

**Learning to Live Together:  
a Shared Commitment to Democracy**

Conference on the Future of Citizenship  
and Human Rights Education in Europe  
Strasbourg, 18 – 23 June 2017

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**Presentation  
Call for participants  
Youth and non-governmental sector**  
Dead-line: 12 April 2017, 13:00 CET

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## **Charter as a tool for change**

The 47 member states of the Council of Europe adopted the [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) in 2010. The Charter is an expression of a shared understanding and commitment to education for human rights and democracy in Europe. Its aim is to support further development through dialogue and cooperation. The Charter works hand in hand with the Council of Europe Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, which is another important tool in this area.

## **Human Rights Education Youth Programme**

The [Human Rights Education Youth Programme](#) of the Youth Department aims to consolidate and support the role of non-governmental youth organisations and as actors in the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. It does so by combining the development and dissemination of tools and resources on human rights education and capacity-building activities for trainers, multipliers and advocates of human rights education as a human right.

## **Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education**

Every 5 years we review together with member states and civil society the progress achieved in promoting citizenship and human rights education in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter. The conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> review are presented in the [Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) which will be discussed at this Conference. While the Charter provides us with a shared understanding of citizenship and human rights education and the principles for action, the review process helps us to identify strategic goals and actions, and the ways to evaluate how successful they are.

## **Have your voice heard**

The aim of this Conference is to discuss the conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe, to share experiences and lessons learned and to propose recommendations for future action. The participants will propose strategic goals for the next 5 years to promote citizenship and human rights education, both within the countries and in the European and global context, and methods of promoting dialogue within and between the countries. About 300 participants are expected at this event, including representatives of governments, education professionals and civil society organisations.

## **Tackling today's challenges together**

Europe is facing serious challenges, and citizenship and human rights education can play an important part in addressing them. How to integrate migrants and refugees successfully? How to prevent violent radicalisation without creating a climate of mistrust, suspicion and discrimination? How can education address the growing divide between the elites and the ordinary people? There are no easy answers to these questions, but many innovative practices have been developed and can be used as inspiration. The Council of Europe provides a platform where the countries – and different partners within the countries - can learn from each other, develop common solutions and provide mutual support.

## **A year of celebration**

In 2017, we are celebrating 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Europe project on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education which led to the Charter, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Compass Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People](#), one of the most popular manuals on human rights education, available in more than 40 languages. The conference will be a moment to learn from these achievements and set new goals for cooperation and common action.

## **What will happen after the Conference?**

The conclusions of the Conference will be broadly disseminated and submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which brings together all the member states and makes decisions on what the Council of Europe does and how. These conclusions will inform the Council of Europe Programme of Activities in the Education and [Youth sectors](#) in 2018-2019 and beyond.

## **Briefing meeting and training workshops for Youth and non-governmental sector representatives**

On 19 June 2017 a briefing meeting to support the participants from the youth, children and non-governmental sector will take place in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The meeting has the aim to update on the latest development in citizenship and human rights education in the youth sector and to support them in their advocacy efforts.

On 22 June 2017, in the afternoon, separate meetings and training workshops will be offered to participants from the youth sector on advocacy for human rights education with young people and children, as well as practical info sessions aiming to further associate them with the Human Rights Education Youth Programme (workshops for organisers of national training courses; translation of Compass, Compasito; etc.).

## **Aim and objectives of the conference**

The aim of the conference is to discuss the conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe, to share experiences and lessons learned and to propose recommendations for future action.

The objectives of the conference are:

- To highlight the need for and the contribution made by citizenship and human rights education to advance human rights and democracy;
- To analyse the challenges and opportunities for citizenship and human rights education in Europe based on the preliminary results of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe;
- To encourage and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among key stakeholders across sectors and at all levels: local, national and international;
- To propose a set of goals, with associated guidelines and benchmarks for implementation, for the promotion and implementation of EDC/HRE over the next 5 years at a) the Council of Europe level and b) the member states level, highlighting the role and contribution to be made by all stakeholders, including civil society organisations and education institutions;
- To produce recommendations on the renewal of the Council of Europe network of coordinators for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, with a view to the strengthening the impact of the Charter.

## **Expected outcomes**

- Goals and guidelines for the development of action plans or strategies for promotion of EDC/HRE over the next 5 years, with possible benchmarks at national level;
- Improved understanding of current challenges and opportunities with respect to the promotion of democracy and human rights through education;
- A renewed and solid commitment among the key stakeholders of the Charter as a common framework for the promotion of democracy and human rights through education;

- Increased motivation and capacity for the use of the support tools and resources such as the Council of Europe Reference Framework of competences for democratic culture;
- Strengthening of, and support to, the political, social and educational role of EDC/HRE in sustaining a culture of democracy and human rights, including the pursuance of the related Sustainable Development Goals;
- Recognition and support of the role of civil society, particularly of youth and students organisations, and other change agents at national level, in furthering the agenda for EDC/HRE;
- Increase of participants' motivation and capacity to ensure quality EDC/HRE;
- A reinforced network of partners at national and international levels;

### **Participants, profile and selection**

This call concerns the participants to be selected by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

The Youth Department seeks to select up to 70 participants to represent the children, youth and civil society sector in the conference. The candidates must fulfil the following profile:

- Be actively involved in human rights education with young people and/or children;
- Be able to share direct experiences of EDC/HRE or be involved in advocacy actions targeting the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter or be responsible of policy making or implementation;
- Be motivated to follow-up the conference with further actions to advocate for human rights education for all young people at local, national and international level;
- Be supported by a youth organisation/children organisation/ network or human rights organisation or institution involved in human rights education with young people/children;
- Be able to work autonomously in English or French;
- Be resident in a state party to the European Cultural Convention;
- Preferably be aged 18-35 years old, with exceptions possible.
- Please **note** a number of places is reserved to **children organisation representatives**, which could be children themselves (under 18 years);
- Be able to attend the entire duration of the Conference, the briefing meeting and the training workshops.

### **Selection process**

All interested candidates are requested to duly complete the application form at <http://youthapplications.coe.int> together with all relevant support documents.

Dead-line for applications

The dead-line for applications is **Wednesday, 12 April 2017, 13:00 CET.**

### **Practical information**

*Languages of the conference*

The conference will take place in English and French with simultaneous interpretation.

*Board and lodging, conference location*

Participants will be accommodated in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The conference sessions and the training meeting will take place in Palais d'Europe and the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

#### *Travel, visa and insurance*

Participants' costs in respect to travel and visa will be covered by the Council of Europe Youth Department by bank transfer after the conference given that the rules of the Council of Europe are strictly observed. Participants will be insured by the Council of Europe during travel and participation in the conference.

#### **Further inquiries**

For further information, please contact Anca - Ruxandra Pandea, educational advisor, [anca-ruxandra.pandea@coe.int](mailto:anca-ruxandra.pandea@coe.int) or Jackie Lubelli, programme assistant, [Jackie.lubelli@coe.int](mailto:Jackie.lubelli@coe.int).

For technical assistance with the application form, please address: [youthapplications@coe.int](mailto:youthapplications@coe.int).

#### **Draft programme of the conference**

##### **Monday, 19 June**

Arrival of participants

Registration of Youth and NGO sector participants at European Youth Centre Strasbourg

11:00 Briefing meeting for youth and non-governmental representatives

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Briefing meeting for youth and non-governmental representatives (continued)

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Evening activities at European Youth Centre Strasbourg

##### **Tuesday, 20 June**

8:30 Getting to know each other activities

9:30 Opening session

10:00 The Council of Europe: 20 years of supporting the member states in the promotion of Citizenship and Human Rights Education: the context and role of the conference

10:20 Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe

11:00 Break

11:30 Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe - challenges and opportunities: parallel workshops

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe - challenges and opportunities: parallel workshops (continued)

16:00 Break

16:30 Promoting human rights and democracy through education: case studies

18:00 Closure of the day

##### **Wednesday, 21 June**

9:30 Conclusions of the workshops in day 1

10:00 Break

10:15 Learners at the centre of education - good practices and lessons learned: parallel workshops

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Learners at the centre of education - good practices and lessons learned: parallel workshops (continued)

16:00 Break

16:30 Plenary presentation of the conclusions of the workshops in day 2

18:00 Information market and networking

Reception

**Thursday, 22 June**

- 9:00 Promoting human rights and democracy through education in Europe today - round table
- 9:45 Round Table with International Institutions
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Setting the milestones - Recommendations for future action for the Council of Europe, member states, civil society organisations and education institutions: parallel workshops
- 12:00 Plenary presentations of the results of the workshops
- 12:15 Conclusions and closing of the conference
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Training workshop on advocacy for human rights education of civil society and follow-up to the conference – for participants from Youth and civil society sector
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Info sessions for participants from Youth, children and civil society sectors
- 18:30 Closure of the meeting
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Farewell party

**Friday, 23 June**

Departure of participants