

AC NEWSLETTER

2014 has been a busy year for the Advisory Council on Youth.

The Council made up of 30 young people from 22 European countries has worked together to organise events, run campaigns, advocate for the rights of young people in Europe, as well as providing input and expertise on all activities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.



EXPECTED RESULTS

Every second year the Council of Europe's Youth Department decides on the future priorities in the field of youth. The Advisory Council on Youth plays an important part in defining these priorities and deciding on them.

In September, during the last Joint Bureau meeting, an internal debate took place to identify the Priorities and Expected Results for the biennium 2016 and 2017 for the Council of Europe Youth Sector. The final decision was taken in November during the 31st Joint Council meeting, based on a proposal drafted by the Secretariat, concerning the priorities and expected results of the Council of Europe youth sector for 2016-2017, taking into consideration the proposals developed by each Bureau (through joint working groups) and the discussions within the joint meeting.

In light of the experience of the past biennia, the Bureaus considered setting fewer expected results for the youth sector, since fewer expected results would allow for a larger budgetary allocation to each of them, thus ensuring better visibility and coherent quality standards of the youth programme. The Bureaus decided to focus on the following 3 priority areas (and their respective expected results): "Advancing democratic citizenship through innovative forms of participation", "Autonomy of young people and their access to rights", and "Promoting inclusive and Peaceful Societies".

World Forum for Democracy

STRASBOURG - 2014
from 3 to 5 november 2014

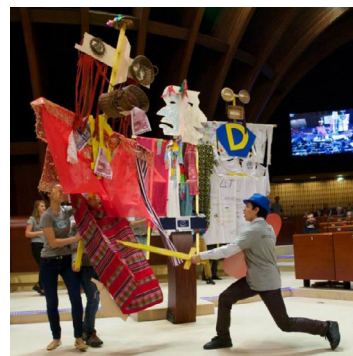


WORLD FORUM OF DEMOCRACY

The third edition of the World Forum for Democracy took place in Strasbourg from November 3rd to the 5th.

The topic of the debates organized at the seat of Council of Europe were: **“From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?”**. The core activities of the Forum consisted of discussions about successful initiatives and actions for youth citizenship and participation, and new governance solutions to youth democratic inclusion. These initiatives and ideas were discussed in a series of creative laboratories. The various laboratories were live-tweeted under the hashtag #CoE_WFD, and are still available for consultation. The Forum explored initiatives and structures to successfully address the reasons for youth exclusion and create conditions for real youth influence.

The insights gathered during the World Forum activities will be integrated in the future projects of the Council of Europe and its partners in the field of democracy and democratic governance.



YOUTH PARTICIPATION ON THE AGENDA IN THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is a pan-European political assembly, the 636 members represent over 200,000 authorities in 47 European states. Its role is to promote local and regional democracy, improve local and regional governance and strengthen authorities' self-government.

‘Empowering youth: a shared responsibility for cities and regions’: was the theme of the 27th Session of the Congress held from 14 to 16 October in Strasbourg. The Advisory Council members Liam and Christian took part in the planning of the youth debates and the selection of topics. They managed to steer the group in the direction of holding one of the debates on introducing co-management across local and regional authorities. The other debates focused on the topic of youth participation.

(AC members with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Mr. Torbjørn Jagland)



28-30 October 2014, Baku
www.youthpolicyforum.org

FIRST GLOBAL FORUM ON YOUTH POLICIES

The Global Forum on Youth Policy emerged from the need to provide a physical platform for youth policy stakeholders around the globe to discuss and respond on key questions related to the topic.

The Advisory Council on Youth took part in the First Global Forum on Youth Policies in Baku as a contributing stakeholder in the field of youth policies and as an extension to the Council of Europe’s 40 years of pioneering work on youth research and policy formulation. The Advisory Council promoted the co-management system as a good model for best practices in youth policy and a possible international model. The Vice-chair of the Advisory Council was part of a panel discussing why youth policy is important today and how far the global youth policy agenda has come 20 years after the World Programme of Action for Youth was adopted.

After 3 days of intensive discussions, the co-conveners and stakeholders announced a final declaration entailing a list of commitments to be implemented and a follow-up to the forum in the near future.

For more details on the Baku Commitment on Youth Policy check this link.



FINAL DECLARATION OF THE FORUM



ADOPTION OF THE AFRICA-EUROPE YOUTH CO-OPERATION POSITION PAPER

The Africa-Europe youth cooperation is one of the main working areas of the current mandate. The Advisory Council had a leading role in the African Youth Leader summit held from the 30th March to 1st April, and furthermore adopted a position paper on the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation in the Joint Bureaus September meeting.

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Following the 31st meeting of the Joint Council, the Advisory Council on Youth and the European Youth Forum adopted a joint statement on the situation in Ukraine.

**READ
THE JOINT
STATEMENT**

LETTER REGARDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL IN “THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA”

The Advisory Council strongly believes that National Youth Councils play an important role in youth policy development, and therefore addressed the European Youth Forum in order to find synergies to support the recognition of the National Youth Council in “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

**READ THE
LETTER**

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH YOUTH IN THE BALKANS

The Advisory Council issued a statement of solidarity with youth in the Balkans on 6 June 2014, in which it expressed its deep concern regarding the catastrophic situation in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, caused by the worst floods ever recorded in the area in recent history. Furthermore, the Advisory Council expressed its gratitude towards individuals, activists of youth organisations, youth councils, and young people who acted together with local and national authorities and mobilised all their energies to support those in utmost need.

**READ THE
STATEMENT**

LETTER TO THE MEMBER STATES OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

On 23 October 2014, the Advisory Council sent a call to all member states of the Council of Europe Development Bank, to consider submitting projects to the Bank which could address the problem of youth unemployment and precarious work under the “Creation and preservation of viable jobs” sector of action.

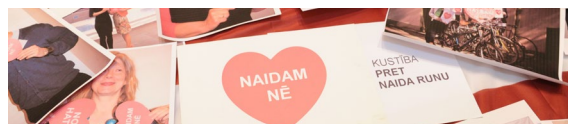
READ THE LETTER



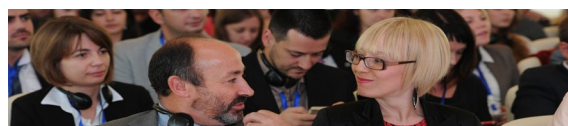
NO HATE SPEECH FORUM

From 1 -5 October the No Hate Speech Forum was organized in Gabala, Azerbaijan which brought together 250 main actors of the campaign to celebrate and share national achievements and to plan the future and follow up of the campaign at national and European level. The Forum sought to bring together campaign youth activists at national and European level, in view of consulting and directly associating them to the running of the Europe campaign and, especially, to its evaluation and follow-up.

Ultimately the forum participants agreed on a Message to the Council of Europe that summarises the expectations and demands on the organisations and the member states regarding the campaign and its follow-up.



READ THE MESSAGE OF THE FORUM



DRAFTING GROUP OF A RECOMMENDATION ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO RIGHTS

As a result of the approval of a recommendation by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a working group has been established to draft a recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on "Young people's access to rights".

The Advisory Council has been cooperating closely with the Steering Committee for Human Rights, using the publication of Young Persons and the Case-Law of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the European Social Charter.



MEET THE AC

The Advisory Council on Youth is the non-governmental partner in the co-managed bodies of the youth sector of the Council of Europe. It has the task of formulating opinions and proposals on any question concerning youth, dealt with in the Council of Europe.

The Advisory Council on Youth is made up of 30 representatives from youth NGOs, National Youth Councils, and networks, who can formulate opinions and proposals on any question concerning youth dealt within the Council of Europe. With its governmental partner – the European Steering Committee for Youth – it forms the Joint Council on Youth to develop a common position on the political priorities and programme of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.



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