

Strasbourg, 10 September 2015

DGII/EDU/CIT (2015) 8

Conference on Human Rights and Democracy in Action: Addressing Extremism and Radicalisation through Education

Project Showcase and Debate

Room 1, Palais de l'Europe, Council of Europe
Strasbourg, France

24-25 September 2015

Draft Concept and Programme



Draft Programme

24 September 2015

09.00-10.30 Opening Session

Chair: Mr Sjur Bergan, Director ad interim for Democratic Citizenship and Participation

Film: Extreme Dialogue - Daniel GALLANT (8 minutes)

Welcome addresses

- Ambassador Almir Šahović, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (7 minutes)
- Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe (7 minutes)
- Ms Chiara Gariazzo, Director, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission (7 minutes)

Round Table (1 hour): Violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism: root causes, key challenges, priorities for action and the role of education

With the participation of

- Ms Véronique Gasté, National Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research, France, France
- Ms Zubeda Limbada, Director, ConnectJustice
- Ms Vesna Marjanović, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Rapporteur on “Culture and democracy”
- Mr Bashy Quraishy, Secretary General of the European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-13.00 Project Showcase and Debate - Part 1: Education Policy

Preventing radicalisation through quality education for all

EU/CoE Joint Programme: Regional Support for Inclusive Education in South East Europe

Participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Kosovo¹

Focus area: Recommendation from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on ensuring quality education (CM/Rec(2012)13)

- Moderator: Ms Sarah Keating, Head, Unit for Regional & Bilateral Co-operation - South East Europe and Turkey

With the participation of:

- Ms Svetlana Jurko, Executive Director, Network of Education Policy Centers

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

- Ms Sabine Rohmann, Chair of the Education & Culture Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and Bureau member of the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE)
- Mr Ognjen Spasovski, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Ss Cyril & Methodius University of Skopje

Preventing the misuse of religions: how to teach about religions and non-religious convictions?

Council of Europe publication Signposts - Policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious world views in intercultural education

Focus area: Recommendation from the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the dimension of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)12)

Moderator: Mr Villano Qiriaz, Head of the Education Policy Division, Council of Europe

With the participation of:

- Mr Robert Jackson, University of Warwick, UK, and European Wergeland Centre, Oslo, Norway
- Mr Angelos Vallianatos, School Advisor for Religion Lesson at Ministry of Education of Greece

13.00-14.30 Lunch

14.30-18.00 Project Showcase and Debate – Session 2: Competences for Democratic Culture

Framework of reference for democratic culture

Moderator: Mr Călin Rus, Director, Intercultural Institute of Timișoara, Romania

With the participation of:

- Mr Martyn Barrett, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, University of Surrey, United Kingdom
- Mr Sjur Bergan, Director ad interim for Democratic Citizenship and Participation
- Ms Claudia Lenz, Head of Research & Development, European Wergeland Centre

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

Dealing with controversial issues at school: equipping teachers with relevant skills and methods and providing support and recognition

EU/CoE Programme: Human Rights and Democracy in Action

Participating countries: Cyprus, Ireland, Montenegro, Spain and the United Kingdom with the support of Albania, Austria, France and Sweden

Focus area: Article 9 of the Council of Europe Charter on citizenship and human rights education (Training)

Moderator: Mr Jan Pouwels, Director of the University of Arnhem and Nijmegen, The Netherlands

With the participation of:

- Mr Ted Huddleston, Citizenship Foundation, United Kingdom
- Ms Soula Ioannou, Health Education Advisor at Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus
- Ms Dijana Vukovic, Professor at the Teacher Training Department of the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro

Developing analytical and critical thinking competences towards online information

EU/CoE Programme: Human Rights and Democracy in Action

Participating countries: Belarus, Georgia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation

Focus area: Article 13 of the Council of Europe Charter on citizenship and human rights education (Skills for promoting social cohesion, valuing diversity and handling differences and conflict)

Moderator: Ms Yulia Pererva, Citizenship and Human Rights Education Unit, Council of Europe

With the participation of:

- Mr Anatolii Ermolin, Committee of Civil Initiatives, Russian Federation
- Mr Luka Gotsiridze, Student, Georgia / Mr Davit Bakuridze, Student, Georgia (t.b.c.)
- Mr Vladimir Yanchuk, Dean of the faculty of professional development of specialists of education of the State educational institution "Academy of the postdiploma education", Belarus
- Ms Vilija Zalenkiene, Education Development Centre

25 September 2015

09.00 -10.00 Project Showcase and Debate – Session 2: Competences for Democratic Culture (continued)

Combatting Hate Speech On-line

Council of Europe No Hate Speech Movement

Focus area: Article 10 of the Council of Europe Charter on citizenship and human rights education (Role of non-governmental organisations, youth organisations and other stakeholders)

Moderator: Mr Sergio Belfor, Advisory Council on Youth

With the participation of:

- Mr Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training Unit of Youth Department, Council of Europe
- Ms Natalia Díaz Santín, Head of Area of Participation and Citizenship Spanish Institute for Youth (INJUVE), Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality
- Mr Gubaz Koberidze, student and campaign activist, Georgia
- Ms Iana Minoshkina, human rights education trainer and online activist, Albania / Russia

10.00-10.30 Coffee Break

10.30-12.00 Building on past experience to develop innovative solutions for addressing radicalisation and extremism - Working group sessions (4 parallel groups)

Each group will discuss the following topics:

- Relevance of the CoE and EU education/youth projects to prevent radicalisation and extremism
- Strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities
- Dissemination, impact, sustainability and visibility of the outcomes
- Recommendations for future action

12.00-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 Closing Session (1.5 hour)

Chair: Ms Ana Perona, Executive Director, European Wergeland Centre

Feedback from the working group sessions (45 minutes)

Forthcoming events:

- **Competences for democratic culture:** Follow up to the Council of Europe Action Plan to combat extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism
Mr Villano Qiriaz, Head of the Education Policy Division, Council of Europe (8 minutes)
- **A Union of shared values – the role of education and civil society:** Jean Monnet Conference
Brussels on 9-10 November 2015
Mr Ruud Wallis De Vries, Policy Officer European Commission (8 minutes)

Conference Conclusions

Ms Katarina Toura, Greece, the General Rapporteur (15 minutes)

Closing remarks

- Council of Europe: Mr Sjur Bergan, Director ad interim for Democratic Citizenship and Participation / Mr Villano Qiriaz, Head of the Education Policy Division, Council of Europe (t.b.c.) (10 minutes)
- European Union: Ms Sophia Eriksson-Waterschoot, Head of Unit, Directorate General Education and Culture, European Commission / Mr Jari Vilén, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe (t.b.c.) (10 minutes)

Concept

Background:

The pace and scale of intolerance, radicalisation and violence in Europe today demands an urgent response, and education has an important role to play in this respect – states Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland in his report on the state of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe². In the context of the terror attacks of the beginning of 2015, education in general and citizenship and human rights in particular are drawing attention as an effective means of addressing violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism.

Since many years, the Council of Europe intergovernmental programme has been supporting cooperation among its member states in this area, which allowed developing a broad range of valuable expertise, tools and materials in the field citizenship, human rights and intercultural education and inspired several joint programmes with the European Commission. The present conference will discuss some examples of these programmes, and will explore how this work can be better supported, upscaled and developed in the years to come, in particular in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan to combat violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism (2015-2017).

The conference will bring together a broad range of actors, with a view to facilitate a multi-perspective and thought provoking debate, and to support the bridging of policy and practice in this area.

Aim:

The aim of the conference is to facilitate a debate on the role of education in preventing radicalisation and extremism, to explore the experience of recent initiatives in this area and to discuss priorities for future action.

In particular, the conference will show case recent outcomes of the following initiatives:

1. EU/CoE Programme: Human Rights and Democracy in Action
The pilot projects implemented within the framework of the scheme have the overarching objective to empower educators and learners with knowledge, personal and social skills and understanding to appreciate and value diversity, build mutual respect for human dignity and shared values, encourage dialogue and promote non-violence in the resolution of problems and disputes.
2. EU/CoE Joint Programme: Regional Support for Inclusive Education in South East Europe
The project highlights the role of education and training in the promotion of social inclusion, tolerance, intercultural dialogue and non-discrimination.
3. Council of Europe initiative: No Hate Speech Movement
The campaign is against the expressions of hate speech online in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as forms of cyber-bullying and

² State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe: a shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe. Report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, 2015

cyber-hate. The campaign is based upon human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. It aims at reducing hate speech and at combating racism and discrimination in their online expression.

Expected outcomes:

1. Awareness of the current initiatives of relevance to combatting extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism is raised.
2. Feedback and recommendations from the participants are received, and will contribute to the further development relevant programmes in this area, in particular in the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan to combat extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism (2015-2017).
3. Networking and cooperation among decision makers, education practitioners and other key actors are supported and promoted.

Participants:

From 100 people, including

- Experts who took part in the CoE and EU/CoE initiatives
- Advisory Board of “Human Rights and Democracy in Action” EU/CoE Pilot Projects Scheme
- Permanent representations
- *PACE representatives*
- *Representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities*
- European Commission representatives – DGEAC
- *Strasbourg Municipality and other local partners*

Organisers and partners

The Conference is organised by the Education Department of the Council of Europe Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation.

Background documents

1. Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

- [The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism - Action Plan \(2015-2017\)](#)
- [Recommendation on ensuring quality education. CM/Rec\(2012\)13](#)
- [Recommendation on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. CM/Rec\(2010\)7](#)
- [Recommendation on the dimension of religions and non-religious convictions within intercultural education. CM/Rec\(2008\)12](#)

2. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:

- [Resolution 2031 \(2015\) Terrorist attacks in Paris: together for a democratic response](#)
- [Resolution 2011 \(2014\) Counteraction to manifestations of neo-Nazism and right-wing extremism](#)