it proved impossible to arrive at a consensus on a draft final declaration. The only controversial point was whether to include, or not, an explicit reference to “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” in the list of reasons for discriminatory practices against young people. A proposal for compromise consisting of including in the draft final declaration a reference to a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers dealing with this specific issue (CM/Rec(2010)5) could not be agreed upon by all the member States. The participants of the youth event were seriously disappointed and concerned about this situation and its possible consequences on the future of youth policy at the Council of Europe. The conclusions of the youth event will be nevertheless communicated to the Committee of Ministers. Strong emphasis was also placed on these conclusions during the presentation of the Chair’s conclusions at the final session of the Conference.

Summer University 2012: the 2012 Summer University of the CDEJ was held in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 27-30 August. There were 32 participants, including seventeen representatives of the CDEJ and seven representatives of the Advisory Council. The main topic was “Young people combating hate speech online”. The organisation of the Summer University and the quality of the programme, especially the local programme (field visits) were very positively evaluated. This was to a large extent due to the commitment and efficiency of the Georgian hosts.

Child and youth participation: following the adoption of the recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the member states on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, the preparation of an assessment tool is on progress. The tool is designed to enable governments to evaluate their policy with regard to child and youth participation. An informal follow up group (to replace the Ad hoc Advisory group on Child and Youth Participation) has been established. It comprises notably three members of the CDEJ, three members of the Advisory Council and ERYICA. A meeting of this group took place on 2-3 October in Strasbourg to advise the secretariat and the two consultants on the assessment tool.

International reviews of national youth policies: the review of the Ukrainian youth policy will be completed at the end of the year (the national Hearing is due to take place at the beginning of 2013 and the presentation of the review to the Joint Council, in March 2013). In 2013, the Youth Department will carry out the international review of the Greek youth policy.

ERYICA

The representatives of ERYICA reported on the following issues:

- Training activities (YINTRO): the new training course has already been promoted and delivered in more than 12 countries and there are more courses in the pipeline for being delivered, as national, international courses and as training to trainers.
- Youth on the Move- InfoMobility: ERYICA created a partnership of different members around a project aiming at enhancing cooperation among a selected number of youth information centres

on short term youth mobility. The project is meant to support the goals of the “Youth on the Move” card initiative of the European Commission. An answer is due in December 2012.

- The ERYICA General Assembly in Malta featured the presence of all Members except three. ERYICA was very happy to welcome Andre-Jacques Dodin, in representation of the Council of Europe, whose presence marked an important step in the partnership between the Council and the Agency.
- ERYICA Membership: new Members joined in since the last JCC meeting, namely Montenegro became full member, and Lithuania as cooperating organisation with Lijot.
- Campaign “Information right now”
- ERYICA’s cooperation with the Council broadened significantly over the past months, especially with regard to the activities of the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Field of Youth (Arab Spring Symposium, Regional activity in Tbilisi); again by taking part in the Summer University of the CDEJ in Tbilisi; by taking part (and promoting the Campaign Information Right Now! during the University on Youth and Development in Mollina, organised by the North-South Centre; as an expert invited to the ad-hoc expert group for the follow-up of the recommendation on Child and Youth participation;
- Despite some withdrawals as Members, ERYICA keeps in constant contact and cooperation with many countries, for possibly reestablish partnership and membership; this happens especially in Spain, Ireland, Greece, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Poland.
- the new corporate identity of ERYICA was launched during the last General Assembly in Malta, and is the result of many months of work undergone at centralised and decentralised levels. Members have received a CD with all new visual elements including the logos that are meant to be flexibly adapted to each national and local reality, presenting themselves in different colours and shapes.
- A training course called “Digital Yintro” was presented and already delivered to a number of trainers and will also be available in the future
- During the next General Assembly, to be held in Ankara (18-21 April 2013), the new Governing Board of the Agency will be elected, and broadly renovated since five out of the current eight members now represented in the Board are prevented from re-applying. The presence of a representative of the Council of Europe will be welcome and an invitation shall reach the Secretariat very soon.
- within the framework of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union, in the light of the role of advisor that ERYICA covered over the past months, the Croatian Government and ERYICA proposed to organise in 2013 an activity on “Impact of youth information on young people’s access to rights and social inclusion”.

4. Evaluation of the “Information Right Now!” Campaign

The Director of ERYICA briefly reported that:

- the overall Campaign was a success with good impact. There was notably a good media coverage for the pan-European event on May 16th;
- the campaign created a lot of motivation at local level. 54 events were organised on the occasion of the launching of the Campaign and so far, 124 activities have been organised for the Campaign in 29 countries;
- the message was not always easy to understand;
- the most critical elements was the photo competition, which should have been more simple. The exhibition in St Petersburg could have been done with bigger photographs

- The involvement of CDEJ was higher when CDEJ members were from ERYICA members, and that the next steps will be:

- to enrich the exhibition and place it at the European Youth centres
- to arrange an evening presentation of the Campaign at the March meeting of the CDEJ (2013)
- to use the exhibition as a basis for follow up
- to organise one pan-European day to conclude the Campaign

The Youth Department will investigate the possibility to place the photo exhibition in the Palais de l'Europe or the Human rights building.

Furthermore, the Joint Co-ordination Committee took note of possible actions which could be implemented as a follow up to the Campaign:

- a) Follow-up activities of the Campaign "Information Right Now!": editing of a kit targeting youth information workers on how to inform young people on their rights; dissemination of the kit and of the booklet containing the results and a summary of the activities; workshops presenting the kit; presentation of the Campaign results at the Joint Council on Youth in March 2013;
 - b) Editing of a document, targeting initiators and national opinion makers, on history, determinants, formats, rationale, and political impact of youth information and counseling as a part of youth policy implemented at a national level. The study will include also potential fashions of governance of national coordinating structures, data on the current state of the art and good practice studies on the establishment of youth information and counseling in start-up contexts.
- organisation of another Youth Ambassadors meeting in Spring 2013 in Sweden
 - setting out of the exhibition in a regional event organised by the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Union in the field of youth
 - at the next General Assembly in Ankara, to award a prize for Campaign events (which attracted the best media coverage, for example)
 - in combination with the next meetings of the statutory bodies of the Youth Department in March 2013, to organise a seminar on "Young people's access to rights"

The Joint Co-ordination Committee also took note that the Campaign will end with a Pan-European event at the end of 2012.

5. Publications

The Joint Co-ordination Committee took note that the translation of the Starter Kit has been done in the following languages: English, French, German, Russian, Macedonian and Turkish and asked the Council of Europe to check if the Kit has also been translated into Serbian.

As regards the production and re-printing of publications, the Joint Co-ordination Committee agreed with the following:

- re-printing of Starter Kit: 500 or 1000 copies in English
- printing of the Russian version of the Starter Kit: to check if the Council of Europe could do it
- realisation of a "National Starter Kit" to provide advice and guidelines on how to set up a youth information policy in a country (2013).

6. Work Programme of Partnership Agreement in 2013

The Joint Co-ordination Committee approved the programme of the partnership for 2013 as follows:

An Administrative Arrangement (grant from the Youth Department) will be established for an amount of: between 20 000 and 25 000€ to include the following elements:

- follow up of the Campaign (including the I Phone application)
- Study on impact of youth information on young people's access to social rights through youth information and counselling
- production of a national starter kit (how to influence policies at national level, how to set up a youth information policy in a country, etc.)

Outside the Administrative Arrangement:

- printing/translation of the publication "Young people's access to rights through youth information and counselling"

7. Any other business

8. Date and place of the next meeting

Brussels, beginning of November 2013 (exact dates to be confirmed at a later stage).

Appendix I**List of participants****3 Members of the CDEJ / 3 Members du CDEJ****Mr Alexis RIDDE**

Chef de la mission de la coopération européenne et internationale - jeunesse, vie associative
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SECRETARIAT OF ERYICA / SECRÉTARIAT DE ERYICA**Mr Davide CAPECCHI**

ERYICA Director

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SECRETARIAT OF THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT / SECRÉTARIAT SERVICE DE LA JEUNESSE**Mr André-Jacques DODIN**

Head of Division