



Living, learning, acting for human rights

Compass - Manual for human rights education with young people Launch of new Serbian language version 2023

Thursday, 08 June 2023

11h00-14h00

Dorćol Platz, Dobračina 59b, Belgrade

Simultaneous interpretation Serbian/English

Update your Compass

The launch of the new Serbian language version of the Compass manual is a landmark for human rights education with young people in Serbia. The roundtable of stakeholders will explore what needs to be done to anchor human rights education with young people in today's Serbia. It is important in the current societal context to affirm the necessary complementarity of non-formal and formal learning and to foster dialogue between youth organisations and bodies, non-governmental organisations, media, independent human rights bodies, public authorities and others working for and with young people in Serbia.

Support to the participation of young persons in democratic life and decision-making processes, including through education about human rights and core democratic values is also one of the cornerstones of [Reykjavík Principles for Democracy](#), adopted during the Council of Europe Summit in May 2023.

What is Compass?

COMPASS is a manual that provides youth leaders, teachers and facilitators of human rights education activities, whether professional or volunteers, with concrete ideas and practical activities to engage, involve and motivate young people in living, learning and acting for human rights. It promotes a comprehensive perspective on human rights education and sees young people as actors for a culture of universal human rights. Originally published in 2022, Compass is currently available in over 30 languages. Visit www.coe.int/compass.

Translation of the Compass manual and the launching event are organised within the project "Citizenship and human rights education with young people in Serbia", funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe.



Agenda

11h00 **Opening and welcome**

Mr Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Council of Europe office in Belgrade
H.E. Cathy Buggenhout, Ambassador of Belgium to Serbia
Ms Ivana Antonijević, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Youth of the Republic of Serbia

11h15 **Key-note address “Living, learning, acting for human rights”** Ms Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

11h40 **Update your Compass**

*Why a new Serbian language version of Compass?
Presentation of Compass*

Ms Aleksandra Vidanović, Member of the Trainers Pool of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

11h50 **Towards a culture of human right in times of crisis – Are we up to the task**

Panel discussion and questions and answers

Ms Ivana Antonijević, Assistant Minister, Sector for Youth, Ministry of Tourism and Youth

Ms Nedeljka Ivošević, member of the Bureau of Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe, National Association of Youth Workers (NAPOR)

Ms Miljana Pejić, National Youth Council of Serbia (KOMS)

Mr Marko Milosavljević, Youth Initiative for Human Rights

Moderator: Pero Jovović, journalist, Nova S portal

13h00 **End / light refreshments**

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Background

In recent years, young people across Europe have been affected by multiple crisis, including global pandemic and the brutal war of aggression of Russian Federation against Ukraine. As their European peers started to recover from the lock-down, social isolation and marginalisation, young Ukrainians had to adjust to much darker reality of fighting for their basic freedoms and rights, to life, to education, to movement.

Some European states, Serbia being one of them, are also faced with increase of violence, against journalist, against women, in cyber and physical space, where young people are found on both sides of the isle, as victims but also as perpetrators. Recent events in Serbia, are a reminder that finding mechanism to combat these challenges is even more strenuous in a society with poor record in addressing its legacy of past, with hate speech and promotion of violent behaviour in public discourse, overall weakness of democratic institutions.

Over the last decade, the provision of activities on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (EDC/HRE) for and with young people in Serbia has been decreasing. This is accompanied by a perception of disengagement from Council of Europe key values and approaches, in line with tendencies for the backsliding of democracy in various member states. Youth organisations motivated and committed to involve young people in EDC/HRE lack the resources to extend and deepen their youth work and non-formal education activities for EDC/HRE with young people.

This reflects the findings of the latest [review of the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE](#) (2022) which concluded, among others, that co-operation between formal education institutions and non-formal educational organisations (NGOs and youth organisations) for EDC/HRE “remains at a moderate level, but when it comes to policy makers as such the level of co-operation is lower. Youth organisations consider that the participation of NGOs in EDC/HRE policymaking and policies implementation along with better funding is the action area that needs to be prioritised to better implement the Charter”.

To support the implementation of the Charter and youth organisations as providers of EDC/HRE, the Council of Europe Youth Department initiated the project *Citizenship and Human Rights Education with Young People in Serbia*, with the support of the Belgian Embassy in Belgrade. The publication of the Compass manual into Serbian is a starting point, to be followed by capacity-building and of youth leaders, multipliers and youth workers to better provide introduce EDC/HRE in youth projects and activities. As a result, young people in Serbia will have better access to human rights education and be able to fully benefit and contribute to the Council of Europe values and standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

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