



2011/2012
Swiss-Ukrainian Pilot Initiative
on the Council of Europe EDC/HRE Charter

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Philosophy

»The relevance and strength of [the Council of Europe's] approach is situated at two levels: first of all in terms of **highlighting the specificity** of responses delivered by each country in accordance with its history, culture and political organisation, and secondly in terms of the **cooperation dynamics** that it generates, - with everyone respecting diversity and learning from the experience of the others.«

Klaus Fischer (State Council of the canton Solothurn, Switzerland at the Conference »Learning democracy and human rights« Strasbourg 2010)

Aim of the Pilot Initiative

Praparation phase:

- Raising awareness of the Charter in each country **through the preparation**
- Finding the **hidden and unconcious** implementation examples

Visit phase:

- Looking, listening, understanding through the eye of **the other**
- Supporting the implementation of the Charter through **questions**
- **Discussing** current challenges and possible solutions

Approach of the Pilot Initiative

- Basis:
 - Very different context in the partner countries
 - Already existing intensive work on EDC/HRE in different areas (organisations, programmes of organisations, schools etc.)
- **Look** at some specific »good practice examples« in EDC/HRE in each country, selected by the hosting country itself
- **Discuss** the observed elements together by visiting good practice examples
- **Reflect** the observed elements by consulting the Charter
- **Bottom up approach based on individual learning processes and learning through cooperative exchange**

Process of the Pilot Initiative

21/22 June 2011	Planning meeting in Zurich
Summer 2011	Planning of the visits on both sides
Nov 27 – Dec 2	10 Swiss specialists visit Ukraine
Jan 23 – 27 2012	10 Ukrainian specialists visit Switzerland
March – Nov 2012	Writing and compiling of short visit reports and profiles for the final publication
Early 2013	Visit report: ‚Democracy in Practice‘

Nov 27 – Dec 2 2011: Visit to Ukraine



Ways of Implementation of Democratic Values and Human Rights Law in Ukraine Main Directions

- Dissemination of democratic civic education ideas;
- Introduction of civic school courses (*We Are the Citizens, Human Rights, Law, etc.*);
- Integration of some elements of the civic education into the curriculum of school subjects (such as *History, Literature, Economics and others*) ;
- extra-curriculum and extra-school activities;
- Democratization of the school life - introduction of school or students' self-governing systems;
- Training of teachers;
- Printing of information leaflets and manuals.

The State Which Hears Its Children Children's Forum

Meeting at School # 100 'Podil', Kyiv city



Students' projects are within the city development plan



Students' self-governance

- **Responsibility for everything that happens in their schools and community;**
- **Initiative, independence, creativity in cooperation with the teachers;**
- **Collaboration with NGOs;**
- **Involvement of family and community members;**
- **School activities to support the community.**

Design and Building of Water Fountains. Projects of School Children, Supported by Local Governments

- Announcement of fountain projects competition by the city authorities
- Submission of projects designed by the students
- The fountain-winner to be opened in May, 2012



Local community as an active member of the democratization process



Democratic values in national customs and traditions



Jan 23 – 27 2012: Visit to Switzerland









Product: A Visit Booklet: ,DEMOCRACY IN PRACTICE‘

Publication including the following elements:

- (1) History and selected approach of the Pilot Initiative
- (2) Project documentation by the host
- (3) Report / impression by each member of the visiting delegation
- (4) Reflection on the Pilot Initiative (strengths, opportunities, possible threats, recommendations based on the experience)

All elements will **reflect** different aspects of the Charter and therefore support the implementation by **individual exchange and learning processes**

Experiences from the Pilot Initiative

- »Good practice« instead of »best practice«
- Discussing also »hidden elements« of EDC/HRE
- Network of people and/or organisations that agree on what they will show
- Variety of implementation possibilities (organisations, programmes in formal and non formal education, school lessons, research projects etc.)
- Reading the Charter and defining itself in which part it fulfills some point of the Charter without even knowing it (Reflection-on-the-Charter-approach)
- Not trying to cover all parts of EDC/HRE, but to select some elements, knowing that it is impossible to be complete

