

Learning for Equality, Dignity, Democracy



Forum on the present and future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe

Turin, Italy, 11-13 April 2022

**CALL FOR
PARTICIPANTS**
Deadline: 9 February 2022



Dipartimento per le Politiche Giovanili
e il Servizio Civile Universale



Presidency of Italy
Council of Europe
November 2021 - May 2022
Présidence de l'Italie
Conseil de l'Europe
Novembre 2021 - Mai 2022



The state of education for democratic citizenship and human rights

Education plays a key role in the promotion of the core values of the Council of Europe: democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as in the prevention of human rights violations. The Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2010, stresses the complementary role of the formal and non-formal education actors in promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (EDC/HRE). The Charter asks member states frame their policies, legislation and practice with the aim to *provide every person within their territory with the opportunity of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education*.

The Council of Europe has conducted reviews of the implementation of charter in member states in order to support its implementation, encourage evaluation of national strategies and policies in member states as well as supporting cooperation among national stakeholders, from both governmental and non-governmental sectors. The reviews allow also for an updating of the trends, challenges and innovations in policy and practice of human rights education.

The purpose and principles of the Charter have lately been translated into the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC), an important tool that was designed to help the educational institutions in implementation of the Charter. The RFCDC provides a systematic approach to designing the teaching, learning and assessment of competences for democratic culture, and introducing them into education systems in ways that are coherent, comprehensive and transparent.

The Council of Europe youth sector has remained committed to provide the platform for youth organisations and networks to develop EDC/HRE with young people, mainly through its Human Rights Education Youth Programme. The programme has focused on key resources for capacity-building and advocacy, chiefly Compass and Compasito, manuals on human rights education with young people and with children, respectively. They are complemented by a programme of Compass national training courses, study sessions and related activities at the European Youth Centres. The recently adopted [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) confirmed the central role of human rights education as a part of the priority of supporting young people's access to rights, namely by

increasing capacity building and resources for youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders to provide human rights education and advocate access to rights.

The last [review of the Charter](#) was conducted in 2017. The review concluded that many national governments and youth organisations are committed to develop and strengthen EDC/HRE but at the same time many fell short in fulfilling their commitments. Since the last review many challenges were deepened and some new emerged, such as: weakening democratic processes in many countries in Europe, raise of ultra-nationalistic organisations, challenges related to the use of artificial intelligence and digitalisation, and those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and all restrictions related to it. This has had an impact on the realisation of human rights: the space is shrinking for many youth organisations and other NGOs, inequalities are increasing especially when it comes to access to human rights for young people, many youth organisations had to close or to limit their scope of operation.

These challenges are also highlighted in the 2021 report of the Secretary General on the state of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, *A democratic renewal for Europe*, in which she notes that:

- steps are required to ensure that a culture of democracy is open to all and that innovations, notably artificial intelligence, provide widespread benefits, while upholding our common values;
- there must be access to education for democracy; citizens – and young people in particular – should be able to acquire competences for democratic culture;
- public provision of youth spaces, programmes and services is decreasing in some member states; half of youth civil society organisations fear retribution when they exercise freedom of expression and many young people show a high degree of political interest but a low degree of engagement with essential democratic processes, including voting in elections (...).

Five years after, it is crucial to take stock of what EDC/HRE looks like now in Europe in order to be able to respond to the existing and emerging challenges and reflect on the role youth organisations and networks need to play in this respect. But looking at the youth sector is obviously not enough; it must also consider the role of the formal education sector, which plays an important role in developing and delivering EDC / HRE programmes, in which many youth organisations are also involved in.

The Council of Europe has thus initiated the 3rd review cycle of the Charter. This process will be concluded in March 2022. Its findings and conclusions will be presented and discussed at the Forum by a large number of stakeholders and partners from a variety of sectors and from all member states. The review should further strengthen the Charter implementation, support the development of strategic goals for the next five years and facilitate the development of national indicators/benchmarks/priorities that can allow assessing progress achieved and guiding further action at national and international level. The review process will be carried with support and under the supervision of the Monitoring Group set up by the Joint Council on Youth and will connect with the preparation of the forum in Turin.

A Forum to share, create and advocate

The findings and conclusions of the review of the Charter must be shared and discussed with all stakeholders. Progress on EDC/HRE is more effective when many stakeholders are involved in its conceptualisation, development and implementation; when they coordinate, cooperate and share experience. Moreover, the conclusions and recommendations need to be articulated into renewed priorities and commitments for the upcoming years. The 2022 Forum on EDC/HRE is thus organised to bring together and review these experiences and their implication for the understanding and EDC / HRE practice through youth work, non-formal and formal learning.

This forum is co-organised by the Council of Europe (Education and the Youth sectors) and the Department for Youth Policy and the Universal Civic Service of the Italian government, in cooperation with Amnesty International (European Office and Italian section), the City of Turin, the National Youth Council of Italy and the European Youth Forum. The activity is organised within the Italian Presidency of the Council of Europe, which made youth policy one of its strategic priorities. It will be held in Turin and will link to local EDC/HRE reality, in which the Centre "Open 011" hosts the Joint Human Rights Education Programme (JHREP),

promoted by Amnesty International Italy, the NGO CIFA and the Human Rights Education Youth Network (HREYN).

The forum is organised by a Preparatory Group set up by the Joint Council on Youth. The Group brings together representatives of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the European Steering Committee for Youth, in addition to the partners above-mentioned.

Aims and objectives

The Forum aims at strengthening the quality, recognition, and outreach of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people

Objectives

- To review the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE;
- To identify and address successes and challenges in carrying out EDC/HRE in a (post) pandemic context for human rights education and linking specifically with some of the thematic priorities of Italian Presidency in the Council of Europe:
 - Gender equality and combating violence against women
 - Children's rights and youth policies
 - Protection of cultural heritage
 - Artificial intelligence and human rights/democracy/rule of law;
- To make proposals for the further development and sustainability of EDC/HRE in the state's parties to the European Cultural Convention;
- To share practices and support exchange and cooperation between different stakeholders from formal and non-formal education fields concerned with EDC/HRE in the thematic priorities;
- To enhance the recognition of the role of youth civil society and further develop cross sectoral cooperation for EDC/HRE, including youth work;
- To strengthen cross sectoral dialogue and partnerships between different stakeholders in EDC/HRE: educators, trainers, authorities and policy makers, intergovernmental organisations and others;
- To contribute to the strategic priorities and programme of the Italian Presidency in the Council of Europe, and to the work on HRE in Italy and particularly in the city of Turin.

Expected results / outcomes

The forum is expected to lead to the following results / outcomes:

- A message for the EDC/HRE agenda in Europe for the next 5 years
- A collection of successful practices and projects in EDC / HRE with young people
- Guidelines for future developments and initiatives in the field of Human Rights Education with young people addressed to the Council of Europe, national authorities and non-governmental organisations, formal education sector and human rights educators focusing on making the provisions of Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education a reality in Europe.
- An analysis of what has been done following the previous review, identifying the gaps
- Discussion of a regular or permanent monitoring and support mechanism for the EDC/HRE Charter

- A report and available documentation on the website of the Forum.

Programme and methodology

The Forum will take place over three working days bringing together stakeholders in education for democratic citizenship and human rights education from all over Europe and beyond. The Forum is conceived as a hybrid event based on the approaches and practices of non-formal learning. The programme and methodology will feature expert input, working groups, informal and creative moments, visit to the local youth centre and meeting local youth NGOs. The programme is prepared by a team composed of representatives of the Advisory Council on Youth, the European Steering Committee on Youth, the representatives of the Italian government and Turin Municipality, the European Youth Forum and other youth networks and organisations active in the field of EDC / HRE with young people, trainers and members of the Secretariat. A draft programme of the forum is enclosed.

Profile of participants and how to apply

The forum will bring together up to 300 participants:

- experts and partners involved in EDC/HRE with children and young people, including youth organisations and networks, human rights organisations and institutions, national/regional education authorities and institutions
- representatives from Italian youth, human rights and education organisations
- practitioners and multipliers from the formal and non-formal education sectors.

The composition of the group, and the final programme of the forum, will reflect a specific focus and attention given to the practice of EDC/HRE in Italy.

All participants are expected to:

- be motivated to contribute to the review of the implementation of the Charter on EDC/HRE and the development of the guidelines for the future of EDC/HRE
- be supported by a youth informal group or a non-governmental organisation or an institution involved in human rights or EDC / HRE (exceptions are possible);
- be in a position to follow-up the recommendations and conclusions of the Forum at local, national or international level;
- be able to work autonomously in English, French or Italian;
- be able to participate for the entire duration of the Forum (either offline or online)
- have a stable internet connection and access to the computer (for online participants)

In the selection, geographical and gender balance will be taken into account, as well as a diversity of experience and topics covered by the participants.

All interested candidates are required to duly complete the application form available at <https://youthapplications.coe.int> by **9 February 2022**.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Practical information

Timetable

Participants are expected to arrive in Turin on 10 April 2022 and depart on 14 April 2022. The programme will start on 11 April at 9:00 and will finish on 13 April around 19:00.

Venue, board and lodging

The residential Forum will be hosted at the International Labour Organisation's International Training Center in Turin (ITCILO - www.itcilo.org). Participants will be accommodated in the centre. Board and lodging costs will be covered by the organisers.

Working languages

The Forum will be held in English, French and Italian with simultaneous interpretation.

Travel and visas

Travel costs will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Visa costs will also be covered, and visa invitation letters will be issued by the institution upon selection and confirmation of participation.

Further information

For further information, please contact youth.HRE@coe.int

DRAFT Programme of the Forum

All programme items will take place during the residential forum in Torino. Most of the sessions will be livestreamed and some will include participants who will participate online in different programme elements.

10 April

Arrival of participants

19:30 Dinner

21:00 Welcome evening

11 April - LEARN

09:00 Official opening of the Forum

Introduction to the Forum objectives and the programme

10:30 Getting to know each other

11:00 Break

11:30 Human rights and young people today - keynote speech

12:15 The state of EDC / HRE in Europe nowadays - presentation of the review of the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

13:00 Lunch

- 14:30 Mini-conferences: discussing, completing and validating the conclusions from the review
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Working groups: identifying challenges and gaps
 - Possible topics:
 - Shrinking spaces and freedom of association, expression
 - Mental health of young people
 - Gender based violence and gender equality
 - Right to Health
 - Increasing inequalities
 - Impact on asylum seekers
- 18:00 Statements from the working groups
- 19:30 Dinner
- 21:00 Evening activities

12 April - PRACTICE

- 09:00 Opening of the day
- 9:15 Why do we need EDC/HRE? - keynote speech
- 10:00 How is it done and what comes out of EDC/HRE with young people?
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Working groups: sharing practices of EDC/HRE
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Sharing practices in EDC/HRE related youth work practice and networking with the local organisations: session in the Open 011 Youth Centre in Turin
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 Sharing practices and networking in Open 011 Youth Centre - cont.
- 18:00 Conclusions from sharing and networking session
- 19:30 Dinner
- 21:00 Evening programme in the city of Turin

13 April - ENGAGE

- 09:00 Opening of the day
- 09:15 The future of EDC/HRE - roundtable / keynote speech / creative session
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Introduction to the message from the Forum
- 12:00 Working groups: developing guidelines on future work on human rights education
 - for the Council of Europe
 - for national authorities
 - for civil society organisation
 - for formal education sector
 - on cross-sectoral cooperation
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Working groups - cont.

16:00 Presentation of results from the working groups

16:45 Closing session

- Message from the Forum
- Closing remarks

19:30 Dinner

20:30 Farewell party

14 April

Departure of participants