



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE CONF/EDUC(2015)RAPACT

Activity report for 2015

1. Description of the working groups' activities
2. Participation in intergovernmental committee meetings
3. Representation of the committee in European and international conferences
4. Other activities

1. Description of the working groups' activities

Recognising current challenges, the Education and Culture Committee stepped up its activities in the area of education for democratic citizenship and living together at the beginning of 2015.

The terrorist attacks in Paris, Copenhagen, Tunis, Beirut and so many other towns and places throughout the world have confirmed the great importance of education's impact on societies.

1.1. Teachers interacting with their environment – A shared responsibility for education in European values

The working group was set up in June and agreed its objectives. On the basis of the Education for Change – Change for Education manifesto, the group will develop innovative approaches that should enable teachers to perform their new role. The priority issues are:

- education geared towards children, young people, students and adults and their diversity and multiple talents;
- teacher training;
- digital media and their impact on education.

Person in charge: Brigitte Besson

1.2 History teaching – Moving towards a European narrative for genuine education for democratic citizenship

This working group was also set up in June. It agreed its objectives as follows:

- developing inclusive democracy in the 47 Council of Europe countries;
- promoting democratic values and cultural co-operation;
- making everybody understand the benefits of living in open and inclusive societies.

The group will produce tools which will help to:

- build critical thinking;
- develop command of dialogue techniques for conflict resolution;
- prepare young people to better understand other people;
- boost their resistance to manipulation.

History teaching is a key area for developing these skills. The group will work in close co-operation with the Directorate General of Democracy (DGII) and will take account of all the key documents drawn up by the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly.

Person in charge: Jérôme Grosnon

1.3 Proper use of digital media in educational practice – A challenge for formal and non-formal education in democratic citizenship and participation

The working group will develop tools which will help players in the education sector to understand the impact of digital media on educational practice, living together in society, interculturalism, European history and education in general.

The aim will be to present good practices and set out pointers and guidelines for inclusive education.

The work is based on Committee of Ministers document [CM \(2015\)74 add final](#) of 19 May 2015, issued at the 125th session of the Committee of Ministers in Brussels.

Person in charge: Didier Schretter

1.4 Education in intercultural citizenship – Living together in Europe

The working group will develop innovative proposals based on:

- analysis of intercultural education projects in European towns and cities, in particular in schools and educational organisations;
- analysis of the difficulties encountered by children and young people from ethnic minorities, in particular Roma;
- a contribution to the development of inclusive societies.

The work will be done in close co-operation with the quadrilogue.

In December 2015, a survey of the INGOs in the Conference was launched concerning good practices in intercultural education.

Person in charge: Roseline Moreau

The working group heads and Sabine Rohmann met in Geneva in September for a two-day co-ordination meeting.

2. Participation in intergovernmental committee meetings

2.1. Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE)

Sabine Rohmann took part in the committee's plenary meeting in Strasbourg from 17 to 19 March.

As a member of the Bureau of the CDPPE, she attended the two meetings in Strasbourg in July and November.

2.2 Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)

Didier Schretter took part in the committee's two meetings in Strasbourg from 16 to 19 June and 8 to 11 December 2015.

3. Representation of the committee in European and international conferences

- Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM), Strasbourg, 27 and 28 May 2015, Roseline Moreau
- 28th Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Strasbourg, 24 to 26 March 2015, Roseline Moreau
- Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Heritage, Namur (Belgium), 22 to 24 April 2015, with a statement by Sabine Rohmann
- World Day for people unable to go on holiday organised by the Secours Populaire Français, in co-operation with Léon Dujardin (ESAN), Paris, 19 August 2015, Didier Schretter
- Conference on Human Rights and Democracy in Action: Addressing Extremism and Radicalisation through Education, DGII, Strasbourg, 24 and 25 September 2015, with a statement by Sabine Rohmann
- [Launch of the ETINED Platform on Ethics in Education](#), 1 and 2 October 2015, Sabine Rohmann
- [Final conference of the EU/Council of Europe Joint Programme on Regional Support for Inclusive Education](#), Sarajevo, 5 and 6 November 2015, Brigitte Besson and Sabine Rohmann (who made a statement)
- European Parents' Association conference, welcoming statement by Sabine Rohmann

4. Other activities

4.1 Internal and external communication – Establishment of a communication strategy, Didier Schretter

Presentation of the Education and Culture Committee strategy to the Standing Committee

Participation in the preparation of a communication charter (to be approved in January 2016)

4.2 Statements during visits by groups to the Council of Europe, in liaison with the Visitors' Service, Roseline Moreau

The purpose of the statements was to present the Conference of INGOs and the work of the Education and Culture Committee:

- 9 June 2015: 35 young pensioners from Vendée (members of their association's Europe committee);
- 4 November 2015: 40 French teachers on in-service training.

4.3 Meetings

Statement and debate concerning education for inclusive societies at the University of Landau (Germany) in July 2015, Sabine Rohmann

Statement and debate concerning refugees and European values with 400 pupils, Trier-Saarburg district (Germany), Sabine Rohmann

Meeting in September 2015 with the chair and members of the Colombian association, REINICIAR, which won the Franco-German human rights prize, Roseline Moreau, Sabine Rohmann, Richard Stock

Sabine Rohmann, Chair