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of the Russian Federation

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Co-operation between the Council of Europe  
and the Russian Federation in the field of youth policy

## **Meeting of the Management Committee**

11 December 2015  
European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

### **Review of the Action plan 2015 implementation and recommendations for the 2016-2017 Action Plan**

(prepared by the Council of Europe Secretariat)

The bilateral cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation in the youth field is implemented according to the Framework Programme between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe for 2014-2018 and its Action Plan for 2014-2015 signed by the General Director of the Council of Europe and the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation on 30 September 2014. The youth dimension is reflected as well in the Council of Europe document "Priorities for co-operation with the Russian Federation in 2013-2015".

The Action plan for 2014-2015 included 18 joint activities on following priorities: assistance in the mutual development of non-formal educational programmes for youth organisations and youth leaders; informing youth non-governmental organisations of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe about the implementation of the youth policy of the Russian Federation and the Council of Europe; learning democracy, human rights and democratic citizenship; promoting intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity.

The main partners of the joint activities implementation from the Russian side are the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs, the National Youth Council of Russian and regional state authorities and youth non-governmental organisations.

In accordance with the Article 2 of the Framework Programme on cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation the Management Committee has been formed for the preparation, running and evaluation of activities of the Action Plan. Its first meeting took place on 9 February 2015 in Moscow where the partners confirmed the readiness to strengthen the cooperation and continue to develop the dialogue in the youth field. The participants expressed satisfaction with the cooperation and its positive progress. The Russian colleagues stated an important contribution of the Council of Europe Youth Department to the youth policy and youth work development in the Russian Federation.

#### **Activities taken place in 2015:**

##### **1. International training-course "Bookmarks: combatting hate speech through human rights education", 6-10 April 2015, Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Federation.**

The training course brought together 35 participants from the Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Slovakia, Russia and Ukraine actively involved in the European or national campaigns.

The training-course aimed to develop human rights education competences to specialists in the field of formal and non-formal education, youth workers and activists for combating hate speech.

The course programme followed the concept developed for a similar course in held in Namur in 2014, was based on the Bookmarks manual but was correlated to the profile and realities of the participants. According to the evaluation forms results the participants raised their awareness about the Council of Europe, the campaign No Hate Speech Movement, the human rights education and its tools such as the Bookmarks. At the preparatory stage the participants did monitoring on the situation with dissemination of hate speech in their countries and which legal regulation exists in this area – the results of the monitoring were presented during the training-course.

The representatives of the national campaign's committees planned to translate the Bookmarks into their national languages and to organise the similar training for local activists working for the campaign.

**2. Seminar “Remembrance and learning from World War II”, 19-22 May, European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France**

The seminar was held for the second time and was dedicated to the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The seminar engaged youth leaders in dialogue towards a shared and deeper understanding of the reasons, consequences and lessons to be learned from the Second World War and its contribution to shaping common European values. Unlike the seminar of 2014, this activity was held in two working languages (Russian and English) and brought together 60 participants from different countries of Europe and beyond who are active in youth organisations, network or initiative groups working on the topic of remembrance. Participants discussed the importance of multiperspectivity approach to the history teaching and what should be done for formation of a shared history. The participants presented their projects in the field of remembrance and preserving the memory including through youth work, and exchanged views on present challenges in the modern world. As a result, participants have developed personal action plans and also several joint ideas for further cooperation on intercultural learning, peace building and preventing the extension of fascism and nazism in Europe today.

**3. VII International Youth Camp “Dialogue”, 17-21 July, Kaluga region, Russian Federation**

The International youth camp "Dialogue" took place in 2015 already for the 7th time. This project is quite popular among young people in Russia and other countries as well, and the large number of application forms confirmed this. However, despite the fact that the camp has a long history, each year its concept changed, as well as “hot topics” for discussion. The camp 2015 aimed to foster appreciation of cultural diversity among participants and to empower young people to play an active role in the development of intercultural. 90 participants took part in the camp: 24 representatives of youth and ethno-cultural organisations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Serbia and Sweden and 75 – from different regions of the Russian Federation who are actively involved in the implementation of international and interethnic youth projects at local, regional and national level. The participants acquainted with the concepts and approaches of the Council of Europe and the Russian Federation to the following issues: intercultural dialogue, youth participation, cultural diversity, social inclusion, non-violent communication and others. From the first day participants were developing a road map of personal steps to be done for intercultural dialogue promotion at regional and local level. Participants exchanged projects ideas and created initiative groups for its implementation in future.

**4. Long-term training course on non-formal education and intercultural dialogue, 5-11 October, European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary**

The second residential seminar was the last phase of the long term training course for trainers initiated in December 2014. The training course included another residential seminar in December 2014 in Moscow, e-learning and training practice developed by the participants, as well as support measures under the form of mentoring and coaching. This seminar aimed to evaluate the e-learning and training practice of the participants and to consolidate learning. One of main topic for discussion at the second seminar and for follow-up was a creation of a pool of trainers at national level in the Russian Federation, development of quality standards for international activities in the Russian Federation and promotion of non-formal education in the youth field at different levels. 23 participants from the Russian Federation, supported by youth organisations, have attended of the long-term training course and will receive certificates of attendance confirming the gained competences.

5. **“50-50” training seminar for specialists from state authorities of the Russian Federation working with young people together with representatives of youth non-governmental organisations**, 20-24 October, Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation

The training-seminar aimed to raise the training’s participants competences in working with young people and to strengthen cooperation between the state authorities and non-governmental organisations, taking into account the values and approaches of the Council of Europe and the priorities in the youth field of the Russian Federation. The activity brought together 25 representatives from governmental and non-government sectors, involved in the youth policy and youth work. The model of this activity, which remains one of the most popular from the Action plan of the Framework Programme on co-operation for many years, has been adapted and implemented at local and regional levels by participants of the All-Russian 50/50 training seminar. The activity became a real platform for exchanging good practices and experiences in the youth field and a space for networking and future cooperation. The participants developed several suggestions for improving the quality of youth policy and youth work in the Russian Federation and for strengthening cooperation between governmental structures and non-governmental organisations.

6. **Seminar on youth policy and youth work in the Russian Federation**, 3-6 November, Moscow, Russian Federation

The Seminar as a continuation of the Seminar 2013 aimed to create conditions for building dialogue and mutual learning in the sphere of youth policy and youth work in the Russian Federation and other states party to the European Cultural Convention, taking into consideration the diversity of experiences and approaches, as well as realities of society today. The activity brought together 30 participants from the Russian Federation and other states party to the European Cultural Convention and 10 invited experts from international institutions and organisations. Participants noted the importance of this kind of activities as a dialogue platform on youth policy and youth work issues from different points of view: participants from different parts of Europe, representatives of the state, regional and local authorities, experts from the biggest international youth organisations and different stakeholders of youth policy and youth work. Participants suggested to the Council of Europe Youth Department to take this positive practice suggested by the Russian Federation for further implementation of similar seminars in other states-party to the European Cultural Convention. Participants developed joint initiatives on cooperation on different topics relevant for their countries and suggested to hold more activities between the "Western/Central" and "Eastern" Europe countries and with participation of young people from countries as Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

One of the central parts of the programme was the round table on new needs of young people and challenges of the society today, and how the youth policy and youth work should respond on them. The conclusions and recommendations from this round table will be passed to the Council of Europe Youth Department to take them into consideration for the next Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe on youth policy.

The representative of the Council of Europe Youth Department took part as expert by special invitation in the Volga Federal District Youth Forum **“iVolga”** and in the Ural Federal District Youth Forum **“Utro”** (June 2015, Samara and Tyumen regions respectively, Russian Federation) as well as in the International Forum **“Social innovation: Youth League”** in September in Vologda city (Russian Federation).

In 2015 three manuals – educational tools – **“Compass”**, **“Have your say!”** and **“Bookmarks”** were translated into Russian.

A new revised version of “Compass” is already published and will be officially launched at the **Conference on human rights education “Living. Learning. Acting”** and the **Training course in human rights education with young people in the Russian Federation** will be held from 15 to 19 December 2015 in Moscow.

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## **Main conclusions and recommendations from the 2015 evaluations relevant for the Action plan 2016-2017:**

### Positive notes:

- The activities' implementation in 2015 is close to the Council of Europe quality standards for running activities.
- All activities fitted in the Council of Europe Youth Department priorities.
- The majority of activities supports the capacity building of young people and youth workers who can act as multipliers.
- The geographical origins of Russian participants was diversified: young people from the North Caucasus Federal District and from the Far Eastern Federal District of the Russian Federation have been actively involved in events.
- A balance in organising the activities in the European Youth Centres and in the Russian Federation was kept.
- Representatives of the Council of Europe and the Joint Council on Youth took part as experts in all activities.
- The Russian partners made a significant financial contribution to almost all activities.
- Organisational and logistical issues including visa support have improved.
- Translation of the most relevant Council of Europe Youth Department publications into Russian, including through the Russian partners resources.
- All activities benefited of Council of Europe relevant publications.
- Almost all activities had a preparatory on-line stage to introduce participants to each other and to present background of activity and basic information on organisers. All activities have on-line evolution forms to be completed by participants.
- The majority of activities are represented in the social media and have their Facebook groups for participants.
- The educational team of majority of activities is international and not afraid to raise various controversial topics with participants.
- The number of bilingual activities increased. International activities from the Russian Action Plan are becoming a real platform for building dialogue and mutual learning in the sphere of youth policy and youth work in the Russian Federation and other states party to the European Cultural Convention.
- Some "traditional" activities have innovative approaches in presenting topics and its evaluation (*International Youth Camp "Dialogue" – handbook of participant and survey on understanding of intercultural dialogue by young people*).
- At the forefront of most of the activities are the values the Council of Europe, the importance of the human rights education and non-formal education approaches, as well as orientation to the follow-ups.

### Points to improve:

- To hold the preparatory meetings at least 3 months before the activity;
- Clarify financial contributions and responsibilities early ahead and signing Administrative Arrangements at least 1 month before the activity;
- To inform participants about the selection's results five weeks before the activity in case of travelling abroad, three weeks – in case of internal travel;

- To respect deadlines agreed at the preparatory meeting even within the internal agreements on different documents;
- To provide financial payment under the agreements and financial reports in accordance with the deadlines in the Administrative Arrangement;
- To enlarge the circle of participants involved in the activities through extension of the information channels;
- To inform partners about cancellations of activities at least one month before;
- To reduce the number of trainers if number of participants is less than planned;
- To provide certificates of attendance to the participants just after the activities but not more than in one month;
- To translate some of activities` reports into Russian;
- To give more visibility and media-coverage to the joint activities and to the partnership agreement;
- Capacity of Russian partners to receive money from the Council of Europe for joint activities (as payment, not as a grant!);
- Focus better on results of activities and learning from them;
- Have more translation and dissemination of publications by Russian partners.