

1566th meeting, 8 July 2026

7 Education and culture

7.1 Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU)

Abridged report of the 9th plenary meeting (Strasbourg, 18-20 March 2026)

Item to be considered by the GR-C at its meeting on 30 June 2026

Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) held its 9th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 18-20 March 2026, with Marie-Anne Persoons (Belgium) in the Chair.

The Chair welcomed the new members of the CDEDU from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Switzerland and Ukraine.

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 MyCloud.

Items for decision of the Committee of Ministers

1. The CDEDU approved the draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2026).. of the Committee of Ministers to member States on History Education in the Digital Age, pending linguistic and legal verification, and mandated the Secretariat to submit it, together with its explanatory memorandum, to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.
2. The CDEDU approved the draft Recommendation CM/Rec(2026).. of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Artificial Intelligence literacy (AI Literacy), pending linguistic and legal verification, and mandated the Secretariat to submit it, together with its explanatory memorandum, to the Committee of Ministers for adoption.

Items for information of the Committee of Ministers

3. The CDEDU held an exchange of views with the President of the GR-C Ambassador Andreu JORDI and took note of the support expressed by the President regarding ongoing work in the education sector and welcomed his continued support in the build-up to the Ministerial Conference.
4. The CDEDU took note of the communication from Villano Qiriaz, Head of the Education Department, on the political context. It reaffirmed the importance of the New Democratic Pact for Europe as a strategic framework for strengthening democracy and citizens' trust, and the role of the education sector within this framework.
5. The CDEDU welcomed the progress of preparations for the 27th Session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education of the Council of Europe (Podgorica, 3-4 December 2026). It approved the conceptual approaches to the three subthemes, took note of the preliminary outline of the outcome document, and mandated the Secretariat to proceed with formal invitations to Ministers responsible for Education and Higher Education.

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

6. The CDEDU took note with appreciation of the key achievements of the Education Department in 2025 and priorities for 2026 under the Education Strategy 2024-2030 “Learners First”, and congratulated the Secretariat on the quality, relevance and impact of the publications produced in 2025.
7. The CDEDU endorsed the revised draft of the European Space for Citizenship Education (ESCE) and instructed the Secretariat to continue developing its three pillars, with the potential consideration of introducing a piloting phase for the quality framework, and to present a final draft to the next CDEDU plenary.
8. The CDEDU took note with appreciation of the progress made on the project on Education for Democratic Citizenship in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), and invited the Secretariat and working group to present a final draft publication at the next plenary session.
9. The CDEDU endorsed the key messages of the draft CM Recommendation on developing a culture of democracy in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and provided feedback to the Secretariat to prepare the first draft for the September 2026 session.
10. The CDEDU took note with appreciation of the information on the implementation of the higher education programme.
11. The CDEDU took note of the decision by the Committee of Ministers for the CDEDU to begin work on drafting a new Council of Europe Convention on the Conditions of Transparency and Quality Assurance for Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Europe. The CDEDU approved the working modalities and endorsed the organisation and timeline for the drafting process.
12. The CDEDU endorsed the concept note on the Council of Europe Student Rights Charter, welcomed the co-creation approach with the European Students Union (ESU), and instructed the Secretariat to develop the Charter as a CM Recommendation. A first draft is to be presented for first reading in September 2026.
13. The CDEDU welcomed the ongoing work on the democratic mission of higher education and academic freedom. It endorsed the preparation of the Report on “Legal Protections for Academic Freedom: Current Framework, Structural Gaps, and the Case for a Convention” to be presented at the Ministerial Conference in December 2026, and invited the Secretariat to pursue preparatory work in this domain.
14. The CDEDU took note of the report from the last ETINED Plenary session (Valletta, Malta, 5-6 November 2025) and welcomed the emphasis on transparency in education.
15. The CDEDU endorsed the Romani Plurilingual Policy Experimentation (RPPE) deliverables – including the final report, pedagogical guide and updated policy guidelines – and the intergovernmental programme priorities for language education policy for 2026 and 2027. The CDEDU also took note of the update on the activities of the European Centre of Modern Languages (ECML).
16. The CDEDU welcomed the concept note on the current phase of the Intergovernmental Programme on History Education and advised that the focus should be on developing practical, actionable tools for the implementation of the draft recommendation.
17. The CDEDU took note of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) 2025 Annual Report and priorities for 2026, and highlighted the potential for synergies between the work of the OHTe and the work on Transparency and Open Data.
18. The CDEDU took note with appreciation of the progress made in developing the Gender Equality in Education Scorecard. It agreed that work should continue in a phased approach – finalisation of the tool, a validation phase through piloting, and progressive roll-out – and invited the Secretariat to report back on progress.

19. The CDEDU took note of the preliminary evaluation report of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025 and the concept note for the 2nd European Forum on Digital Citizenship Education (Strasbourg, 27-29 May 2026). The CDEDU endorsed the draft Road Map for Strengthening Digital Citizenship Education 2027-2031 and mandated the Secretariat to present it with an action plan for approval at the September 2026 plenary.

20. The CDEDU took note of the report of the 1st meeting of the EDU-IA Committee and approved its revised work plan, with final outputs expected in November 2027.

21. The CDEDU endorsed the draft outline for the White Paper on the future of the teaching profession in the digital age and mandated the Secretariat to develop it through broad consultation and submit a preliminary draft to the Bureau in June.

22. The CDEDU decided to postpone consideration of EUNET's application for observer status until the revision of the CDEDU's Terms of Reference, to be adopted at the spring 2027 plenary.

23. The CDEDU took note of the report of the UNESCO/SDG4 Sherpa group meeting of 12-13 March 2026, and encouraged closer collaboration with UNESCO on issues aligned with the Council of Europe *acquis*.

24. The Committee elected Ms Laura Limperk-Kütaru (Estonia) as Chair and Mr Gudni Olgeirsson (Iceland) as Vice-Chair (2026-2027). Bureau members elected for the mandate from March 2026 until spring 2028: Ms Melanie Lizé (France), Ms Chiara Finocchietti (Italy) and Mr Ender Ereskici (Türkiye). Observer from the academic community: Ms Pil Maria Saugmann (EURODOC). NGO observer: Ms Claude Vivier Le Got (FEDE). Rapporteur: Ms Snježana Prijic Samaržija (Croatia) as Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Resource implications

25. The financing of the activities described in this report is assured within the existing budget framework.

Other observations

26. The Committee decided to hold its next plenary meeting from 23 to 25 September 2026 in Strasbourg.

Appendix I –Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the draft agenda
3. Political context – update on events since the previous Plenary session
4. Information on CDEDU Bureau Elections
5. 27th Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education
6. Exchange of views with the Chair of the GR-C
- 7.1 Education projects (Ordinary Budget)
- 7.2 Education Co-operation projects (Extra-budgetary projects)
8. Renewal of the Civic Mission of Education
- 8.1 European Space for Citizenship Education (ESCE)
- 8.2 Education for Democratic Citizenship in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)
- 8.3 Developing a culture of democracy in Vocational Education and Training
9. Higher Education
- 9.1 Implementation of the higher education programme
- 9.2 Towards a legal instrument on automatic recognition
- 9.3 Council of Europe Student Rights Charter
- 9.4 Democratic mission of higher education
- 9.5 Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED)
10. Language Policy and practice
- 10.1 Romani Plurilingual Policy Experimentation (RPPE) deliverables
- 10.2 Language Education Policy
- 10.3 European Centre of Modern Languages (ECML)
11. History Education
- 11.1 Draft recommendation on history education in the digital age
- 11.2 History Education
- 11.3 Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE)
12. Gender Equality in Education Scorecard
13. Digital Transformation in Education
- 13.1 Digital Citizenship Education
- 13.2 Artificial Intelligence and Education
14. Request for Observer Status from the European Network for Education and Training (EUNET)
15. Transversal co-operation
- 15.1 Co-operation with UNESCO/SDG4
16. CDEDU Bureau Elections
17. Other business
18. Adoption of the list of decisions
19. Date and place of the next CDEDU plenary session