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Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

27th Session

"Empowering Educators for a Democratic Europe in the Digital Age"

Podgorica, Montenegro, 3–4 December 2026

INFORMATION NOTE No. 3

Conduct of the proceedings – Programme, list of speakers, interpretation, documents and adoption of the Ministerial Resolution

I. PURPOSE OF THIS NOTE

1. This Information Note is the third and last in the series addressed to delegations in preparation for the 27th Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education. It sets out how the proceedings will be conducted: the programme, the chairing of the sessions, the list of speakers and speaking time, the language arrangements, the conference documents, the procedure for the adoption of the Ministerial Resolution, the launch of the three strategic initiatives, and the follow-up.

2. It completes Information Note No. 1 (MED-27(2026)Inf1), on the invitation, the composition of delegations and registration, and Information Note No. 2 (MED-27(2026)Inf2), on the practical and logistical arrangements.

II. PROGRAMME

3. The Conference is preceded by a plenary session of the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) on the afternoon of Wednesday 2 December 2026 and by the Pre-Ministerial High-

Level Exchange with education stakeholders on the morning of Thursday 3 December 2026. The 27th Session itself opens at 16:00 on 3 December and closes at 13:15 on 4 December.

Time	Item
Wednesday 2 December 2026	
14:00–19:00	Badge collection — main lobby of Hotel Hilton
16:00–19:00	CDEDU plenary session – Venue Hotel Hilton
19:00 onwards	Free evening
Thursday 3 December 2026	
08:00–09:00	Badge collection— main lobby of Hotel Hilton
09:00–12:45	Pre-Ministerial High-Level Exchange with education stakeholders
12:45–15:45	Networking lunch · main restaurant Hotel Hilton
13:30–15:30	Badge collection— main lobby of Hotel Hilton
16:00–16:15	Opening of the Conference — welcome by the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro, address by the Secretary General, adoption of the agenda
16:15–17:30	Ministerial session — Empowering Educators for a Democratic Europe in the Digital Age – Introductory remarks by Ministers
17:30–18:45	Ministerial Topical Debate: Student mobilisations and democratic participation
18:45-18:50	Family photo
18:50-19:15	Point press with the Secretary General and the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro
19:30	Bus departure for the official dinner (Heads of Delegation) — hosted by the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro Informal dinner at Hilton Hotel (other participants) hosted by the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro
Friday 4 December 2026	
08:00–09:00	Badge collection – main lobby Hotel Hilton
09:00–09:45	Round table: Thematic Session I – Education Professionals as builders of democratic culture
09:45–10:30	Round table: Thematic Session II — The Future of the Teaching Profession in the Digital Age
10:30–11:00	Coffee break
11:00-11:45	Round table: Thematic Session III — Guaranteeing Academic Freedom
11:45–12:30	Ministerial session: Post-2030 United Nations agenda - Towards a shared European commitment
12:30–13:00	Ministerial session : Adoption of the Ministerial Resolution and closing statements

4. The sessions begin punctually. Given the density of the programme, the Chair will apply the timings strictly.

III. CHAIRING OF THE CONFERENCE

5. The Conference is chaired by the Minister of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro, in the framework of the Montenegrin Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

6. The agenda is adopted at the opening of the Conference and two vice chairs will be also elected. The Chair directs the debates, gives and withdraws the floor, and rules on points of order.

7. The Topical debate will invite representatives of the OBESSU and ESU to open the debate;

8. The thematic round tables will be introduced by 2 or 3 Ministers and then the floor will open to all participants

IV. LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CONDUCT OF THE DEBATES

Establishment of the list

9. Heads of Delegation indicated the sessions in which they wished to speak, and their order of priority, in the "Request for the floor" section of the online registration form. The Secretariat establishes the list of speakers for each session on that basis, giving priority to delegations headed by Ministers, in accordance with established practice. Requests should be sent to DGII.CDEDU@coe.int.

10. The topical debate on student mobilisations and democratic participation will be initiated by high school and students representatives and an open debate will follow.

11. The list of speakers for each session will be circulated to delegations by Friday 27 November 2026 and will also be available at the registration desk.

Speaking time

12. Speaking time is limited to maximum three minutes per delegation and per session. This limit is indicative and dictated by the number of delegations and by the length of the thematic sessions and will be applied by the Chair. Delegations are invited to prepare their interventions accordingly and to focus on one or two substantive points rather than on a general statement.

13. Representatives of participating bodies and organisations, and of observers, may take the floor at the invitation of the Chair, after the national delegations and subject to the time available.

Written statements

14. Delegations which are unable to take the floor, or which wish to develop their position further, may submit a written statement to DGII.CDEDU@coe.int by Friday 20 November 2026.

15. The Conference is not a negotiating session in the ordinary sense: the substance of the Ministerial Resolution is settled in advance, as set out in Section VI below. The purpose of the ministerial debates is political direction, the sharing of national experience, and the identification of priorities for future work at European level.

V. LANGUAGES AND INTERPRETATION

16. The working languages of the Conference are English, French, German, Italian, passive Spanish (i.e. speeches/ interventions made in Spanish will be interpreted into English, French, German, Italian and Turkish but speeches/ interventions given in English, French, German, Italian and Turkish will not be interpreted into Spanish) and Turkish.

17. All conference documents are available in English and French.

VI. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS

18. The documents of the Session are available through a QR code found on the conference page of the Council of Europe education website .

Reference	Document
MED-27(2026)01	Concept Note — Empowering Educators for a Democratic Europe in the Digital Age
MED-27(2026)02	Agenda of the Conference
MED-27(2026)06	Draft Ministerial Resolution
MED-27(2026)03	Discussion Paper — Sub-Theme 1: Teachers as Builders of Democratic Culture
MED-27(2026)04	Discussion Paper — Sub-Theme 2: Teachers and Digital Transformation
MED-27(2026)05	Discussion Paper — Sub-Theme 3: Safeguarding Academic Freedom
MED-27(2026)06-a	Mid-term Review of the Education Strategy 2024-2030 “Learners first”
MED-27(2026)10rev	Report on legal protections for academic freedom and the feasibility of a Council of Europe convention on Academic Freedom
MED-27(2026)09rev	White Paper on the Futures of Teachers and the Teaching Profession
MED-27(2026)08	European Space for Citizenship Education — presentation document
MED-27(2026)Inf1 à Inf3	Information Notes Nos. 1 to 3

19. Delegations are invited to consult the documents in electronic form

VII. ADOPTION OF THE MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION

Preparation of the text

20. The draft Ministerial Resolution has been prepared by the Secretariat under the guidance of the Preparatory Group and of the CDEDU and has been the subject of successive consultations with delegations. It was sent to delegates on 5 November 2026. It is structured around the overarching theme and the three sub-themes.

Adoption

21. The Resolution is adopted by the Ministers of Education of the member States of the Council of Europe, together with the Holy See and Kazakhstan as Parties to the European Cultural Convention, by consensus, in accordance with the practice of the Standing Conference.

22. In the 45 minutes available, the Chair will present the text, as negotiated and finalised by the Steering Committee for Education on the 2nd December (CDEDU meeting) and put it to the Conference for adoption. Amendments cannot be taken from the floor.

23. A delegation which is unable to join the consensus may make a declaration or enter a reservation, which is recorded in the record of the proceedings. The precise modalities follow the practice of the Standing Conference and will be recalled by the Chair.

VIII. LAUNCH OF THE THREE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

24. During the Conference, three Council of Europe initiatives will be launched:

- the European Space for Citizenship Education (ESCE), which consolidates some thirty years of Council of Europe work on education for democratic citizenship into a set of principles, a quality framework and a co-operation mechanism;
- the White Paper on the Futures of Teachers and the Teaching Profession, which sets out a shared European vision for the profession and examines the effects of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, on teaching;
- work towards the consolidation of a European framework for academic freedom.

IX. RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, COMMUNICATION AND FOLLOW-UP

25. The Secretariat will prepare a synthesis Report to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers, comprising the Ministerial Resolution as adopted, a summary of the debates and the list of participants. It will be circulated to delegations and published on the conference page in the weeks following the Session.

26. Follow-up to the Resolution will be taken forward by the CDEDU within its programme of activities following a mandate given by the Committee of Ministers.

27. An invitation to host the 28th Session may be extended at the close of the Conference.

X. SUMMARY OF DEADLINES

Date	Action	Channel
Friday 20 November 2026	Texts of statements for the interpreters; written statements for circulation	E-mail to the Secretariat
Friday 27 November 2026	Circulation of the final programme, the list of speakers	E-mail to delegations
3 and 4 December 2026	Statement texts to the interpreters' desk, at least 30 minutes before each session	On site

XI. CONTACTS

28. All correspondence concerning the conduct of the proceedings should be addressed to DGII.CDEDU@coe.int.

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Prof. Dr **Anđela Jakšić-Stojanović** Host Ministry Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro Ms Nataša **PERIĆ** Senior advisor for international cooperation Bureau for Education Services Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation Contact: natasa.peric@zzs.gov.me	Conference web page https://www.coe.int/en/web/education/27th-session-standing-conference-of-ministers-of-education