



5 January 2024

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA

NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES¹

Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Culture, Education and Democratic Values (AS/Cult/CED)

1. The sub-committee shall consider the role of culture, heritage and education in reinforcing human rights, democratic citizenship and social cohesion, in the context of the roadmap outlined in the Reykjavík Declaration of 17 May 2023 and taking account of the Resolution on the renewal of the civic mission of education, adopted on 29 October 2023 by the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education and of the Final Declaration “Creating our future: creativity and cultural heritage as strategic resources for a diverse and democratic Europe” adopted by the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers of Culture in April 2022.

2. The sub-committee shall in particular consider:

- 2.1. the modernisation of culture and education policies, to ensure access to culture and quality education for all, as preconditions for human development, civil society empowerment, and adherence to democratic values;
- 2.2. the development of innovative tools, synergies and partnerships of cultural, heritage and education institutions, to uphold cultural vitality, develop mutual understanding and promote respect for diversity;
- 2.3. the mainstreaming of culture and education in other policy areas, to support the integration of people who feel vulnerable or marginalised, tackle the challenges raised by uncertainty about the future, mistrust and eroded civic bonds, and increase societal resilience to crises and capability to adapt to rapid transformations;
- 2.4. the promotion of innovative Council of Europe legal instruments and tools, including the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro Convention), and their broadened use to strengthen adherence to democratic values and processes in member States.

3. Within its sphere of competence, the sub-committee shall support rapporteurs' and committee work concerning the initiation and preparation of reports, as well as their follow-up; it may perform other tasks mentioned by the General terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees, as in Resolution 1842 (2011).

Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Youth and the society of the future (AS/Cult/Y)

1. The sub-committee shall consider issues relating to youth policies and meaningful youth engagement in democratic life, in connection with – and taking account of – key societal transformations induced by scientific and technological progress and information society, seeking to identify opportunities and challenges for the society of the future, also in the context of the roadmap outlined in the Reykjavík Declaration of 17 May 2023, and of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030.

2. The sub-committee shall in particular consider:

- 2.1. youth empowerment and access to political, social, economic, educational and cultural rights; policy responses to the increasing difficulties experienced by young people in the effective enjoyment of these rights;

¹ At its meeting on 4 December 2023, the committee agreed to change the terms of reference of the sub-committees in line with the strategic priorities specified in the Reykjavík Declaration; therefore, the sub-committees will be reconstituted in 2024 as follows in this document.

- 2.2. youth participation in policy making and in promoting fundamental values and democratic culture;
- 2.3. youth engagement in building up inclusive societies; the establishment of a pluralistic democratic space for youth organisations and opportunities for intergenerational dialogue;
- 2.4. youth and science: working with youth to foster research and innovative thinking in the digital age and steer progress towards sustainable societies.

3. Within its sphere of competence, the sub-committee shall support rapporteurs' and committee work concerning the initiation and preparation of reports, as well as their follow-up; it may perform other tasks mentioned by the general terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees, as laid out in Resolution 1842 (2011). It will also seek to strengthen cooperation with the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth and other youth structures at national and international level.

Terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Media and Information Society (AS/Cult/MIS)

1. The sub-committee shall consider issues related to the freedom of expression and information and deal with the legal, societal, educational, cultural and ethical challenges raised by the development of information and communication technologies (ICT) and of the information society, seeking to identify suitable policy responses at European and/or national levels.

2. The sub-committee shall in particular consider:

- 2.1. threats to the right to freedom of expression, offline and online, and policy action to counter these threats, including the promotion and support of the Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists;
- 2.2. access to quality information, the transparency of information sources and the fight against the manipulation of information;
- 2.3. the impact of the use of generative artificial intelligence, coupled with increasingly sophisticated and intrusive profiling methods, on the information flow and the reliability of the information available on the internet;

3. Within its sphere of competence, the sub-committee shall support rapporteurs' and committee work concerning the initiation and preparation of reports, as well as their follow-up; it may perform other tasks mentioned by the General terms of reference applicable to all Assembly committees, as in Resolution 1842 (2011).

GENERAL RAPPORTEURS

Terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Science and Technology Impact Assessment

Denomination: General Rapporteur on Science and Technology Impact Assessment

Term of office: one year renewable, subject to a maximum of two years

Subject: it is the duty of the general rapporteur on Science and Technology Impact Assessment to consider and intervene on issues relating to the ethics of scientific and technological developments as well as to the impact of such developments. He or she shall report periodically to the committee on the information collected and the action taken.

Responsibilities:

The role of the General Rapporteur is to:

- follow activities of other Assembly committees and liaise with rapporteurs dealing with scientific and technological matters from other perspectives such as their social, economic, health and environmental impact;
- represent the committee on behalf of the Assembly vis-à-vis the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO);
- follow activities and maintain working relations with the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) Network, seeking to give visibility to the work of the Assembly, and advise the committee on emerging issues and relevant work of the EPTA partners;
- follow activities and maintain working relations with national parliaments as well as with relevant international, intergovernmental, inter-parliamentary or other organisations ²;
- follow up and promote relevant Assembly resolutions and recommendations in its domain of work.

Terms of reference of the General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists

Denomination: General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists

Term of office: one year renewable, subject to a maximum of two years

Subject: the General Rapporteur should deal with serious violations of media freedom and the safety of journalists in Europe.

Responsibilities:

The General Rapporteur should:

- follow-up the alerts posted on the Council of Europe Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists, and report periodically on those cases to the Committee, keeping it informed on action taken, or to be taken, to deal with them;
- represent the Committee on behalf of the Assembly vis-à-vis other Council of Europe bodies and relevant external stakeholders, and cooperate with them as appropriate;
- follow activities of other Assembly committees and liaise with rapporteurs dealing with related matters;
- follow-up and promote relevant Assembly resolutions and recommendations.

² For example: the European Group on Ethics of science and new technologies (EGE).