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LEARNING EQUALITY  
LIVING DIGNITY

# ***COMPASS*** **TRAINING COURSES 2026**

Human Rights Education with Young People

**Call for Partnerships**

Deadline for application: **18 January 2026**

## BACKGROUND

The work of the Council of Europe Youth Department on human rights education with and by young people is a contribution to a core mission of the organisation in promoting a culture of human rights, notably through the implementation of the [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) (EDC/HRE).

The EDC/HRE Charter emphasises the role of Council of Europe member states in making human rights education a reality for every person in Europe and the importance of quality education to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the core pillars of the organisation.

The [Human Rights Education Youth Programme](#) plays a central role in this and in the [2030 Strategy of the youth sector](#), through its key features:

- Provision of educational resources for human rights education for youth work and non-formal learning, notably through [Compass](#), the manual for human rights education with young people, [Compasito](#), the manual for human rights education with children or [Mirrors](#), the manual on combating antigypsyism through human rights education;
- Advocacy for the inclusion of human rights education in youth policy and youth work;
- Renewing the informal networks of trainers and multipliers and supporting the qualitative development of training for human rights education at national, regional<sup>1</sup> and European level;
- Supporting multipliers and advocates for human rights education through the Compass national and regional training courses (Compass NRTCs).

This is also reflected in the [Roadmap for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people](#) (2024-2028) adopted by the Joint Council on Youth in October 2023.

## 2026 COMPASS TRAINING COURSES

Traditionally, the Compass national and/or regional training courses are initiated by national or regional organisations and/or institutions that are committed to providing and ensuring the quality of EDC/HRE, with the support of the Council of Europe Youth Department. As capacity-building activities, the courses should develop the competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes and values) of key multipliers for human rights education such as youth leaders, youth workers, trainers, and teachers.

The cooperation is envisioned in a format that relies on strategic partnerships that enable Compass training courses to be tailored to a national or regional context, where they provide unique added value. Strategic partnerships and activities are those that have the potential to advocate for, mobilise, and initiate processes at national level that are likely to improve the recognition, support for, provision and quality of human rights education with, for and by young people. Such training courses can, for example:

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<sup>1</sup> **Regional** is to be understood as cross borders (i.e. neighbouring countries) or covering countries sharing a common language.

- Be related to the publication and launching of a **new language version of Compass** or Compasito;
- Be carried out in cooperation between providers of human rights education in the **formal and non-formal education** contexts;
- Enjoy a specific support or **recognition by public authorities** in charge of youth and/or education policies;
- Address a specific and important group of **multipliers and advocates** (e.g. youth workers, youth leaders, teachers, trainers in non-formal education);
- Adopt a particularly solid, innovative or **consistent educational approach** that is likely to have a long-lasting effect on the participants and on the context for human rights education in the country or region.

The partnerships for Compass activities in 2026 are support measures put into place by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe to encourage national or regional organisations or institutions in initiating or extending human rights education activities with young people through Compass activities. The support measures are *on-demand provision of assistance and cooperation* by the Council of Europe Youth Department, which means that upon reception of the expression of interest, the Secretariat will assess the type of support, expertise and cooperation that can be envisaged, *together with* the partner organisation or institution. The following types of support measures for these activities are available for partners, namely:

### **Educational support**

- Contracting competent and experienced trainers to support the educational team;
- Educational advice by the Secretariat based on the quality standards and practices of the European Youth Centres;
- Provision of educational materials and resources of the Council of Europe;
- Opportunities for members of partner teams to participate in capacity-building activities at the European Youth Centres, with relevant expenses covered.

### **Institutional support**

- Visibility of activities on the Council of Europe Youth Department website;
- Recommendation letters to potential partners and funders;
- Official representation of the Council of Europe at the activities;
- Linking activities to national youth policy institutions for outreach, visibility, and recognition, such as the engagement of a representative from the European Steering Committee for Youth, responsible for youth matters in the respective country;
- Mobilising other partners and stakeholders through the Council of Europe networks;
- Communication with the publishers of the translation of Compass and Compasito manuals;
- Printing and publication of newly translated Compass and Compasito manuals.
- Provision of Council of Europe certificates for trainers and participants/learners.
- Provision of the Council of Europe logo for communication purposes.

In some cases, the Council of Europe Youth Department may take on directly the costs of some measures, such as missions and advice of experts, provision of trainers or educational resources. This will be assessed and decided case-by-case based on the needs expressed, the means available and the contribution of the partner(s).

Further mechanisms are available to support youth-led activities in the field of human rights education. The **European Youth Foundation** for instance funds short-term or stand-alone youth projects, long-term initiatives, international cooperation projects, and provides operational support to youth organisations, networks, and initiatives addressing emerging issues affecting young people at the European level. Funding is awarded through calls for proposals, with clear guidance, deadlines, and submission requirements. For more information: [Funding and grants Council of Europe EYF - European Youth Foundation](#)

## CONDITIONS FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership proposals are welcome for activities that:

- a) Aim at developing the competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes and values) of key multipliers in human rights education with young people;
- b) Will result in or include measures to support formal or informal national or regional networks for human rights education with young people;
- c) Foresee a programme and methodology based on the approaches outlined in Compass and the activities it proposes;
- d) Make use of and provide the participants with copies of Compass in their language(s), where this is possible (the Council of Europe may provide the necessary copies of the Manual upon request if they are available);
- e) Support and advocate for EDC/HRE at national level based on the [Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#);
- f) Link with and building upon previous or ongoing initiatives, projects and programmes on human rights education with young people at national level;
- g) Are open to participants from a variety of organisations and institutions;
- h) Have a minimum duration of 4 consecutive training days;
- i) Involve at least 18 and a maximum of 40 participants/learners;
- j) Provide a narrative report on the training's implementation, including the list of trainers and participants/learners (to be delivered no later than 30 days after the training).

Further information can be found in the COMPASS training courses: [a handbook for organisers](#).

Preference will be given to cooperation with partners that propose an activity fulfilling the following conditions of the [Roadmap for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people](#) (2024-2028):

- 1) Youth-led or organised in co-operation between two or more partners emphasising youth civil society organisations;
- 2) Be organised by partners that translated Compass or Compasito (or other manuals of the Youth Department) in their own cost or mobilised other resources for it;
- 3) To be held in countries where newly published translations of Compass or Compasito are introduced or where the Council of Europe has existing cooperation in a form of an [action plan](#);
- 4) To be held in countries where no similar course has been organised in the past three years<sup>2</sup>;
- 5) Foresee cooperation between the non-formal and formal educational sectors and actors, as well as engaging a diverse range of participants with various backgrounds;
- 6) Support the development of communities of practice around a shared understanding of EDC/HRE and priorities for advocacy and action in the countries where the courses are held.

## PROFILE OF THE PARTNERS

The partners may be regional, national or local organisations or institutions registered in one of the state parties participating in the [European Cultural Convention](#) and interested in developing the provisions and quality of EDC/HRE in their country or region, such as:

- non-governmental youth organisations and/or other non-governmental organisations (including national branches and members of European youth organisations);
- governmental organisations focused on human rights, youth and/or education;
- institutions involved in human rights education;
- national networks of human rights activists and/or human rights educators (including national branches and members of European youth organisations).

Partners are expected to have sufficient financial capacity to carry out the activity throughout the period by their own resources (including human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the activity) or through other funding sources, private or public, national or international.

Partnerships between organisations, especially public institutions, human rights actors and youth civil society organisations are particularly encouraged as they reinforce the feasibility and potential strategic impact of the courses.

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<sup>2</sup> In 2023-2025 courses were held in Albania, Andorra, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

## PROCEDURES AND CALENDAR

The national training courses should be implemented from **1 April to 30 November 2026**. In specific cases, the Council of Europe may agree to support preparatory work in 2026 for projects that will be implemented in 2027.

Upon receiving the expressions of interest and assessing their relevance, all applicants will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their respective applications as well as on the next steps to be undertaken.

The secretariat of the Council of Europe Youth Department will contact the partners concerned and initiate the procedures for formalising the partnerships and mutual commitments, including forms of educational and institutional support, with the signing of a **Memorandum of Cooperation**. This process should be concluded by **early March 2026**.

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

### Documents to be submitted

Each application should deliver:

- Completed **expression of interest**

To submit your expression of interest, please fill in the online form for expression of interest using following link: [Compass National and Regional Training Courses - 2026](#).

- **Daily programme outline** using the Appendix, sent exclusively in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following address: [youth.HRE@coe.int](mailto:youth.HRE@coe.int), with the following reference in subject: **Call NTCHRE2026/Daily programme**.

Questions regarding this specific call for partnerships must be sent **by 11 January 2026** at the latest, in English or French, to the following address: [youth.HRE@coe.int](mailto:youth.HRE@coe.int) with the following reference in subject: **Call NTCHRE2026/Questions**.

### Deadline for submission

**Applications must be submitted by 18 January 2026** (at 23:59 CET). Applications received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered.

## APPENDIX - DAILY PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

Please describe the flow of the foreseen programme using the following template. The programme will be further developed later by the partner organisation(s) together with the educational team of the Council of Europe. The programme should give an outline of the topics covered; the educational flow connected to competences to be developed. Minimum duration of the training course is 4 working days.

The programme will be finalised during the preparation process between the educational team of the Council of Europe and the team of the partner organisation(s).

More information and examples of the Compass course programme are available in dedicated chapter 13 of the [COMPASS training courses: a handbook for organisers](#).

**The applicant organisation(s) name (s):**

**Title of the project:**

**Dates:**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Morning session I					
Break					
Morning session II					
Lunch break					
Afternoon session I					
Break					
Afternoon session II					
Dinner					
Evening					

**Please complete the daily programme outline form and send it to:**

*Council of Europe, Youth Department*

*E-mail: [youth.HRE@coe.int](mailto:youth.HRE@coe.int)*

**by 18 January 2026 (23:59 CET)**