



## 8<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth

Kyiv, Ukraine  
10-11 October 2008

“The future of the Council of Europe youth  
policy: AGENDA 2020”

### **Background document**

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## **1. Introduction**

After nearly forty years of activity, the 8<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe conference of ministers responsible for Youth, on: “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020” (Kiev, Ukraine, 10-11 October 2008) offers an opportunity to assess the current strengths and outline the future challenges faced by the Council of Europe’s youth sector. The Declaration devised for the Conference outlines the key priorities for future policy and action of the Council of Europe in the youth field:

- Human rights and democracy
- Living together in diverse societies
- The social inclusion of young people.

The Declaration and this background document prepared by the secretariat of the Council of Europe’s youth sector are central to the youth sector’s contribution to the Action Plan adopted by the Third Summit of the Council of Europe held in Warsaw in May 2005. The background document aims to enhance the implementation of the Declaration’s goals and the work on the key priorities over the next decade by providing context, points for discussion, key references and pressing questions. It is also intended as a blueprint for future discussion and adaptation by the actors of the youth sector, in particular the co-management bodies, as they implement the Declaration through programmes of action. Furthermore, it is intended to provide a context to the recommendations contained in the Declaration by outlining the issues faced by the youth sector and by young people, the achievements and instruments at the disposal of the youth sector in engaging these challenges, and the issues which still remain open for future debate.

This assessment and recalibration of work in the youth field coincides with a period where demographic and politico-economic factors make a concerted investment in youth policy and young people a political priority. This priority is far from limited to the youth field; the 2008 Conference of Ministers responsible for youth in Kiev provides an important opportunity for the youth sector to articulate the relevance of its expertise and experience to the future work of a changing Council of Europe.

While the Council of Europe’s youth sector is dealt with in a specific section of the Action Plan adopted by the third Summit, the cross-sectoral nature of youth policy issues and the transversal relevance of youth policy and youth work implies that this sector has a duty to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan priorities. The emphasis in the Action Plan on human rights protection and advocacy, social inclusion and cohesion, interculturalism in Europe as well as citizenship and participation provides a fertile framework for consolidating and developing the contribution of youth policy and youth activities to the institutional mission.

## **2. Council of Europe youth policy and its achievements**

While youth policy development did not belong to the explicit objectives of the youth field at its inception, it has become a committed focus and speciality which has had Europe-wide influence. Fundamentally, the approach of the Council of Europe's youth sector to youth policy is one that aims *to support young people's participation as a citizen and their - often complex – transition to autonomy*. An expert report on youth policy indicators<sup>1</sup> in 2003 defined the governing ideas of youth policy as: (a) (lifelong) learning (b) inclusion/social cohesion (c) citizenship and participation and (d) safety, health and well-being. It continues by contending that these ideas imply that youth policy should approach young people and their issues not as problems to be solved – a so-called 'fire brigade approach' - but holistically across policy domains and through clear objectives that can be assessed. Youth policy-makers can also display a commitment to being 'for, by and with young people' by involving young people in their formulation, and by being made meaningful through evidence-based development, research-based assessment and evaluation.

Youth policy, in the Council of Europe's youth sector's approach, combines a multi-dimensional concern with ensuring young people's well-being, providing them with relevant learning opportunities, increasing the probability of their successful integration into society and transition to autonomy, and enabling them to participate in decision-making and civil society. This multi-faceted focus on different aspects of young peoples' lives is supported by a set of principles on which sound policy-making should be based. As the synthesis report *Supporting Young People in Europe: Principles, Policy, Practice* contends: "Broad conceptions of 'youth policy'...include not only those policies which are directed specifically towards young people but also those policy initiatives within other policy arenas which affect young people, one way or another" (Williamson 2002: 15). This core insight suggests principles for youth policy formulation:

1. Youth policies are ***cross-sectoral*** and cover domains such as access to education and the labour market, welfare and social and economic rights, culture and cultural production, lifelong learning and non-formal education, housing, citizenship, leisure time, criminal justice, health, sexuality, lifestyle and reproduction, mobility, military service and conscientious objection, and many more;
2. The vertical (age) and horizontal (socio-economic possibility and lifestyle) heterogeneity of young people implies that youth policies should be ***evidence-based***. In the youth sector this has been expressed as a 'magic triangle' linking the research networks with relevant public authorities and civil society actors representing young people and youth policy users and respondents;
3. Youth policy respects the agency of young people while recognising the specific challenges and obstacles they face in according to their position and possibilities.

In recent years, the youth sector of the Council of Europe has developed significant youth policy expertise in non-formal education and in such areas as citizenship education, human rights education, and intercultural learning. This expertise, and a range of instruments and programmes derived from it, provides panoply of achievements central to the future work of the youth sector. The most important of these are summarized here:

- *Democratic partnership: A unique experience of engagement with young people's organisations and networks*

***The youth sector has engaged with young people in civil society as fundamental partners. This is evident not only in the co-management system, but in the specific character of the***

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<sup>1</sup> DJS/YR/YPI (2003) 1  
March 2003

**European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation, where an enormous range of activities which are conceived and implemented by young people are supported.**

- *Lived commitment: the capacity to promote young people's engagement with the core values of the Council of Europe*

**The centrality of human rights, citizenship and intercultural learning to the youth sector's work has consistently chimed with the political commitments and preoccupations of young people in Europe. The 1995 and 2007 campaigns confronting racism and intolerance and the range of educational materials and training developed in relation to them testify to both the ability to mobilise activists and educational multipliers. The development of widely-recognised expertise in human rights education is based on a strategy of disseminating educational resources such as COMPASS, a wide-ranging training course offer and the development of a network of human rights education practitioners across Europe.**

- *Youth policy: the development of a reference framework and common standards*

**This framework has been developed through the combination of different instruments and processes. The results of the seven Conferences of European Ministers Responsible for Youth have given shape both to a youth policy framework and to approaches to specific issues such as young people as actors in violence prevention. The Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference (Thessalonica) is worthy of specific mention for setting common general objectives for policy at the Council of Europe level. This European level approach is complemented through a focus on national youth policy in the national review processes.**

- *Inter-institutional engagement: the ongoing development of cooperation with the European Union*

**The Council of Europe and the EU share the same values, key priorities and objectives in the field of youth and in recent years have aimed at providing a joint and lasting framework for the development of a coherent strategy in the sector. The partnership provides enhanced value to the programmes and activities of the two partners while fostering cooperation and synergies. The model of co-operation in the youth field uniquely covers a whole policy sector without regional limitation. This scope represents good practice in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the institutions, and the recommendations of the Juncker report.**

- *Evidence-base: A capacity to provide expertise in the field of youth research*

**The tradition of youth research in the youth sector - most recently developed in the thematic work conducted in the framework of the partnership with the European Commission – provides an active contribution to the 'magic triangle' of youth education, policy-making and research, and aims to support and enhance evidence-based policy making on a wide range of issues. The researcher network, the production of research collections and reports and its provision through the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy stand as key resources.**

- *Advocating quality: A capacity to develop quality standards and instruments in education and training/youth work*

**Non formal education evolves and develops through young people's ongoing practice, however its relevance to young people is sustained through activities of high quality. The youth sector's training offer and enormous range of educational resources – such as the T-Kits - supports a vast network of multipliers in delivering reflective, needs-based education across Europe. The youth sector has also taken the lead in promoting the recognition of**

***non-formal education and the importance of lifelong learning in the prevailing labour market conditions.***

- *Mainstreaming: a proactive role in the development of cross-sectoral co-operation within the Council of Europe*

***The vital importance of establishing youth policy as a transversal policy imperative has led the youth sector to take an active role in cooperating and instigating joint action with other sectors of the institution. This involves areas where young people are significantly implicated in the issues raised, such as in work with the Committee on Migration of the Parliamentary Assembly or the areas of Education and Human Rights where the youth sector also brings considerable expertise and insight.***

**3. Implementation of the priorities set out in the Kyiv Declaration: Proposed elements for a strategy**

**A) Human rights and democracy**

The experience accumulated in human rights education will be important in supporting young people's advocacy of human rights and human dignity in many societies where human rights are, at best, imperfectly respected. The wealth of experience from the Youth Programme for Human Rights Education - notably in relation to decentralised activities such as the national and regional training activities, and the local pilot projects supported by the European Youth Foundation - should be consolidated. Where relevant they should be extended to other work priorities. The innovative development of new educational resources and methodologies, including *Compass*, *Compasito*, *The Living Library* and *Gender Matters* provide a solid basis upon which to develop the role of the youth sector in relation to human rights and human rights education across the member states.

There is clearly a need not only to continue working on human rights and human rights education, but also to address young people's access to human rights. In contemporary Europe priorities include equality of opportunities and freedom from discrimination, social rights, the right to participation and expression, and equality in access to relevant information. Human rights and democracy, the core mission of the Council of Europe, must inform our youth policy in two ways: by implementing a human rights-based approach to youth interventions and by consolidating and expanding the work on youth participation and democratic citizenship.

The unique co-management system in the sector - where governmental and youth representatives have equal votes –is evidence of meaningful experience in youth participation. Furthermore, activities organised by the DYS, in cooperation with partner organisations and/or with support of the European Youth Foundation; the promotion and use of the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life; and partnerships with the European Commission, the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe and local and regional actors provide a solid foundation for this work. Several educational materials have been developed to increase the understanding of youth participation and democratic citizenship, and a focus is put on fostering cooperation between local and regional authorities and youth representatives.

The importance of social rights, and the need to facilitate young people's meaningful participation in often difficult democratic contexts, implies that the youth sector must regard the social inclusion of young people as an imperative. Social inclusion – and exclusion – is a multi-dimensional process and many key aspects lie beyond the scope of the youth sector's agency. Nevertheless, it is crucial to start from a human rights based approach, since access to human rights is the pre-

condition for substantive work in other domains. With this in mind, the Council of Europe should consider focusing on certain countries and/or politico-geographical regions when the need arises. In the area of human rights education and democracy, synergies between the DYS and the High Commissioner on Human Rights should be sought.

The Council of Europe's youth sector should build on its extensive experience by investing in young people. In particular this should involve action in the areas of youth policy development and cooperation, youth work, education and training, as well as research and knowledge about young people's lives and contexts.

It should especially focus on:

**1) *Ensuring young people's full enjoyment of human rights and human dignity and encouraging their commitment in this regard***

This involves expanding involvement in human rights education, but also actively supporting young people's own initiatives to promote human rights and democracy.

In order to ensure human rights education and project implementation, it is important to reach out to and link different partners, organisations and educational settings with this common goal. Opportunities should be offered for young people and their organisations to learn from each others' experiences and initiatives. Partnerships between formal education, non-formal education and youth policy - especially at the national level - should be developed. Local, regional and national initiatives on human rights education should be supported and encouraged. The capacity of youth partners and organisations to implement human rights education projects should be enhanced through training and practical support. At this moment in time effort must be invested in reaching a broader public and engaging with more diverse target groups and networks. The further development and innovative dissemination of accessible educational resources is central to this.

Quality in human rights youth work demands a proper evaluation of impact and sustainability, and this requires ongoing, applied research. Quality is also supported by fostering recognition of human rights education, and by linking human rights education to the European portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers, developed by the Council of Europe's Directorate for Youth and Sport. Also, policy guidelines for human rights education, both in formal and non-formal learning contexts should be not only further elaborated, but also followed up.

**2) *Promoting young people's active participation in democratic processes and structures***

In order to enshrine the importance of human rights in contemporary societies, the active participation of young people must be supported. Practically this involves focusing on the sustainability of programmes and measures in the field of human rights education.

Mid- or long-term programmes should be prioritised over short term, one-off projects. This in turn supports the sustainability of national and international youth organisations and the Council of Europe's investments in the sector. In line with this effort to think beyond immediate effects and short-term measures, organisations should be encouraged to draw upon knowledge and experiences made in previous activities, thus actively engaging themselves in the principle of a "learning organisation". Sustainability should also be ensured by fostering networking and cooperation between different perspectives and areas of expertise including youth workers, civil servants, policy makers and researchers. The concept of participatory research should be practiced and promoted.

In order to ensure full and equal participation of all citizens, special priority should be given to special needs groups. This may involve encouraging more spontaneous and non-traditional forms of youth participation, and creative and innovative activities which are beyond the usual scope of established programmes.



Finally, the concept of European citizenship should be prioritised and developed, allowing for the construction and development of the Europe of tomorrow.

### **3) *Promoting equal opportunities for the participation of young people;***

A society built upon commitment to human rights demands that all people be heard and are able to actively contribute. This commitment also allows us to draw upon the full potential of the diversity of our societies. Thus special attention must be paid to securing the access of all young people to youth activities, regardless of any special needs. Existing barriers to participation of young people with less opportunities should be examined and concrete proposals developed and implemented.

### **4) *Implementing gender equality and preventing all forms of gender-based violence***

Gender equality should be mainstreamed in youth activities. Work on anti-trafficking should be especially highlighted and the results of the 7<sup>th</sup> Youth ministers' conference in Budapest on gender-based violence requires sustained follow up. Gender equality and information on gender-based violence must be related to a broader public, focusing also on yet uninformed groups of young people. Existing educational resources should be disseminated to this effect. Research into gender equality in youth work should be supported.

### **5) *Promoting awareness education and action amongst young people on environment and sustainable development***

Environmental awareness is centrally regarded as a crucial imperative for institutions and individuals. Given the challenges to human existence that now exist, education for sustainable development must be integrated into human rights education. The production and dissemination of training resources that emphasise this integrated approach should be intensified. As far as possible, support should be provided to encourage the use of environmentally sound technologies in countries in transition. Training programmes should be initiated to promote the participation of young people in sound environmental practices.

Youth must be included in the decision making process on the environment, integrating their ideas and developing their necessary expertise for the future. Therefore, procedures for the consultation and participation of youth in decision-making in this domain should be established. This key issue necessitates the cooperation of all stakeholders and organisations. Thus, cooperation and exchange with other international organisations, especially for example the UNESCO, should be intensified. In order to be able to set an example, the environmental sustainability of the Council of Europe, the European Youth Centres and the Directorate for Youth and Sport should be examined.

### **6) *Facilitating the access of all young people to information and counselling services.***

The access to accurate, high quality information for all people should be recognised as a fundamental resource in a democratic society.

Therefore, it must be ensured that all young people have access to information and counselling services, irrespective of any special needs. Easy and equal access to information and the possibilities of the information society should be provided for all young people. Minority groups should have access to information and services in relevant languages.

Closer integration between youth information services and training should be encouraged and closer interaction between the network of youth researchers, education and training provided for. Ongoing research and the analysis of statistical data on youth at national level should be encouraged and the results shared.

In order to secure the quality of the information provided, quality criteria for information and counselling services should be developed. Also, young people should be supported in developing a critical approach to information and media, particularly in relation to the internet.

All 49 states - having signed the cultural convention - should be associated to the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy and nominate correspondents respectively.

## **B) Living together in diverse societies**

It is a well-known fact that most European societies have become increasingly complex and diverse. Diversity as a term embraces the plurality of different ways of living with faith, culture, language, sexuality, gender and physical capacities. In a context of globalisation and increased interdependence, diversity must be harnessed as a resource rather than seen as a subject of fear, exclusion, discrimination and racism. The global political context of the last years has politicized migration and given rise to new forms of state and individual racism that target some of the most vulnerable people in our societies. Furthermore, conflict and post-conflict societies in Europe place specific pressures on young people. The commitment of young people to living in diverse societies and combating and preventing all forms of racism, discrimination and extremism will continue to need support for the foreseeable future.

The campaign "All different- All equal" (2006- 2007) is but one example of the efforts made by the Council of Europe to address this subject and to promote an acceptance and a positive evaluation of diversity. The Council of Europe's recent White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue suggests specific strategies and measures to promote dialogue and positive exchange over the coming years.

Whereas the challenge of living together in a diverse society is an issue concerning all age groups, a specific focus on working with young people strengthens the possibility a European future that value equality and diversity.

All actions in the field of youth work, education and training should encourage the exchange of experience between young people of different backgrounds. Systematic research should ensure that youth work is founded on an informed vision of social realities. Furthermore, cooperation with other structures which provide research, in and outside the Council of Europe is important given the multi-dimensional nature of social diversity and its implications. Future youth policy development requires more evidence concerning the impact of policies and practices which encourage intercultural dialogue. In policy making young people with diverse and minority backgrounds must be involved and integrated in the policy formulation and implementation. Dialogue between policy makers and young people must be encouraged. The self-representation of minority groups, particularly in decision-making bodies, should be reinforced. Intercultural learning should also be put on the agenda of child policy.

The implementation of the priority "Living together in diverse societies" could therefore focus specifically on the strategic elements highlighted below:

### **1) *Empowering young people to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and cooperation***

Recognising the expertise and experience of young people on their own issues is the fundament of any action in this area. A sustained effort should therefore be made to encourage young people, particularly from a minority background, to contribute to the work of youth organizations and initiatives that counter discrimination and racism.

This inclusion should also apply to the training sector, where multipliers from "diverse groups" should be encouraged to involve in education and training activities (study sessions, training courses, EYF). In order to ensure the effectiveness of these efforts, it is important that the issue of *diversity* be mainstreamed in youth-relevant policies, and that cooperation between groups with diverse backgrounds be supported.

**2) *Preventing and counteracting all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and extremism***

Racism and discrimination should not be conveniently ignored, but actively addressed and tackled. This includes disseminating the results of the “All different- All equal” campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation as well as contributing to the campaign against discrimination in the follow-up of the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. Cooperation with other relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, such as the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, should be reinforced.

Further research into the implications of diversity in society as well as into the sources and consequences of discrimination should be undertaken in order to provide a better basis for political and educational action.

### **3) *Supporting initiatives of young people and their organisations in conflict prevention and management as well as post-conflict reconciliation***

Young people are unfortunately well placed to provide insight into the realities of conflict. Their experience should be better acknowledged and their transformative initiatives supported. Youth organisations and initiatives should receive active assistance and youth work encouraged and reinforced, especially in the domain of conflict transformation. Educational resources on working with conflict should be developed and disseminated for youth workers and youth organizations. Similarly, the active contribution of young people in conflict transformation should be subject to research capable of informing youth policy and youth work.

### **4) *Further encouraging the development of sub-regional youth co-operation in Europe and beyond***

Diversity policies and actions cannot be restricted to cooperation on a national or even European level; sub-regional policy cooperation should be encouraged and instruments developed for this kind of cooperation. Furthermore, the existing cooperation with specific regions such as the Euro-Mediterranean, South East and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus should be expanded. In addition, existing partnerships with other institutions working on diversity such as the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Alliance of Civilisations, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the League of Arab States and the Asia Europe Foundation should be further developed.

Intergovernmental cooperation - specifically the advisory missions and policy reviews - should be central to this field of work. .

### **5) *Encouraging young people to promote global solidarity and co-operation***

Diversity, Equality and Human Rights issues cannot be artificially restricted to Europe; they demand constant attention to be accorded to global perspectives. This attention can be sustained through further cooperation with the North/South Centre on the Summer University on Youth and Development and an active contribution to the Euro-African youth cooperation process initiated through the Euro-African youth summit 2008. Among other possibilities, future cooperation in education and training on diversity and youth policy development with the Asia-Europe Foundation should be explored.

## **C) Social inclusion of young people**

Council of Europe youth sector policy and actions addressing the social inclusion of young people are based on an analysis of key social developments observable in many European countries:

- The proportion of young people in the population is declining while the proportion of elderly people is increasing. In this context of ageing societies and weakening of the welfare state, social policies may tend to underprivilege youth, especially as far as social welfare contributions and benefits are concerned.
- Young people in today's Europe experience longer and more complex transitions to adult life. Highly flexible pathways replace formerly more standardised tracks towards employment and family building. It takes longer for young people to establish independent households and families on their own. Young people's economic reliance on families and social networks is growing.
- With the exception of a few countries, youth unemployment rates are significantly higher than general unemployment rates and regional inequalities in this respect are still

important. Young people are often over-represented in marginal and precarious employment.

- Inequalities in educational opportunities and outcomes are not decreasing. Failure to acquire formal certificates and qualifications is an ever surer route to economic and social exclusion.

To tackle these key challenges, some overarching measures should be instigated such as:

The youth sector needs to enhance co-operation and partnership with institutions, organisations and actors involved in social policy and social work with young people.

Internally, the youth sector has to develop real synergies with other relevant Council of Europe sectors, in particular the Directorate General of Social Cohesion and its Social Policy division, building on its work on indicators of social cohesion. Links to activities relating to children and families - including the programme "Building a Europe for and with Children - and to the Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Affairs also require deepening. Knowledge on social cohesion indicators, empirical social research and the implications of these inputs for youth work must be integrated into youth sector practice through interdisciplinary activities involving researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

The European Social Charter is an important reference framework for the youth sector, and youth policy and educational activities can support the implementation of those elements of the Charter which are relevant to young people. These include health, education, employment, housing, free movement and mobility, and non-discrimination. One might also consider whether or not other elements linked to the legal and social protection of children and young people could be addressed in this context, for example the right to be protected against poverty and social exclusion, or the situation of young offenders placed in specialised establishments.

As the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) is now represented in the Steering Committee of Social Cohesion (CDCS) as an observer, a reciprocal representative in the CDEJ, should be envisaged.

The CDEJ could explore ways of encouraging and supporting the development of "youth-friendly municipalities" in the member states. Such municipalities aim to implement innovative programmes and measures in respect of young people's social inclusion, and intergenerational dialogue and solidarity. Such programmes and measures could cover a wide range of domains relevant to young people: leisure, sport and non-formal educational activities, public equipment and amenities, children and young people's participation in local public life, young people/young adults' housing, and so forth.

Furthermore, the implementation of this priority action on the social inclusion of young people" should be based on the following specific actions:

**1) *Facilitating young people's access to education, training and working life, particularly through the promotion and recognition of non-formal education***

The work of the Council of Europe's youth sector on non-formal education and learning and the recognition of skills and competencies acquired by young people in this context must be strengthened. The recent and current activities carried out within the Youth Partnership with the European Commission on non-formal learning, laid down in the joint working paper "Pathways towards validation and recognition of education, training and learning in the youth field" should be taken into consideration and continued.

Special emphasis should be placed on further supporting non-formal learning as a means to increasing young people's possibilities to access employment. In this context, relationships to other sectors, in particular in the field of employment, education and training, should be improved.

Current actions working towards the formal and social recognition of youth work should be reinforced. This includes the further dissemination of the European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders and the European Youth Pass.

## **2) *Supporting young people's transition from education to the labour market***

Acknowledging the structural barriers that limit many young people's life chances, programmes and measures supporting disadvantaged youth should build upon their perspectives, values and skills. The work of the youth sector requires further research and exchange between practitioners, researchers and policy makers in order to determine how and under which conditions non-formal learning can contribute to the social inclusion of disadvantaged young people. It is crucial to support educational philosophies and practices which bridge formal, informal and non-formal education.

Through the involvement of social partners and employers good practices should be developed and gathered which allow the reconciliation of private and working life, taking also a learning dimension into account.

Well resourced and personalised information and counselling services for young people should be provided in order to support the transition from education to the labour market, and to promote possibilities to reconcile private, working and learning life. Such an approach involves supporting young people in understanding and tackling transitional challenges and problems. Successful social inclusion implies not only fulfilling institutional targets for placing individuals into training or jobs, but also giving them the chance of meaningful lives, as they understand them.

## **3) *Supporting the integration of young people who are socially and economically disadvantaged***

Co-ordinated policies working for disadvantaged youth require the organisational ability and willingness to reflect upon activities and redesign them when necessary. Young people should have a central role in informing this reflection and development by participating in all stages of policy formulation and delivery of services. This includes direct feedback on the subjective relevance of these measures.

The Youth sector of the Council of Europe should further enhance co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, with a view to encouraging local policies in favour of disadvantaged young people's social inclusion. It must also be ensured that socially disadvantaged young people are regularly represented in the Advisory Council on Youth. The participation of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in the activities of the European Youth Centres must be increased. Partnerships with organisations involved in social work with young people can be forged with a view to developing relevant training activities.

## **4) *Supporting young people's autonomy, well-being and access to decent living conditions***

Young people's autonomy, their living conditions and well-being are increasingly becoming a concern in most European countries. The Council of Europe's youth sector should address these issues from the perspective of social rights, promoting public youth policies which seek to provide young people with the necessary conditions for autonomy in areas such as housing, health, transport and other basic services.

Awareness regarding the contemporary vulnerability of young people and the importance of integrating economic, social and youth policies must be raised among key institutions if these core issues are to be engaged. Independent movements and organisations of young people campaigning against social exclusion should contribute to policy development, and constructive measures they initiate should be funded.

### **5) Ensuring young people's equal right of access to creative, artistic and sport activities**

Providing young people with the necessary conditions to access creative, artistic and sport activities is a core task of youth policy. The key role of creative and artistic expression in encouraging cohesion, well-being and the capacity to think beyond the trodden paths must not be underestimated. In this respect, the Council of Europe should further enhance its support to youth organisations as privileged spaces for young people's involvement in these activities.

Synergies between the Youth and Sport Departments of the Council of Europe should be further developed with a view to sharing experience on inclusion activities. Moreover, the Council of Europe's youth sector, through its youth policy development programmes, should consider to address the issue of educational, leisure and sport equipments and facilities at local/municipal level (in liaison with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities). The promotion of such facilities and equipment could contribute to the aforementioned 'youth-friendly' municipalities.

### **6) Encourage intergenerational dialogue and solidarity.**

The major demographic changes Europe faces in the coming years pose distinct challenges to contemporary social models and democratic governance. In this context, the youth sector's emphasis on intergenerational dialogue and solidarity should strive to ensure that the "voice" of young people is still heard, and that young people are not underprivileged by changes in social benefit schemes. Youth organisations, policy-makers and youth researchers should be encouraged to develop innovative responses to these challenges, using the possibilities offered by the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. In this overall context, the question of lowering the voting age could be revisited.

## **4. Future questions for the approaches, methods and instruments of the youth sector**

Delineating the future work priorities of the youth sector also provides the opportunity for evaluating the work of the sector and exploring new developments. This section highlights key foci for future discussions and some of the questions raised through considerations to date.

- (a) *Educational activities*: The sector has developed a range of different training and educational formats in relation to the needs of different target groups and issues. Some forms of activity, such as study sessions, have remained broadly similar over a longer period of time. Is there a need to review and evaluate the range of educational activities that currently comprise the programme, and what kinds of changes the work priorities may require? For example, given the emphasis on social inclusion, is there a need to develop stronger cooperation with a new range of organizations and networks that work closely with marginalized young people at the local level, including young social workers? Should new forms of regional and sub-regional training be developed? How can the move to bring children and youth policies into closer alignment be reflected in educational activities? How can the results of activities such as study sessions be meaningfully incorporated? In what ways can the current evaluation of the youth programme be improved, and how can these evaluations feed into a continuing emphasis on standard-setting in training?
- (b) *Intergovernmental cooperation* has been central to the development of a youth policy framework and there are plenty of possibilities for developing its contribution. The current process of national youth policy reviews is under evaluation; how could it be enhanced in a framework of intergovernmental cooperation? There is certainly great potential for more systematic follow-up to reviews, including the possibility of 'soft' monitoring comprising of advice and support as well as overview.
- (c) *European Youth Foundation* is a key instrument of the youth policy of the sector. In recent years questions have been asked as to whether the existing work could be ameliorated by widening access to youth actors beyond the current range of youth organizations, and as to

whether the Foundation should be able to address 'hot' issues in specific contexts as those issues appear parallel to the current application process. Can a national focus co-exist with the current emphasis on multilateral projects?

- (d) *Mainstreaming*: The key policy tenet of youth as a transversal issue demanding mainstreamed approaches places an onus on the youth sector to mainstream youth perspectives within the Council of Europe. How can this mainstreaming be continued, and in what ways can the other institutional sectors contribute to the work of the youth sector?
- (e) *Co-management*: The co-management system is an important expression of the lived values of the youth sector. However some questions have been raised concerning its general functioning and decision-making processes. Is the co-management system also responsible for political vision, not just managerial overview? What perspectives would result from an evaluation of the working processes by the partners? Is there a further need for the youth organisations to review the nature of their participation?
- (f) *Knowledge provision*: The youth sector currently produces a competent body of research; on the other hand, there has never been a greater need for a coherent interrelation of research with policy-making and educational practice. Given the knowledge needs of complex societies in Europe today, how can the role of the EKCYP be strengthened, and the 'magic triangle' of research, policy and education be enhanced?

## **5. Conclusion**

The Kiev Declaration offers not only the chance to adopt a pressing set of work priorities and a blueprint for pursuing them through youth policy, youth work and youth research, but it also offers a chance to review, debate and improve the working assumptions, processes and instruments that the youth sector has at its disposal. This background document acts as a stimulus to this process, as well as giving context to the priorities and action points contained in the declaration. It is the hope of the Secretariat of the youth sector that all partners and interested parties will contribute to this process of review and re-focusing.



## APPENDIX I

### Young people in Europe today

At first glance, the idea of discussing ‘young people in Europe today’ appears to be hopelessly broad. How can we even begin to discuss the social, structural, cultural and political differences encompassed from Hammerfest, to Funchal, to Adana, to Novosibirsk? This diversity is a constant challenge for the work of the youth sector; to maintain an overall vision of the political, economic and socio-cultural processes which impact on young people without allowing these broader patterns to obscure local, national and regional differences, not to mention the specific material conditions, identities and life possibilities of young people in their environments.

It is an inherent risk in summarising headline issues for policy attention that an overly negative picture can be presented. The work of the youth sector is based on the agency of young people in their social and political realities, and its work has been supported by, for example, the new range of opportunities and possibilities many young people have in what can loosely be termed our knowledge societies. It is worth noting how *The Final Declaration of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth* captured this interplay of positive developments with new and entrenched problems:

“Despite the differences from country to country, certain general trends in the situation of young people can be identified:

- Young people experience longer and more complex transitions to adult life. They stay longer in full-time education and training and they stay longer in the parental home;
- In many European countries, youth unemployment rates are higher than general unemployment rates and regional inequalities in this respect are still important. Young people are over-represented in marginal and precarious employment;
- Throughout Europe, young people’s economic reliance on families and social networks is growing. Inequalities of educational opportunity and outcome do not decrease;
- Insecurity as regards the challenges in contemporary society, in particular globalisation, the development of biotechnologies and the protection of environment is increasingly felt by young Europeans;

In this context however,

- A strong tendency towards freedom of cultural expression, creativity and individualism paves the way for young people today, who identify themselves as cultural producers and carriers of innovation and new forms of expression;
- Young people are highly positive towards democracy, although they are often critical towards the way institutions work;
- Civic engagement is the form of participation that attracts the widest support and participation of youth in Europe, although membership in associations varies widely from country to country;
- Although a minority of young Europeans display intolerant social and xenophobic attitudes, the great majority have open and positive attitudes towards cultural ethnic and social diversity in Europe.”

The brief overview of key issues presented below draws significantly on recent youth sector publications that have engaged with the sociology of ‘youth’ socio-cultural diversity, political participation and social exclusion.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Chisholm, Lynne & Siyka Kovacheva (2002) *Exploring the European Youth Mosaic*, Williamson, Howard (2002) *Supporting Young People in Europe: Principles, Policy and Practice*, Titley, Gavan (ed.) (2004) *Resituating Culture*, Forbrig, Joerg (2005) (ed.) *Revisiting Youth Political Participation*, Colley, Helen et al (ed.) (2007) *Social Inclusion for*

### **The age of precariousness?**

Young people in Europe today are faced with a paradox. The widely-noted decline in fertility rates in most European countries has given rise to urgent discussions of an 'ageing Europe' and the increased social responsibilities this will place on younger generations. At the same time, young people will become a less important focus for political parties, and potentially peripheral to public policy. Furthermore, this political focus on the consequences of ageing populations must be related to the wider set of contemporary political-economic and social changes that suggest continuing, and perhaps increased, insecurity for many young people in their working lives, education, social possibilities and transition to autonomy. Indeed if there is a core theme running through the different issues youth policy and work will have to address in relation to the work priorities, it may well be the idea of *precariousness*.

Precariousness is not intended here as a catch-all concept, but rather as an idea that illustrates how core arenas of young peoples' lives have become characterised by uncertainty. Youth research has long emphasised the ways in which a 'linear sequence of transition steps' between education, labour market and personal autonomy has been replaced by more complex and reversible pathways. This picture has been further complicated by the flexibilisation of globalised labour markets, which has predominantly removed job security, increased patterns of periodic employment/unemployment and had a predictable effect on young people's acquisition of housing and general autonomy. While knowledge-based economies tend to privilege young people in the labour market, they may also tend to disproportionately provide increased opportunities for the socially privileged while amplifying the vulnerability of the socially disadvantaged. Kovacheva and Pohl provide a useful summary of this picture:

Individualisation and de-standardisation (of youth transitions) take different forms and affect different numbers of young people in particular countries, but are present in all of them as significant social trends. While these trends do not replace structural factors of exclusion such like social inequality, gender or ethnicity... an increasing number of young people outside the classical target groups of inclusion policies have difficulties in finding stable entry into the labour market. Their transitions often become 'yo-yo' trajectories of oscillating between autonomy and dependence, and between different forms of education, training and employment (2007: 32)

What these general trends suggest is that many young people are vulnerable to risks generated by economic conditions which are no longer meaningfully controlled by individual nation-states, and where '...young people cannot find a system of adequate information, advice and guidance provided by the state, employers or civil society' (op. cit. 2007: 33). Clearly, this emerging picture of labour market precariousness and its attendant impacts is intensified for young people living in conflict and post-conflict societies, and for those living in poverty and experiencing structural inequalities. The recent research focus on social exclusion in the youth sector has illustrated how significant numbers of young people in Europe today find themselves in situations of absolute and relative poverty, and vulnerable to "...early drop-out from learning, non-participation in vocational learning, and subsequently marginalisation from the labour market, or engagement only with low-level, always low-paid and often casual and short-term employment" (Williamson 2007:24).

It is with this in mind that the youth sector argues that youth policy approaches to human rights, anti-discrimination and participatory citizenship must engage with the precariousness inherent in current labour markets, and the difficulties young people face in substantiating their right to decent living conditions. Disadvantage and social exclusion during youth transitions have many causes, and it has been pointed out that across Europe different perspectives offer varying socio-structural or cultural explanations for persistent forms of exclusion (Williamson 2007: 25). Nevertheless, as Kovacheva and Pohl argue once more, "socio-economic inequality, poverty rates, the labour

market situation and economic development more generally, rates of unemployment and long-term unemployment, gender and ethnic inequalities, and migration status are all structural factors that affect the social integration of young people” (2007: 33).

These structural questions clearly impact on the possibilities for young people to act as citizens in democracies. There is also the pertinent question of how their acts of participation are recognised and evaluated within the public sphere. The youth sector’s youth policy is committed to fostering participation, yet in very many European societies there is some evidence – despite lingering stereotypes of ‘apathetic’ young people – that meaningful political participation by young people is, at best, weakly encouraged. This is a mistake; as a recent study of youth political participation argues, “...future democratic legitimacy is, to some extent, determined by the political socialisation young people undergo today” (Forbrig 2005:14). Thus while contemporary debates witness much discussion of atomised and disenfranchised young people, there is an onus on democratic institutions to renew their legitimacy in relation to young people. This normative equation must take account of the fact that - while research differs significantly across Europe - there is certainly a trend among young people to new patterns of political and social participation. As Chisholm and Kovacheva outline, young people’s political activity can be understood across at least three basic areas: involvement in institutional politics, protest activities, and civic life and associative engagement (2002). The expansion in transnational and virtual interconnection has led some to argue over the degree to which ‘postmodern’ forms of engagement can be approached as political participation.

Recent research by the youth sector outlines how trends in youth political participation pose challenges for a renewal of democratic legitimacy. While voting levels have declined in many countries, it is clear that young people have voted in significant numbers when elections are seen to be central to continued democratic functioning, and where single issues become closely associated with particular governments. It is also not clear that such headline concepts as consumerism and individualisation tell us anything definitive about young people’s political participation. Recent years have seen a range of different authors argue that the stimulation of consumerism in economies dedicated to perpetual growth privatises experience and diminishes collective action. On the other hand, the global inequalities and environmental consequences of consumerism have become powerful foci of local, national and global politics for many young people. The decline in memberships in formal organisations is often related to notions of individualisation in late capitalist societies, where people – not just the young – are compelled to fall back on biographical resources and solutions in response to wider structural and social issues, and where collective action does not seem possible in relation to opaque and distant agency in questions of economy and social resources. This picture is far from coherent; as Kovacheva notes, it is less individualisation and more residual centralisation in south-western and eastern Europe that limits young people’s participation (2005: 25). Nevertheless, the networks and associations that work with the youth sector display how different forms of membership and involvement can sustain mobilisation under these conditions.

This is particularly the case in combating racism and intolerance in contemporary Europe. The youth sector has a long history of supporting organisations and networks active in opposing discrimination. Given the prevailing politics surrounding migration in Europe and the variety of tensions associated with increased diversity in nation-states concerned, to varying degrees, with regarding themselves as homogenous, this work priority is of central importance to the contemporary politics of many European countries. In recent years, particularly since the 2004 expansion of the European Union, young people have migrated in significant numbers within Europe, and these migration pathways have increasingly tended to be flexible and open-ended. Thus many young people lead transnational lives, with economic, social, cultural and personal ties cross-cutting many different places and networks. On the other hand, they often face intensified labour and economic precariousness, and forms of discrimination and vulnerability in their host state. Allied to this the wealthy countries of Europe are experiencing the increased movement of impoverished people, including many young people, from the global south, and political reactions are often conflicted by the need to on the one hand integrate more workers of all skill-levels into labour-hungry economies with negotiating and all too frequently profiting from popular backlash

against non-European migrants on the other hand. The political context of the 'war on terror' has subjected many non-European minorities, but particularly young people of Arabic background, to intense public and state surveillance, and many young people of migrant background are subject to suspicion. The youth sector will have to both continue working with established partners in promoting intercultural dialogue and anti-discrimination work, while also engaging grassroots youth networks active in opposing state and popular racism and intolerance in different contexts. In post-conflict societies there is an ongoing need to support young people in working on delicate and multi-dimensional processes of conflict transformation as they attempt to offer modes of participation that can alter the conflictual political forms and identities that promote stasis.

## APPENDIX II

### Identity card of the Council of Europe's youth sector

#### **The Council of Europe and Young people**

The Council of Europe wants to encourage more young people to get actively involved in strengthening civil society in Europe and to defend the values of human rights, cultural diversity and social cohesion. It also wants to promote and develop youth policies, putting special emphasis on the participation of young people. The Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS) already regularly brings together young people, youth associations and networks, government agencies and experts for discussions and feedback on current policies and future objectives. It also encourages the development of youth associations, networks and initiatives, and promotes international co-operation.

The Council of Europe's commitment to fostering greater youth participation can be demonstrated through its system of co-management. This involves representatives from youth non-governmental organisations (NGOs) sitting down in committees with government officials who together then work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

These priorities are pursued through activities ranging from training courses, study sessions, intercultural language courses, seminars, expert meetings and research, publications and advice on youth policy development. The European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest and the European Youth Foundation all play a vital role in implementing these activities through seminars, training courses and visits by experts to specific countries.

#### **Intergovernmental co-operation**

Within the Youth Directorate, the **Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)** comprising senior civil servants from Council of Europe member states and Contracting Parties to the Cultural Convention is responsible for:

- promoting intergovernmental co-operation and serving as a framework for the examination of national youth policies with a view to joint action on issues concerning the situation of young people in society;
- stimulating exchanges of information, documentation and experience;
- preparing and taking follow-up action on the conferences of ministers responsible for youth;
- advising the Committee of Ministers on the means of ensuring an appropriate follow-up to suggestions of common interest arising from the EYCs' and EYF's programmes;
- co-operating with the Governing Board and Advisory Committee of the EYCs and EYF in its field of competence as well as with other steering or ad hoc committees in the implementation of common projects.

An important aspect of the intergovernmental work programme is the implementation of international reviews of national youth policies in the member States, on the request of the governments. On the basis of an extensive national evaluation report, and study visits in the countries, an expert team drafts an international evaluation report which is presented at a public hearing in the countries and to the statutory bodies of the youth sector. Until now, fifteen international reviews have been carried out.

The CDEJ is also responsible for the organisation of Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth. The first Conference took place in Strasbourg in 1985. Together with the European Youth Week, the Conference was a highlight of the Council of Europe's contribution to

the International Youth Year – one of the memorable events of this year in Europe. Since then, Ministers have met periodically (Oslo 1987, Lisbon 1990, Vienna 1993, Bucharest 1998 and Thessalonica 2002, Budapest 2005) to exchange views and co-ordinate national youth policies, and recommend joint action at European level in youth policy-related issues.

### **The European Youth Centres**

The European Youth Centres (EYCs) in Strasbourg and Budapest are permanent structures for the implementation of the Council of Europe's youth policy. They are international training and meeting centres with residential facilities, hosting most of the youth sector's activities. They provide a flexible and modern working environment for international activities, with meeting rooms equipped for simultaneous interpretation, information centres, audio-visual and computer facilities.

The EYC Strasbourg was founded in 1972 with generous support of the Norwegian government. It also hosts the European Youth Foundation and the Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility. The European Youth Centre Budapest was set up and inaugurated in 1995 as the first permanent service of the Council of Europe in a country of Central and Eastern Europe. Its premises are kindly offered by the Republic of Hungary.

The European Youth Centres run an annual programme of 40 to 50 activities in close co-operation with non-governmental youth organisations (NGYOs). These organisations, some 40 of which co-operate regularly with the EYCS, represent a wide diversity of interests: party political, socio-educational and religious youth groups, rural youth movements, trade union and young workers' organisations, children's organisations and environmental networks.

### **The European Youth Foundation**

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. It has an annual budget of approximately 3 million Euros. Since 1972, more than 300 000 young people, aged between 15 and 30 and mostly from member states, have benefited directly from EYF-supported activities. In 2007 the EYF supported some 300 projects involving more than 15 000 young people.

Its purpose is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

The EYF thus provides financial support to the following types of activity undertaken by non-governmental youth organisations or networks or by other non-governmental structures involved in areas of youth work relevant to the Council of Europe's youth policies and work:

- educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character;
- activities aiming at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe;
- activities designed to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing the exchange of information;
- activities intended to stimulate mutual aid in Europe and in the developing countries for cultural, educational and social purposes;
- studies, research and documentation on youth matters.

The Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility was established in partnership between the Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways (UIC) in 1994 with a view to encouraging and facilitating the mobility of disadvantaged young people.

For every Inter Rail Card sold, one EURO will be donated by the International Union of Railways to the funding of projects involving Europe's young and least well off, enabling them to attend international activities, taking them on journeys of cross-cultural contact and discovery. The fund caters solely for young people from underprivileged backgrounds or economically underdeveloped areas and is intended to cover the rail travel of these young people participating in international educational activities.

## **Partners and co-operation**

The Directorate of Youth and Sport co-operates with organisations and institutions involved in youth work, such as

- Non-governmental youth organisations, networks and initiatives
- Youth services and youth structures
- Trainers in the non-formal education and youth field
- Researchers and research institutions
- National youth authorities and governments
- International organisations, such as the UN, UNESCO, and UNICEF
- The European Union

Since youth issues and the concerns of young people are related to all areas of society, the Directorate of Youth and Sport works closely with other Council of Europe sectors such as:

- the Directorate General of Human Rights on training in human rights education, the fight against racism and discrimination, gender-based violence and participation of young women in political life;
- the Directorate General of Social Cohesion on participation and citizenship of minority youth leaders;
- the Directorate General of Political Affairs on conflict resolution and mediation with young people in crisis regions;
- the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the participation of young people at local level and in democratic institutions.

## **Special agreements and partnerships**

The Council of Europe has established a number of special agreements and partnerships, including:

The Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth

A Partnership Agreement with the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA)

A Partial Agreement on the Youth Card

### **Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.**

In 1998, the Council of Europe and the European Commission decided to take common action in the field of European youth worker training. Both institutions therefore initiated a Partnership agreement, whose aim was *“to promote active European citizenship and civil society by giving impetus to the training of youth leaders and youth workers working within a European dimension”*.

This agreement has since been renewed several times and additional agreements were initiated in the fields of “youth research” and “Euro-med co-operation”.

Since 2005, all Partnership activities have merged into one single framework *Partnership*

*agreement*, which focuses on the following topics:

European Citizenship;

human rights education and intercultural dialogue;

quality and recognition of youth work and training;

better understanding and knowledge of youth;

youth policy development.

The Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth thus brings together the two institutions' experience in non-formal education, youth policy, youth research and youth work practice.

All Partnership activities and publications enhance the exchange of experience and good practice between the actors involved, are embedded in a structured dialogue and contribute to the implementation of the political objectives of both partners.

Since 1998, more than 1.200 young people participated directly in these activities and many more were able to benefit from this experience through the Partnership publications

### **Publications of the Directorate of Youth and Sport**

The Directorate of Youth and Sport regularly produces publications, be they ISBN or not. The publications are the result of the youth activities, programmes and research led by the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

ISBN publications can be ordered on line, on the [Council of Europe publishing website](#) or by writing to Council of Europe Publishing, F- 67075 Strasbourg. Fax: +33 (0)388 41 39 10 ; Tel: + 33 (0) 388 41 25 81- <http://book.coe.int> / [publishing@coe.int](mailto:publishing@coe.int)

The other publications can be requested by writing to [youth@coe.int](mailto:youth@coe.int) or consulted on the youth website [[www.coe.int/youth](http://www.coe.int/youth)].

Bibliographies drafted by topic can help to find publications according to your themes of interest.

Activities reports are also available for consultation on the youth website: seminars, [study sessions](#), [training courses](#)...

The European Youth Centre Budapest runs its own website, that offers many [online resources](#).

Information material on the Directorate of youth and its programmes and activities is available upon simple request to [youth@coe.int](mailto:youth@coe.int).

The partnership programme between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the area of youth also offers a number of publications including:

**T-kits** – The training kits are thematic publications written by experienced youth trainers. They are easy-to-use handbooks for use in training and study sessions. The 10 manuals published so far can be consulted, – in several languages – on the [partnership website](#).

**Coyote magazine** – A magazine on issues around "Youth-Training-Europe", published once or twice a year. Its main target group is trainers and leaders of youth organisations. It contains articles written by experienced youth workers and specialists on issues of European-level youth worker training. [also available on line](#)



## APPENDIX III

### List of main youth-related texts of the Council of Europe

#### Texts adopted by the Committee of Ministers

##### **Recommendations**

Recommendation N° R(79) 3 concerning the integration of young people into the world of work;

Recommendation N° R(82) 4 on the prevention of alcohol related problems especially among young people;

Recommendation N° R (88) 6 on social reactions to juvenile delinquency among young people coming from migrant families;

Recommendation N° R (90)7 concerning information and counselling for young people in Europe;

Recommendation N° R (92) 7 concerning communication and co-operation in the field of youth research in Europe;

Recommendation N° R (92)11 on social and vocational integration of young people;

Recommendation N° R (95)18 on youth mobility;

Recommendation N° R (97) 3 on youth participation and the future of civil society;

Recommendation (2003) 8 on non-formal education/learning of young people;

Recommendation (2004) 13 on the participation of young people in local and regional life;

Recommendation (2006) 1 on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development;

Recommendation (2006) 14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;

##### **Resolutions**

Resolution (67) 13: The press and the protection of youth;

Resolution (69) 6: Cinema and the protection of youth;

Resolution (72) 17 on a European Youth Foundation;

Resolution (91) 20 instituting a Partial Agreement on the Youth Card for the purpose of promoting and facilitating youth mobility in Europe;

Resolution (98) 6 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe;

Resolution (98) 31 on the statute of the European Youth Centre and the statute of the European Youth Foundation;

Resolution ResAP (2003) 1 instituting a Partial Agreement on the Youth Card for the purpose of promoting and facilitating youth mobility in Europe;

Resolution (2003) 7 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe;

*Other texts*

CM/Del/Dec (98)648 regarding the Committee of Ministers' decision to make the European Youth centre Budapest a permanent body of the Council of Europe.

Texts adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly*Recommendations*

Recommendation 592 (1970) on youth problems in Europe;

Recommendation 593 (1970) on the situation of young workers;

Recommendation 758 (1975) on group participation by young people;

Recommendation 776 (1976) on the situation of rural and agricultural youth in Europe;

Recommendation 902 (1980) on youth co-operation in Europe;

Recommendation 1019 (1985) on the participation of young people in political institutional life;

Recommendation 1023 (1986) on youth unemployment;

Recommendation 1191 (1992) on exchanges involving young workers after the revolutionary changes of 1989;

Recommendation 1293 (1996) on the European Youth centre in Budapest;

Recommendation 1364 (1998) on European youth co-operation and recent proposals for structural change;

Recommendation 1437 (2000) on non-formal education;

Recommendation 1530 (2001) on the situation and prospects of young people in rural areas;

Recommendation 1585 (2002) on youth policies in the Council of Europe;

Recommendation 1596 (2003) on the situation of young migrants in Europe;

Recommendation 1632 (2003) on teenagers in distress: a social and health-based approach to youth malaise;

*Resolutions*

Resolution 20 (1960) on the social problems of youth;

Resolution 303 (1965) on the work of the Assembly in the field of youth;

Resolution 464 (1970) on the creation of a European Youth Foundation;

Resolution 1152 (1998) on European youth co-operation and recent proposals for structural change;

Texts adopted by the Congress of Local and regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*Recommendations*

Recommendation 53 (1999) on policies for deprived children/adolescents and families;

Recommendation 59 (1999) on “Europe 2000 youth participation role of young people as citizens”;

Recommendation 128 (2003) on the revised European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life;

Recommendation 174 (2005) on youth education for sustainable development: the role of the regions;

Recommendation 242 (2008) on the integration and participation of young people at local and regional level.

*Other texts*

European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life (1992)

Revised European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life (2003)

Declaration of the Conference on young people, actors in their towns and regions (2002)