

EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Draft roadmap 2018-2020

To face the rise of populism, fueled by the quest for identity, massive urbanisation, digitisation in daily life and the fact that the economy shapes politics, the Education and Culture Committee appoints four working groups in order to raise awareness of the issues and make proposals for actions.

The Education and Culture Committee has opted to focus on four topics, a combination of current educational, cultural, religious, artistic, societal and civilizational issues. The four working groups are part of an overarching project aiming at building, enhancing and strengthening the European cultural identity.

The Education and Culture Committee is considered as an expert group and its work influences national and European policies. Thanks to the strength of its position, the Education and Culture Committee seek to implement Council of Europe values into practice through INGOs and refer the best practices of INGOs to the Council of Europe.

This presentation text is a framework text, which can be assimilated to a body of research. It aims to define the avenues for reflection to be discussed during the first year within the Education and Culture Committee. Given that “choosing means eliminating”, this text establishes the topics that will be discussed at the Committee. It will be potentially possible to further these reflections after the first year, while respecting the framework described below as much as possible. The Education and Culture Committee indeed aims to serve as the mouthpiece of the INGOs of the Conference.

FIRST WORKING GROUP: INTERCULTURAL CITIES

This working group will reflect on the factors of proper integration in all our cities: how can we live together harmoniously? This question will guide us to reflect on the civilisational, societal, environmental and cultural aspects inherent to the integration of groups from various backgrounds, but also to reflect on town planning, as well as on public policies and private initiatives in terms of education. The place occupied by pedagogy linked to national and supranational memory for various populations. The Intercultural Cities network of the Council of Europe will be associated to these reflections in order to gather good practices and identify obstacles to proper cultural integration in all of our cities, particularly in terms of immigrants.

SECOND WORKING GROUP: THE RIGHT TO LIFELONG LEARNING

Article 10 of the European Social Charter “The right to vocational training”, article 9 “The right to vocational guidance” and article 15 “The right of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in the life of the community” will be the basis of the reflections of this working group. Education is a fundamental right: learning to read, to write, training to have one - and more - professional or activist activities in order to be part and parcel of society. This group will reflect on the right to lifelong learning as an adult, on the involvement of economic and social organisations in adult training, as well as the close-knit links between dignity, citizenship and employment. Indeed, an inclusive society is built through a learning society.

THIRD WORKING GROUP: THE EUROPE OF HERITAGE AND CREATION – CULTURAL ROUTES

Europe, beyond territorial apposition, was built through intellectual, economic, scientific, philosophical and artistic migrations. By relying on the research of Cultural Itineraries, this working group will look at the influence of land and virtual routes in Europe, in history and in our contemporary society. How do movements by artists and creators from one country to another contribute to “encountering others”, sharing ideas (and ideals) and to developing a creative European scene? How does the diversity in heritage contribute to forming a European identity?

FOURTH WORKING GROUP: DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

The development of digital tools is a great driver in terms of sharing knowledge and educational tools, thus serving to promote awareness of European citizenship. This development can also lead to and/or heighten certain social and geographical divides, which are counter-productive in terms of embracing European citizenship. To this effect, in extension of the reflections of the working group of the previous term and the last conference on “Learning to Live Together: a Shared Commitment to Democracy”, this second working group will reflect on how and why digital tools contribute, or do not contribute, to disseminating human rights and to building European citizenship, with the aim of living together harmoniously; how to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised population groups have access to education and European citizenship.

METHODOLOGY

Statement of intent:

Committee members Claude Vivier Le Got, Karl Donert and Julianne Lagadec drafted these guidance texts on the four working groups that the Committee wishes to establish. They would like this roadmap to define the body of work. This text does not bar the participants from adding any new ideas they may have. However, in order to deliver a summary note and a precise annual report regarding observations and/or recommendations, the Chair and the Vice-Chairs would like this body of work to be adhered to closely.

Main methodological angles:

The four working groups will be required to draft annual reports, which will be forwarded for validation before drafting a final summary.

Every year, the supervision and the proper monitoring of the working groups will change in order to allow the members of the Committee to contribute and provide a new perspective, as rapporteur, coordinator or chair of a working group.

First meeting of the Education and Culture Committee:

The first meeting of the Committee will serve to define the main work phases and the precise topics selected for 2018.

Year 2018:

Definition of the first research topics based on the Committee's roadmap.
Each working group drafts an annual report.

Year 2019:

Definition of new research topics based on the conclusions of year 2018.
Each working group drafts an annual report.

Year 2020:

Definition of the last research topics based on the conclusions of year 2019.
Each working group drafts a final annual report.
Each working group drafts a final summary.