



# ACTION PLAN 2018–2020

OVERVIEW of ACHIEVEMENTS

# INTRODUCTION

This overview, which is not an activity report, offers a significant but not exhaustive presentation of the activities carried out by the Conference of INGOs, in line with its Action Plan during 2018/2020 period.

The elements presented here provide an overall view and enable everyone to identify specific aspects that can be deepen by detailed information published in the various sections of the Conference of INGOs website.

The elements produced are based on the feedback and proposals made by

The President and Vice Presidents of the Conference of INGOs  
The Vice President in charge of gender equality,  
The Chair of the Expert Council on NGO Law,  
The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 3 thematic committees,  
Coordinators of Working groups,  
Coordinators of the 3 integrated approaches

Wherever possible, reference is made to the INGO entity concerned by the activity mentioned.

# 16 RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS



## 2018

CONF/PLE(2018)REC1: Recommendation relating to the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights

·CONF/PLE(2018)RES1: Resolution relating to the use of the term “Droits humains” (Human Rights) instead of “Droits de l’Homme” within the Conference of INGOs

·CONF/PLE(2018)REC2: Recommendation to the Committee of Ministers on the suspension of the activities of the ad hoc Committee of experts on the Rights of persons with disabilities (CAHPH)

·CONF/PLE(2018)REC3: Recommendation 'climate change and human rights' for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) to be held in Katowice, Poland, from 3 to 14 December 2018

## 2019

·CONF/PLE(2019)RES1: Resolution on the future of the Council of Europe: Civil Society’s commitment

·CONF/PLE(2019)REC1: Recommendation on the right to decent housing for all

·CONF/PLE(2019)REC2: Recommendation on poverty and precarity amongst students in Europe

·CONF/PLE(2019)REC3: Recommendation on equality between women and men

CONF/PLE(2019)REC4: Recommendation on climate change, migration and Human Rights

## 2020

·CONF/PLE(2020)REC1: Recommendation and contribution of the Conference of INGOs to the statutory revision process of the Pompidou Group adopted on 15 October 2020

·CONF/PLE(2020)REC2: Recommendation in support of the Istanbul Convention adopted on 15 October 2020

·CONF/PLE(2020)RES1: Resolution on access to digital technology in Europe and the responsibility of member States adopted on 16 October 2020

CONF/PLE(2020)DEC1: Declaration on the place and role of civil society in safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law adopted on 16 December

CONF/PLE(2020)RES2: Resolution on the Cultural and creative sectors undermined by COVID-19 adopted on 16 December 2020

CONF/PLE(2020)REC3: Recommendation on the COVID-19 pandemic: call for ethical and human rights' compliant management adopted on 16 December 2020

## REVISIONS/REFORME

Code of conduct of the INGOs Conference - 2019

Rule of procedure Conference INGOs - 2020

Revised Code of good practice for civil participation 2019

CONF/PLE(2018)EXP1: Updated Mandate for Expert Council on NGO law - 2018

# Statements, Contribution to High Level Conferences and Cooperation

## President's /SC statement on worrying developments :

**Statement by Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs:** Human rights leaders at risk and shrinking civic space for NGOs in Turkey

Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention - an unacceptable regression of women's rights in Europe

Statement of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs on the reproductive rights of women in Poland

Acts of hatred have no place in a democratic society

On freedom of association in Greece

Belarusian presidential elections: There is no peaceful future without truth, trust and reconciliation

Proposed amendments to the law on non-profit legal entities in Bulgaria are worrying

Call on the Moldovan Parliament to adopt the draft law No. 109 on non-commercial organisations

Call on the Hungarian Parliament to align the legal recognition of gender with internationally recognised human rights standards

Concerns about the legal proceedings for the de-registration of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

Hungary: Conference of INGOs concerned about the draft 'Stop Soros' laws

Romania: Law on the prevention of money laundering or terrorist financing

## Contributions to high-level conferences of the Council of Europe or partner organisations

"Human Rights in the Age of Artificial Intelligence...". Conference organised in the framework of the German Presidency of the CoE MC

What are the challenges and innovative experiences to ensure genuine civil participation in decision-making? Conference organised by the Georgian Presidency of the CoE MC

Environmental Protection and Human Rights: Conference organised by the Georgian Presidency of the CoE MC

Further reform of the European Convention on Human Rights system, Conference organised by the Danish Presidency of the CoE MC

Fundamental Rights Forum, organised by the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Organisation of a workshop in cooperation with the Open Government Partnership. Forum

international de la société civile, Bucarest, avec participation du Président de la Roumanie et le Président du Comité économique et social européen

## Co-organisation with DG2, Poland and Finland

The Warsaw Conference on the role and position of NGOs in the Council of Europe

## Concrete and significant strengthening of cooperation with the North South Centre



United Kingdom

10 NGOs Charity Commission, UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Office of Civil Society, Labour Shadow Minister for Civil Society, Department for International Development

## STATES MEMBERS VISITS

President of the Conference with delegations

5

Country and  
Reports



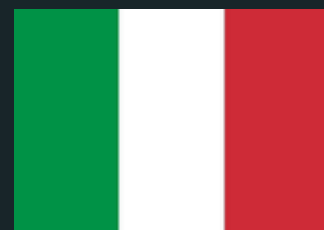
Romania

30 NGO's Presidential Advisor, Chair of the Committee of Legal Affaires Parliament, State Secretary , Ministry for the Cooperation with the Parliament, Directorate for Open Governance and Civil Society Relations.



North Macedonia

50 NGOs DEU representative, Minister of information society and administration, Deputy Minister of Justice, PACE Delegation of North Macedonia



Italy

30 NGO's Chamber of Deputies, Department of Equal Opportunities (Presidency of the Council of Ministers); National Office against Racial Discrimination, Department of Public Administration, National Authority for Persons deprived of Liberty, President of the Human Rights with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies Ministry of the Interior, President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

170

NGOs

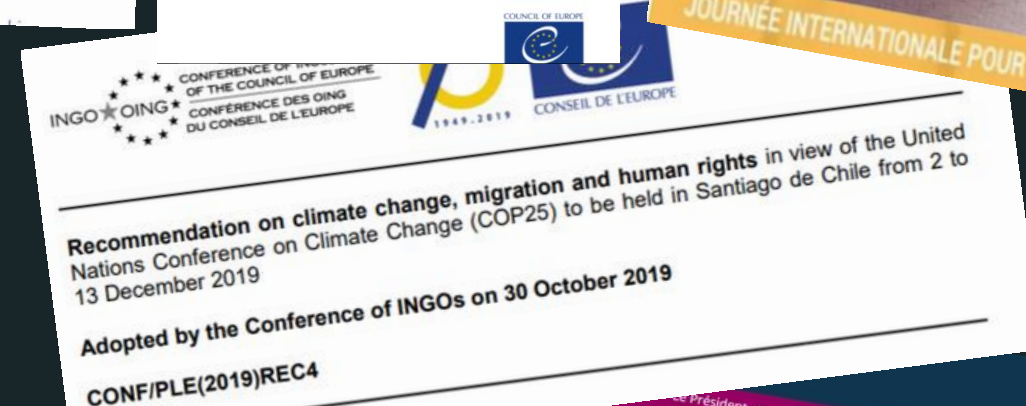


Armenia

50 NGOs Armenian delegation to PACE, Department of the Office of the Prime Minister, Department for Reception of Citizens and Discussion of Petitions of the Office of the Prime Minister, Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

# REALISATIONS

3 World NGO Days  
3 World Anti-Poverty Days  
Warsaw Conference "Role and position of  
NGOs/CoE  
All activities gender equality, youth and migration



**Side events:** Freedom of expression, human rights violations in Turkey; LGBT rights and freedom of religion; case of Mr Huseynov; women journalists and human rights defenders; Duty or crime of solidarity, the action of NGOs in the system of assistance and aid to migrants and refugees"

**Contributions :** World Democracy Forum 2019 lab 2  
Disinformation and fake news. High Level Expert Conference  
Round table "Human rights defenders in the CoE"

## COVID 19 pandemic & Environment

CONF/PLE(2020)REC3: Recommendation  
"Pandemic of COVID 19: Call for ethical and  
human rights-based management

AVRIL 2021



CDCSEM - CS&T Group

CONF/PLE(2018)REC3: Recommendation on 'Climate Change and Human Rights' for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP24) Katowice, Poland, 3-14 December 2018

CONF/PLE(2019)REC4: Recommendation on climate change, migration and human rights

(COP 25 Santiago de Chile, 2-13 December 2019)

CM/Rec(2019)7 Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the implementation of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention

- The integration of landscape into policies for rural areas in transition from agriculture and forestry to energy and demography

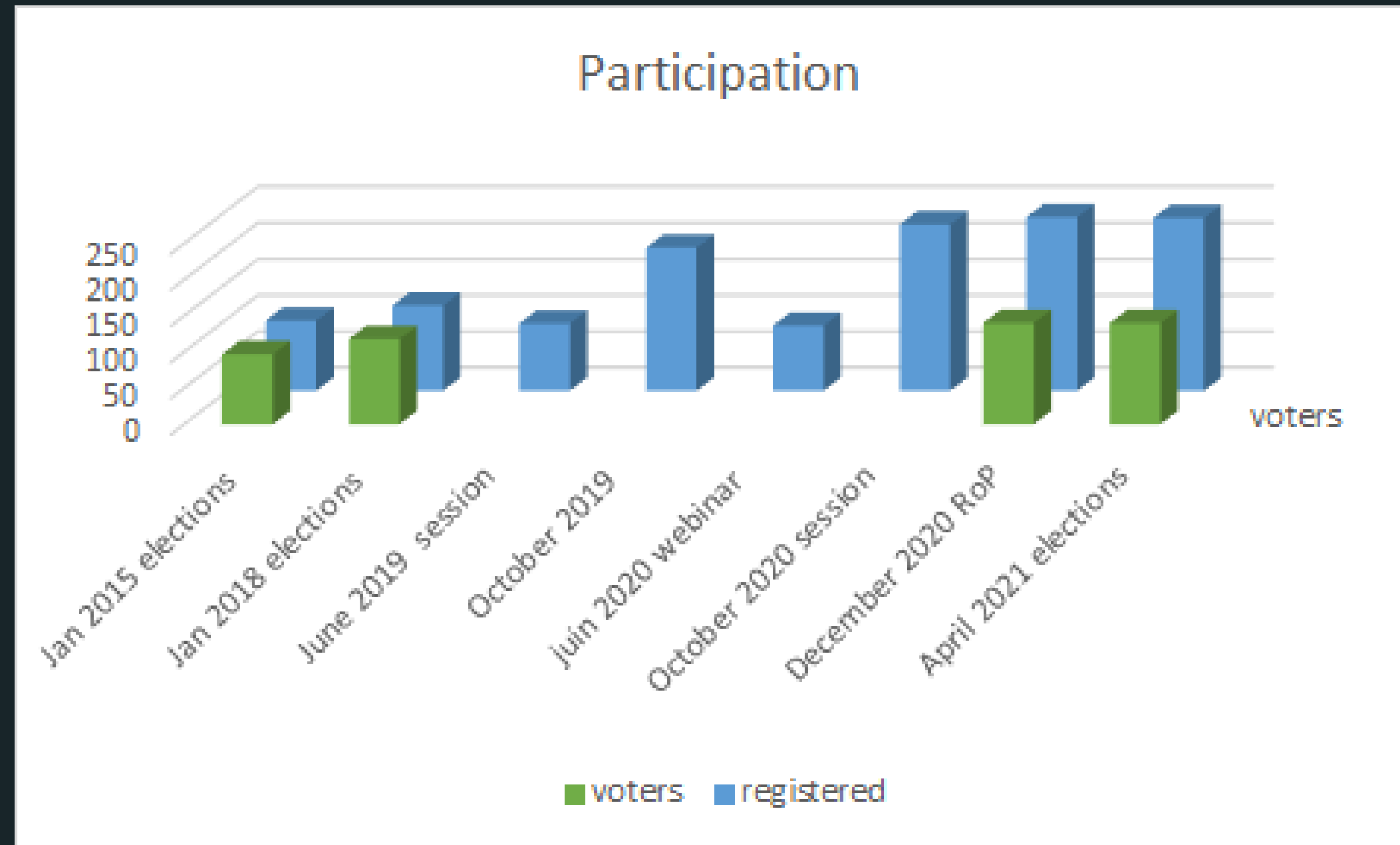
Contribution of the President for the High-level conference  
Environmental Protection and Human Rights

STATEMENT BY THE MIGRATION TASK FORCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
What are the prospects for refugees and migrants locked in camps  
in the deconfinement period?

# Evolution of participation

## A FEW EXAMPLES IN FIGURES

The introduction of new forms of online session has led to an increase the participation of INGOs members, in the full sessions, in addition of head of delegations. Online meetings make our activities accessible to all members and beyond.



327

CINGO members

163

Average attendance  
at sessions

# Goals and Priorities of the Action Plan

30

Areas of action

1

To protect and reinforce freedom of association and associated rights<sup>1</sup> and to contribute to the democratic security in Council of Europe member states

2

To observe and reinforce civil participation in the decision-making within the Council of Europe and in its member states

3

To contribute to building an inclusive society and protect access to education and to social, cultural and economic rights by vulnerable groups

4

Contribute to the blossoming of a modern European Cultural Identity

5

Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.

Gender equality is central to fulfilling the Council of Europe's mission,  
It is a priority for the Conference of INGOs

# INTEGRETED APPROACHES

Three topics have been structured to

## Women and men equality

To reinforce women and men equality mainstreaming in the work of the Conference of INGO with respect and implementation of the Strategy of Equality 2018-2023 of the CoE

## Youth

To integrate the youth perspective and reinforce youth participation in the work of the Conference of INGOs

## Migration

To integrate the migration and post-migration perspective (of the migrants and NGOs' which support them) in the work of the Conference of INGOs

# REALISATIONS

## VP Equality Men/Women

&

## Integrated approach

To reinforce W/M equality mainstreaming in the work of the Conference of INGO with respect and implementation of the CoE Equality Strategy 2018-2023

## ACTION PLAN



Task Force on W/M Equality: collect of information and analyze, participation of the representative of the task force in the working groups of the thematic Committees

Training of rapporteurs on W/M equality: participation of rapporteurs in thematic committee working groups.

## ACTIVITIES

An W/M equality rapporteur appointed for each working group based on her experience in gender equality issues complementing her specific expertise in the working group. Organisation of side events, Participation in the work of the Committee of Parties to the Istanbul Convention, the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Commission, the CCDH, the ACPE's Equality and Non-Discrimination Commission

1 training course given by Cécile Gréboval at the initiative of the VP for women and men Equality

- VP Equality W/M :
- Contribution to the World Democracy Forum 2018 and Conferences in Europe on equality
- Resolution "Human Rights" instead of "Human Rights" at the Conference of INGOs 2018
- Recommendation on equality between women and men 2019
- Recommendation to support the Istanbul Convention 2020
- Participation in the drafting of 5 texts voted by the Committee of Ministers, a Guide to Good Practice, the Strategy on Equality 2018-2023, the Recommendation on the place of women in the audiovisual sector with Eurimages, the Recommendation on sexism, the Recommendation on migrant women (ongoing).

# REALISATIONS

## Youth

### Intagrated approach

Take into account youth perspective in the work of the Conference of INGOs



Develop an integrated youth approach, specific to the INGO Conference, facilitating the participation of young people alongside the youngest, encouraging an intergenerational, more inclusive and representative dialogue and becoming a platform for debate and support known and recognised by young people in all Member States

## ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES

Around twenty actions on the themes of :

- Youth and mobilisation of member organisations
- Youth participation
- Youth civil society
- Youth mobility
- Include the youth perspective in the texts and work produced by COING

Collaborations : Youth Department; CDEJ; Advisory Council on Youth **30 representatives of youth organisations**;

Contributions "Draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the protection of civil society and youth".

North-South Centre and COING members involved in the Youth Delegate Programme,

- publications/conclusions of the Expert Council on NGO Law, guidelines for civil society participation and mentioning the
- Dialogue Toolkit

## "Youth Delegates Program" of the Conference of INGOs

# REALISATIONS

## Migration

## Intagrated approach

To integrate the migration and post-migration perspective (of the migrants and NGOs' which support them) in the work of the Conference of INGOs



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Task force group on migration :  
Collect of informations and  
analyse

## ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES

### 6 actions carried out

Side Event - Press releases - Webinar - Interventions during the GA of the INGOs

Links with the Education and Human Rights Commission and the Social and Territorial Cohesion Working Group of the Com DCSEM. Need for strong links with the SC.

**Participation** in INGOs Plenary Assemblies - Links and actions with PACE (Migration Commission), CPT, CDDH, SRSG for Migration, ... links with National NGOs

### **Impact**

Good visibility and effectiveness with other actors. Awareness among ALL INGOs of the Conference has not decreased.

**Highlighting of the situation of vulnerable persons, feeling that monitoring should be reinforced.**

## Other Actions

### CDH

Round table: Internet hate speech and migrants

### CDCSEM - Social and Territorial Cohesion Group

**Recommendation** on climate change, migration and human rights

**"Debate:** Migration and global challenges: the causes, impact and dramatic prospects of ecological migration"

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 1

To protect and reinforce freedom of association and associated rights<sup>1</sup> and to contribute to the democratic security in Council of Europe member states

## ACTION PLAN



Ratio of opinions published concerning current legislative framework regarding freedom of association



Country visits of the Conference with delegations



Strengthening Freedom of Association in Council of Europe Member States



To implement an instrument that enables the assessment of the outputs of freedom of association at national level in the Members states

## ACTIVITIES

6 opinions published: Access to information, criminalisation, development of standards, foreign agents, funding of NGOs, support for migration, reporting obligations, evolution of case law, civil participation

5 visits : UK; Romania; North-Macedonia; Italy; Armenia

3 World NGO Days and a WEB conference - COVID 19  
Warsaw Conference "Role and position of NGOs/CoEs + youth activities  
Numerous supports to NGOs, activists and rights defenders in situations of impediment or oppression

Project on "freedom of association" to monitor restrictions on NGOs in Council of Europe member states could not be implemented, despite explicit support expressed through Recommendation 21343 and Resolution 22264 adopted by PACE in 2018

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 2

To observe and reinforce civil participation in the decision-making within the Council of Europe and in its member states

## ACTION PLAN



To review, update the Code of good practice for civil participation in decision-making ...



to raise awareness around the instrument “monitoring by third parties (NGOs



To contribute to the implementation of the guidelines on civil participation in decision-making



To inform and influence decisions and policies at the Council of Europe level for the respect, protection, support and promotion of freedom of expression and media development in the Council of Europe member states...

## ACTIVITIES

Revised Code of good practice adopted by the Conference and published on 30 October 2019,  
Adoption of the revised Code by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE

CDH- Due to the pandemic situation the development work scheduled for a face-to-face session could not be conducted

Joint CINGOs and Congress working group on the elaboration of a toolkit on good practices in the field of civil participation (translation of the lines into different languages), joint CINGO and State representatives working group within the CDDG

CDH-

- Freedom of expression, human rights violations in Turkey; LGBT rights and freedom of religion; release of Mr Huseynov; women journalists and human rights defenders;
- Contributions : World Democracy Forum 2019 lab 2 Disinformation and fake news.
- Roundtable "Human Rights Defenders in the CoE

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 2

To observe and reinforce civil participation in the decision-making within the Council of Europe and in its member states

Civil society engagement in the fight against climate change, and the respect for human rights

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## ACTION PLAN



To reinforce the role of civil society in the fight against corruption



To provide non-official translations of the guidelines on civil participation in decision-making



Implementation of CDPPE and CDCPP recommendations, enriched with INGOs current practices, regarding the national minorities, vulnerable groups, participation in public and cultural life



to promote awareness of European citizenship and democratic engagement. Reflect on how and why digital tools contribute

## ACTIVITIES

Adoption of the Code of Conduct by the Conference

2 translations done in Polish et and Turkish

CDCSEM-GT Social and territorial cohesion: Civil society engagement in the fight against climate change and the respect of human rights

Contribution to the report on "Landscapes of rural territories in the fields of energy, agriculture and demographic transition Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)7 with a view to the implementation of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention - The integration of landscape in policies for rural territories in transition from agriculture and forestry to energy and demography

Contribution to the CAHAI feasibility study

Participation in the panel of the High-Level Conference on AI 26/27 February 2019, Helsinki, Finland - "Mastering the rules of the game - the impacts of artificial intelligence development on human rights, democracy and the rule of law"

## REALISATIONS – OBJ 3

To contribute to building an inclusive society and protect access to education and to social, cultural and economic rights by vulnerable groups

## ACTION PLAN



Promote the cultural diversity program of the Council of Europe, with INGOs' insights.



To promote and develop access to education and training for all



follow-up on the campaigns designed by the CDPPE related to minorities and vulnerable group.



contribute to the monitoring process of the European Social Charter. Advocate to assure that adequate education is provided to all throughout life.  
Give a voice to those who do not have the opportunities to express themselves with dignity, transmit their practical knowledge and experience of poverty and exclusion.

## ACTIVITIES

CEC - Active contribution to the launch of the Observatory on History Teaching, integrating the history of minorities and cultural diversity in Europe

CEC-7 seminars done

CEC- ROM and Travellers situation

Follow-up and regular dissemination of information from ADI-ROM and CDPPE.

-Seminar on hate speech

Advocacy drafted by a Roma INGO

Moderation of a debate on minority advocacy and writing of an article

4 recommendations adopted by the Conference

Annual actions in the framework of the International Day against Poverty on 17 September

Participation in the CoE - Social Cohesion Platform, contribution to the good practice guide

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 4

Contribute to the blossoming of a modern European Cultural Identity

## ACTION PLAN



Collect INGOs current practices regarding Competence for Democratic Culture and ensure the transmission of the information from the CoE to INGOs and other partners



To promote harmonious living at all levels (cities < Europe) through education and culture...



Write a multifaceted modern definition of a holistic European cultural identity white paper.



Highlight the benefits of European heritage (material & immaterial) to promote European values + follow-up on the decisions of the CDCPP.

## ACTIVITIES

CEC-A report on the endangerment of democracy and a review of good practice in education during the COvid 19 pandemic were sent to the CDPPE

CEC- 9 seminars with multi level actors involved

CEC- Consultation and launch of the drafting process, involving several CoE, UNESCO and Francophonie departments.

100 pages currently drafted, 2 framework texts, elements presented in the 2019 reports and 20 publication planned for the end of 2021

CEC- 7 seminars, 20 meetings (CoE, NGOs, other institutions) 1 educational program, 1 seminar (Dir dep Culture CoE)

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 5

Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.

## ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES



Development and implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Conference of INGOs

Code of conduct adopted on Avril 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, creation of the Appellate Committee by the new Rules of Procedure (dec 2020)



To reinforce the working relation with CoE organs, institution and other external institutions and external experts.

Annual exchanges between the President and the Ministers' Deputies, and bi-annual exchanges with the Gr-DEM, Exchange of views between the President and the PACE, Strengthening relations with the Congress through work on the Code of Good Practice



To adopt and implement a communication strategy

The COVID 19 pandemic situation mobilised the SC in the implementation of remote working means and methods.



To review the Rules of Procedure and propose other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs

Rule of Procedure adopted December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020



To conduct an external evaluation of the functioning and work of the Conference of INGOs

Progress of the evaluation to be presented during the April 2021 session

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 5

Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.



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To reinforce the working relation with CoE organs, institution and other external institutions and external experts.

Contribution of the Conference of INGOs to steering committees, committees of the parties PACE commissions

## ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES

Our recent online survey : 16/35 responses were received from our representatives on intergovernmental steering committees and other bodies.

In short, it shows that :

- 1- While there are examples of important contributions to the decisions of the Steering Committees, the reality of these contributions to standard setting is considered limited
- 2- Concerning the tasks entrusted to the representatives of the INGOs, almost half of the answers are "no" or "not yet";
- 3- Obstacles are identified which limit the contribution of INGOs to the work of the Steering Committees, a quarter of the replies state that they have not encountered any obstacle.
- 4- The inability to influence the agenda of the Steering Committees is assessed at 81%.

In summary, there is space for improvement.

# REALISATIONS – OBJ 5

Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.



To reinforce the working relation with CoE organs, institution and other external institutions and external experts.

Contribution of the Conference of INGOs to steering committees, party committees, PACE commissions

## ACTION PLAN

## ACTIVITIES

Some examples of contributions to the decisions of the steering committees:

CDDH report on the protection of social rights in Europe, recommendation on the Ombudsman, freedom of expression in culturally diverse societies, detention of migrants.

CDDG, the Guidelines on Accountability were completely rewritten

Participation in writing texts in small groups, Strategy for Equality, Recommendation to prevent and combat sexism, ongoing recommendation on migrant women.

Drafting of the Council of Europe's three-year strategy for youth and drafting group for the "Recommendation of the Council of Ministers on the protection of civil society and young people and support for their participation in democratic processes".

Within the CDCJ, discussions on the drafting of texts to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers. Every request to make a comment or propose a modification was accepted.

Participation in a small group in the drafting of a Good Practice Guide on FGM and Forced Marriage for States.



# POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD

Thank you all for this great commitment  
and to our President Anna RURKA

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## AXE 1

Maintain a pro-active  
dynamic within the  
renewed framework of the  
rules and functioning of  
the Conference

## AXE 3

Representation of INGOs in inter-  
governmental steering committees

## AXE 2

Strengthen the participatory and  
collaborative process identified.  
Consolidate and unify  
collaborative, debate and decision-  
making tools.  
Articulate numeric and face-to-face  
work.

## AXE 4

Strengthen the collective  
character of contributions to  
Steering Committees and other  
intergovernmental committees,  
contribute to PACE reports under  
preparation