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Youth Campaign for human rights online

Follow-Up Group

Report of 11th meeting

20-21 October 2016

European Youth Centre Strasbourg

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Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda

Apologies were received from Jehona Roka (CDEJ), Bruno del Mazo Unamuno (CDEJ), Djuro Blanusa (CDEJ), Finn Yrjar Denstad (EEA and Norway Grants), Gilles Bloch for Friday morning (Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe), Laszlo Foldi for Thursday morning (Online Community Manager, consultant for the Youth Department).

The meeting was chaired by Matej Manevski.

Aleksandra Mitrovic Knezevic, former member and co-chair of the Follow-up Group, started a new job and resigned from the European Steering committee on Youth (CDEJ). Djuro Blanusa as new representative from Serbia in the CDEJ will join the Follow-up Group in its next meeting.

The agenda was adopted after exchanging Item 5, Review of the Evaluation Indicators and the evaluation plan of the campaign, with item 9, review and planning of activities foreseen for 2017. Item 9 was moved to Thursday afternoon and Item 5 to Friday morning.

News from the observers, other partners and their initiatives

EYCA: EYCA has a new brand image and updated vision and mission which are to empower youth mobility, education and employability. It has taken time to inform and remobilise EYCA members for the campaign but they are now active and secure good outreach among youth. Six examples were given:

- Luxembourg: Involved in the national committee, youth organising campaign events get the card for free
- Scotland: online campaign with the slogan 'Think before you Tweet'
- Malta: The EYCA member is the national campaign coordinator and organise a range of events

- Finland: The card is awarded to Finish campaign activists, in December a training course for youth workers is organised and the campaign is promoted via social media channels of EYCA Finland.
- Austria: Austrian Youth Information Centers is part of the National Campaign Committee and hosts an information website <http://www.jugendportal.at/no-hate-speech-movement>
- Spain: In different regions of Spain the campaign is featured in their social media and websites

EYCA members are invited to submit short reports and news articles on their initiatives for the campaign through the new function on the platform blog:

<http://blog.nohatespeechmovement.org/submit-your-blog/>

Conference of International NGOs: The INGO Conference president has expressed support for close cooperation with the campaign and the INGO conference members. In the spring session the Committee on Human Rights of the INGO conference established a working group on the fight against hate speech involving 12 NGO representatives. In its second meeting in November concrete actions will be determined.

European Steering Committee of Education Policy and Practice: The presentation of the campaign and its priorities for 2016-2017 at the April meeting of the committee was well received. The committee adopted an action plan for the new 'Division for cooperation and capacity building' which will seek to strengthen educational practices in member states. The committee also called for closer cooperation with the Youth Department, the European Wergeland Centre, the European Youth Foundation and the 47 member states for better synergies between the formal and non-formal educational sectors.

The Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education is the guiding document for the Education sector. The charter's implementation will be reviewed throughout 2016-2017. Ellen is member of the preparation working group steering the review and the preparation of a conference on the Charter in June 2017.

The European Wergeland Centre is seeking to become an implementation partner in the next round of the EEA-Norway Grants in relation to education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights.

EYICA: The Slovenian campaign was involved in the EYICA Youth Ambassadors training in Slovenia which aims to train peer to peer educators. The participants developed concrete ideas on how to address hate speech in their initiatives. Many member of EYICA are also member of EYCA and participate in the national campaign committees.

EEA- Norway Grants: Finn Denstad sent a written contribution to the meeting with an update on the next programme cycle of the EEA and Norway grants. The grant will include again the NGO programme and will run until spring 2024. The new grants cycle will continue to work on promoting human rights, combatting hate speech, hate crime and all forms of discrimination through the NGO programme and other programmes of the Grant. Negotiations with beneficiary countries are in progress and the NGO programme will become operational, issuing the first calls, in second half of 2017 or early 2018.

European Youth Forum: The board of the European Youth Forum has informed the campaign secretariat that their members have not made the campaign a priority during the General Assembly. The board therefore decided to withdraw from the Follow-up group. The Forum secretariat has committed itself to distributing information about key events, training courses and Action Days among its members. It will also reach out to individual members with specific requests to support the campaign if needed.

The Follow-up group members expressed disappointment with the forum's decision. The chair of the Advisory Council agreed to repeat the invitation to the forums members to join the campaign at the next General Assembly of the European Youth Forum.

Update on the implementation of the campaign

The Follow-up Group took note of report DDCP-YD/ ETD (2016) 155 update on the implementation of the Campaign. It noted that:

- *Manual 'Developing Counter-narratives to hate speech':* The publication is delayed due to the complexity of the topic. The need to secure an educational approach to the topic was underlined. Connections with other documents under development such as the Indicators for Democratic Citizenship could be reflected in the manual. EYICA is drafting a booklet on how to inform youth on radicalisation for its members and the two publications might be mutually reinforcing.
- *Campaign Website:* National campaign coordinators have asked for campaign and educational resources developed by national campaigns to be listed in the publications section of the website www.coe.int/youthcampaign. It was agreed that English or French materials of high quality and informative nature could be added. Publications in other languages should include a summary in English or French. List of publications of national campaigns should include the disclaimer that the views expressed do not necessarily represent the view of the Council of Europe.
- *Campaign Platform:* There remains a need to present inspiring success examples from national campaigns and campaign partners. The tool to submit blogs and reports on the campaign platform (<http://blog.nohatespeechmovement.org/submit-your-blog/>) could respond to that need. The Secretariat should explore if a map can help visualise campaign activities across Europe and motivate others to report.
- *Use of French language:* the use of French has decreased, there are very few blogs and reports on hate speech watch in French. Only key documents on the Action Days are made available in French. There is a need for more online activists that can work in French and French materials from national campaign should be shared better.

National Campaigns:

- National coordinators in various member states lack support from the relevant ministry. They ask the Council of Europe to remind the ministries of the continuation of the campaign until the end of 2017 and support the national committees.
- National campaigns wanting to work with schools should contact the national representative of the European Steering Committee of Education Policy and Practice for support.
- In Italy, Netherlands and Turkey there are no national campaign committee established and NGO's are forming a support group instead. Requests to establish a national support group will be reviewed by the Follow-up Group taking into account

formal position of the Government representatives, if there is one, and past attempts to establish a national committee by the campaign secretariat

- Many national campaigns are active on their Facebook pages, especially around Action Days. The national campaign coordinators agreed to strengthen visibility by reporting and support each other's events. The European secretariat should try to follow these developments
- Growing number of campaign activities are supported through Erasmus+.
- The legacy of the national campaigns needs to be secured after 2017. This could include involving national NGO's and committees as partners in the new programmes of the Youth Department on Hate Speech, education for human rights online and Internet governance.

Online activists:

- Number of activists continue to grow, many joining after attending a regional training course. National coordinators encourage their activists to attend such courses.
- The online activists are interested to continue after the campaign as a group and consider organising a meeting to plan the transition and future focus.
- There is a need for an advanced training course on campaigning online.
- Online activists can give more visibility to national campaign initiatives online, reposting tweets and Facebook messages from national sites onto the European.

The Follow-up Group has requested the secretariat:

- To send a copy of the draft manual 'Developing Counter-narratives to hate speech' to the Follow-up group members for information and possible feedback
- To establish guidelines to assess which campaign and educational materials from national campaigns can be listed on the campaign website with concern to quality, content, and language accessibility.
- To explore the feasibility of an 'reports map' in the Blog section of the campaign platform
- To remind national campaigns to inform and involve national representatives of the No hate Speech Parliamentary Alliance and the European Steering Committee of Education Policy and Practice
- To send requests to establish a National Support Group to the Follow-up Group members with a recommendation for a decision
- To encourage online activists to follow Facebook pages of (their) national campaigns and cross post relevant information on the European Facebook page, especially in relation to Action Days and French language posts

Review of the 4th coordination meeting of the campaign

The Follow-up Group members that attended the 4th coordination meeting reported on the meeting. They noted the high visibility of the meeting and the national campaign in Albania with high level speakers at the opening and Anne Brasseur's participation in the main morning news programme on national television. The meeting involved many new coordinators and was run smoothly. It was good the programme included one round of working groups to inform participants of new developments and projects within the campaign followed by a second round to plan future actions. The collective exercise to define

evaluation indicators for the national campaigns was particularly instrumental in helping plan national campaign initiatives for 2017.

Several Follow-up Group members received the feedback that participants had the genuine feeling they were part of a movement and had project results to contribute to the movement.

The Albanian campaign and Ministry of Social Affairs and Youth were complemented for its efforts.

A report of the coordination meeting is needed that reports on the national evaluation indicators (addressed separately in this report) and the main proposals for future campaign actions.

Financial resources of the campaign

The Follow-up group took note of document DDGP-YD/ ETD (2016) 166 Update financial resources of the campaign. Despite the lack of voluntary contributions many activities listed in the concept note are being implemented with additional resources from the programme budget committed by the Programming Committee.

If a letter by the Director General is sent to the member states to remind them the campaign will continue until the end of 2017, she should also call for support through voluntary contributions.

Action Days 2017

Based on the experiences with Action Day 2016, it was noted that:

- Involving campaign partners with expertise on the Action Day topic leads to better content and outreach.
- A seminar on the Action Day topic, like the sexist hate speech seminar, or any physical meeting with activists, national coordinators and partners facilitates the preparation process.
- Action Days in June, July or August have lower involvement due to holidays.
- Action Days organised within one month from each other remains problematic. Many national campaigns decided to focus on one of the two days.

The Follow-up group reviewed the proposals from the Action Day working group at the 4th coordination meeting of the campaign. The World Youth Day is in August and therefore not selected. Hate Speech targeting persons with a disability has not received a lot of attention yet. The secretariat was asked to address the topic more in the campaign, especially around 3 December promoting the work of relevant partners.

The Follow up Group adopted the Action Days 2017 as follows:

- 7 February – Safer Internet Day to promote media literacy and human rights education, including Bookmarks.
- 8 March – Countering sexist hate speech
- 22 July – Action Day in support of victims of hate crime
- 21 Sept – Action Day for countering Islamophobia and xenophobia targeting refugees
- 9 Nov – Action Day countering antisemitic hate speech

- 10 Dec. Human Rights online and the campaign last Action Day.

The campaign secretariat also pays attention to other thematic days, giving visibility to initiatives taken by campaign partners and national campaigns. They are:

- 17 May - International Day against Homo, Bi and trans- phobia
- 20 June - World Refugee Day
- 2 August - Day of Remembrance for the Roma Holocaust
- 3 December - International Day for Persons with a Disability

Review of activities 2017

The Follow-up group appreciated the expressed interest by national campaigns to co-organise a regional training course or coordination meeting in 2017 listed in document DDCP-YD/ ETD (2016) 163.

Taking into account the available financial resources from the programme it was agreed that:

- The Programme Committee is asked to priorities the seminar on antisemitic hate speech
- To pursue with the national campaigns in Germany and Romania the feasibility of holding the next coordination meeting of the campaign
- To inquire with the European Youth Centre Budapest what resources they are offering to host a campaign meeting or training course in partnership with the Hungarian campaign
- To propose the national campaign in Czech republic to cooperate with the Hungarian campaign in seeking funding for a regional training course
- To pursue co-organising a regional training course on Bookmarks in Portugal
- To pursue co-organising a training course on counter narratives to hate speech in Norway and seek support from the EEA-Norway grants.
- To review in September 2017 the remaining financial resources and consider co-organising a training course on countering hate speech targeting refugees in Malta
- To not prioritise co-organising events in Canada and Iceland

Annex 1 provides a tentative time line of the main training courses seminars and meetings in 2017. The overview in cooperates the outcomes of the Follow-up group meeting, the availability of campaign partners and the European Youth Centres.

Exchange of views with the Head of the Youth Department

End of the campaign and following up on the results

Antje Rothmund confirmed the campaign should finish at the end of 2017. An evaluation conference will be held in the spring of 2018. This allows time to collect feedback on the campaign results and identify member states that continue to the work on hate speech.

The campaign legacy can include policy recommendations and proposals towards future programmes of the Youth Department and member states. The campaign evaluation should identify sufficient examples and arguments to back up the proposals.

At its 35th meeting, Oct. 2016, the Joint Council on Youth identified areas of the campaign that should be continued and included them in the priorities of the next biennium 2018-2019. The campaign outcomes will be integrated in different priority areas that focus on:

- Education for Human Rights Online
- Access to rights online and Youth participation in Internet Governance
- Countering hate speech that undermine inclusive and peaceful societies

The Youth Department should keep the networks of campaign partners involved in its work on hate speech, human rights online and Internet Governance.

Adopting 22 July as an European Day

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe supports the adoption of the day, but the Committee of Ministers had reservations regarding the date and because there is a day for victims of terrorism. Anne Brasseur could inform the secretariat if it would be opportune to re-launch the initiative.

The Action Day for victims of hate crime could be listed in the evaluation report as one of the successful outcomes of the campaign. The campaign would need to continue developing the day and secure high outreach and visibility.

Cooperation with the European Union

Hate speech has also become a work priority for the European Union and therefore a topic for the Erasmus+ programme. There is no cooperation between the two institutions on the topic, the EU-COE partnership has not adopted it as a work priority.

NGO partners are encouraged to use available funding and promote the tools and educational resources developed by the campaign through the Erasmus+ programme. The work of Salto on education on hate speech should be followed and the Youth Department remains available for mutual cooperation.

The EU code of Conduct with Internet businesses adopted in May 2016 is an interesting development to follow. However the campaign is a relatively small player in the ongoing debate. The campaign should support the efforts of the Council of Europe to promote human rights online through its Internet Governance strategy and ensure youth are represented in the Internet Governance processes.

Cooperation with the European Youth Forum on the campaign

The decision to step out of the Follow-up Group and not prioritise the campaign by the member organisation of the Youth Forum is regrettable but should be respected. The secretariat could provide the report of the Follow-up group meeting as requested by the Youth Forum.

Cross-sectorial cooperation within the Council of Europe

Anne Brasseur, ambassador of the No Hate Speech Movement, helped increase the campaign visibility among political and civil society leaders and within the Council of Europe. While important it also generates more work, more meetings to attend and expectations that cannot be met, such as addressing hate speech of individual politicians.

Working on hate speech has become a priority among various departments. Some have adopted the campaign message and logo. The campaign secretariat should strengthen the cross sectorial cooperation and link up National campaigns and partners with relevant Council of Europe bodies. The cooperation could provide opportunities to share experiences and best practice and feed into policy development and setting of quality standards.

Review evaluation plan and indicators

Document DDCP-YD/ ETD (2016)156 'Review of the evaluation indicators and plan of the Campaign' presents the work of the consultant Hilda van Hulst-Mooibroek. The consultant drafted the Evaluation indicators of the campaign and a terms of reference for a call for evaluators. The submitted documents draw for a large part on the working groups that developed National evaluation indicators at the 4th coordination meeting.

The working groups were very important for the national campaigns to define what success would mean to them.

The evaluation indicators were reviewed. A few were deleted as they seemed irrelevant for the stakeholder concerned, others need rewording.

It was agreed that:

- European campaign partners, such as European youth organisations must be included as fifth stakeholder
- Indicators should be reordered by stakeholder instead of expected result
- Campaign secretariat will finalise the indicators and make them available to the Follow-up Group and national campaign coordinators.

Time line adopted for the implementation of the campaign evaluation

Jan.	Launch call for tenders
March	Selection of consultant and start desk study
9-10 May	Follow-up Group meeting, 1 meeting with consultant
June	5 th Coordination meeting Campaign, Consultant will introduce the evaluation process and conduct interviews
Sept – Oct.	Evaluation surveys and interviews
Nov.	Follow-up Group meeting, review of draft evaluation report
Dec-Jan	Consultant finalises evaluation report
March 2018	Campaign closing conference

Evaluation of the meeting

The Follow-up Group appreciated the constructive atmosphere at the meeting and the efforts of the chair and Campaign coordinator. It was important that the plans for 2017 and the evaluation indicators were reviewed.

Annex 1: Timeline of European Campaign activities planned for 2017

The proposed timeline incorporates the proposals from the Follow-up Group from their October 2016 meeting, and project partners. It takes into account the availability of the two European Youth Centres. The proposed timeline is subject to change.

Jan.	Launch call for tenders Evaluation consultants
7 February	Action Day - Safer Internet Day to promote media literacy and human rights education, including Bookmarks.
Feb-March	Selection evaluation consultant and start desk study
8 March	Action Day countering sexist hate speech
20-24 March	Training Course on Manual on Counter-narratives to hate speech, Strasbourg
19-22 April	Regional Training Course on Bookmarks, Porto, Portugal
24 - 26 April	Seminar on youth participation in Internet Governance processes, Strasbourg
9-11 May	Seminar countering antisemitic hate speech, Strasbourg
10 - 12 May	International forum for Living Library organisers, Budapest
17 May	Visibility given to International Day against Homo, Bi and trans- phobia
22-23 May	Follow-up Group Meeting, Strasbourg
<i>Tbc: 15-18 May or 29 may–1 June</i>	<i>Training Course on combatting hate speech through HRE with Commonwealth Youth programme, United Kingdom</i>
6-7 June	EuroDIG, Tallinn, Estonia
20 June	Visibility given to World Refugee Day
<i>Tbc: 26 June-2 July</i>	<i>5th Coordination meeting of the Campaign, 3 days in this period</i>
22 July	Action Day in support of victims of hate crime
2 August	Visibility given to Day of Remembrance for the Roma Holocaust
Sept – Oct.	Evaluation surveys and interviews
<i>Tbc: 11-15 Sept.</i>	<i>Training course countering hate speech through education for human rights and democracy, Utøya, Norway</i>
21 Sept.	Action Day for countering Islamophobia and xenophobia targeting refugees
21 - 22 Sept.	Activities on local level against discrimination and participation of young people based on Bookmarks in cooperation with the city of Strasbourg
October	Regional Seminar on hate speech and spectator violence in cooperation with EPAS
9 Nov	Action Day countering antisemitic hate speech
3 Dec.	Visibility given to International Day for Persons with a Disability
10 Dec.	Action Day for Human Rights online, last Action Day of the campaign
Dec-Jan	Evaluation consultant finalises evaluation report
March 2018	Campaign closing conference