

XXXXth meeting, 21 January 2025

7 Education and culture

7.1 Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU)

Abridged report of the 6th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 10-11 October 2024)

Item to be considered by the GR-C at its meeting on 21 January 2025

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) held its 6th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 10-11 October 2024, with Marie-Anne Persoons (Belgium) in the Chair.

The agenda of the meeting is contained in Appendix I. The full list of decisions including the list of participants and the working documents of the session are available at <https://coe.sharepoint.com/sites/education-cdedu>.

List of items for information of the Committee of Ministers

1. The CDEDU took note of the communication from Matjaž Gruden, the Director for Democracy, on the political context, in particular regarding the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention, the election of the Council of Europe new Secretary General Alain Berset (Switzerland) and the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law (AI Treaty) signed by several countries inside and outside Europe on 5 September 2024. The Director encouraged the Committee to continue its work on AI and Education as a sectorial contribution for the implementation of this Convention.
2. The CDEDU welcomed the Activity Report 2023 of the Education Department of the Council of Europe and the information provided by the Head of Department Villano Qiriazzi on the priority activities to be carried out until the end of the year.
3. The CDEDU welcomed the progress made towards developing the European Space for Citizenship Education in co-creation with experts of the EPAN network and the planned first major Conference “The European Space for Citizenship Education - Sustaining democracy through quality citizenship education” to take place 17-18 October 2024 in Berlin, involving both high level participants and civil society. The CDEDU noted that the European Space for Citizenship Education should build upon the rich array of instruments and resources in citizenship education and education for democracy developed since 1996 by the Education Department, while acknowledging the changing context and underlined the need to prepare for current and future challenges. The CDEDU adopted the revised European Policy Advisory Network (EPAN) Terms of Reference in order to better reflect the leading role of the network in the development phase of the European Space initiative. The CDEDU emphasized the importance of EPAN in developing and contributing to the European Space for Citizenship Education, while underlining the oversight role of CDEDU over the work on the European Space for Citizenship Education in general.
4. The CDEDU took note of the progress of the project on the democratic mission of higher education and welcomed the organisation of the project launching Conference “Academic Freedom in Action” on 13-14 November 2024 in Strasbourg

¹ This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

5. The CDEDU welcomed the progress in the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Automatic Recognition and approved the renewal of its Terms of Reference until December 2026.
6. The CDEDU took note of the latest information on the two ongoing surveys on Open School Data and student awareness of fraud in education and gave mandate to the ETINED to further develop both topics and organize in-depth discussions in the next March 2025 Plenary session. The Committee welcomed the progress and the offer made by Italian authorities to pilot the activities of a Centre on Preventing and Countering Education Fraud through a dedicated programme and requested to be kept informed on further developments. The CDEDU took note of the information regarding the finalization of the programme proposal and the opening of the call for voluntary contributions. They requested to be kept informed on further developments in view of assuring coherence with the collective work, including of the ETINED and ENIC-NARIC networks. The CDEDU will continue the discussion on the feasibility of establishment of a Partial Agreement regarding the Centre on Preventing and Countering Education Fraud at a later stage.
7. The CDEDU stressed that the Recommendation should adopt the perspective of academic recognition of qualifications, while paying attention on their effect on better employability. It will not target professional recognition or regulation of the labour market as such. The CDEDU noted the interdisciplinary approach and underlined the necessity of national coordination with regard to the finalization of the provisions contained in the draft Recommendation. The CDEDU was invited to provide concrete textual comments on the draft in writing by the 31 October 2024. The CDEDU mandated the Bureau to re-examine the revised text of the Draft Recommendation based on the comments received, after which the CDEDU will be further consulted electronically in preparation of the next CDEDU Plenary session in March 2025 that is due to approve the text for further submission.
8. The CDEDU took note of the new concept of the European Language Policy Profile and of some minor changes to the Language Policy outputs for 2024-2025 resulting from the first meeting of the Language Policy Advisory Group in April 2024. They also took note of the update on both the Romani Plurilingual Policy Experimentation Project and the launch of the new EU/CoE joint programme on enhancing the quality of foreign language education in Türkiye.
9. The CDEDU examined the preliminary findings of the Review of the implementation of the CM/Rec(2019)10 on developing digital citizenship education and set the deadline of 30 October 2024 for the validation of the findings related to individual countries and to respond to the survey prepared for the collection of contributions from member States.
10. The CDEDU members took note of the information provided on the 2025 European Year of Digital Citizenship Education and welcomed the preparation of the activities by the Secretariat and the DCE Network. The CDEDU took note of the proposals made by several countries and organisations with regard to national activity plans and the provision of voluntary contributions to finance some of the activities foreseen for 2025. The CDEDU called on all member States to be involved in the activities of the Year and to strongly support the campaign including by providing voluntary contributions. The Secretariat asked the CDEDU members to submit their activities action plans by the end of the year 2024.
11. The CDEDU welcomed the programme and took note of the progress in preparation of the forthcoming 2nd Working Conference on Regulating the use of AI systems in education as a further contribution towards a sectoral response to the future implementation of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, as requested by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education (2023).
12. The CDEDU took note of the report of the regional consultation in preparation of the UN Global Education Meeting (GEM)2024 and thanked France, Latvia, Romania, Portugal, the European Commission and the Secretariat for the preparation of the regional consultations and welcomed the fact that they were taken largely into account in the zero draft of the Fortaleza Declaration. The CDEDU underlined the importance and challenges for Europe to have a substantial impact on global decision-making on education. Given the fact that the latter happens simultaneously in a variety of UNESCO and larger UN gremia, CDEDU further expressed the expectation that the standing agenda item “Cooperation with UNESCO and SDG 4” would involve UNESCO in the discussion and would pay attention to the wider upcoming global education agenda than the follow-up of SDG 4 only.
13. The CDEDU took note of the progress made in the work related to history education and contributed to the reflection, particularly regarding the work of the GT-HIST in drafting a new recommendation on the role of history in today's context focusing on actual challenges in particular digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

14. The CDEDU designated Ms Snježana PRIJIĆ SAMARŽIJA (Croatia) as the Gender Equality Rapporteur (October 2024-March 2026).

15. The CDEDU took note of the proposal of some delegations to discuss the modalities of the organisation of the Plenary session in the Bureau.

Resource implications

16. The CDEDU took note of the need for further budget allocations to support the Digital Citizenship Education Year 2025 initiatives and the establishment of the Centre on Preventing and Countering Education Fraud

The financing of the other activities described in this report is assured.

Other observations

17. The CDEDU decided to hold its next plenary meeting from 17 to 19 March 2025 in Strasbourg.

APPENDIX 1 –AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
- 1.1. Adoption of the draft annotated agenda
2. Political context – update on events since the previous Plenary session
3. Renewal of the Civic Mission of Education
- 3.1. European Space for Citizenship Education
4. Higher Education
- 4.1. Academic freedom in Action
5. Higher Education
- 5.1. Automatic recognition
- 5.2. Education Fraud, FraudS and Open School Data projects
- 5.3. Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)XX on Valuing the Qualifications, Skills and Competences of Refugees in Europe
6. Language policy
- 6.1. Language policy programme 2024-2025 (Towards a European Language Policy Profile/Toolbox for policymakers) following the first meeting of the Language Policy Advisory Group in April 2024
7. Digital Transformation in education
- 7.1. Digital Citizenship Education (DCE)
 - a) 2025 European Year of Digital Citizenship Education
 - b) Review of the implementation of the DCE-Preliminary findings
- 7.2. Artificial Intelligence and Education
- 7.3. Knowledge Hub
8. SDG4 and cooperation with Unesco: preparation of the Global Education Meeting (GEM), Fortaleza, 31 October-1st November 2024
9. 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention
10. Nomination of a Gender Equality Rapporteur
11. Any other business
12. Adoption of decisions
13. Date and place of the next CDEDU plenary Session