# 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Education Programme**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⊙ALS

| 1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION |
| 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⊙ALS |

On September 2015, member states of the United Nations defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda.

**Each goal** has specific **targets** to be achieved over **the next 15 years.**

## UNITED NATIONS 2030 AGENDA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

▬▬ On 1 January 2016, the World started implementing the **"UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"**, an ambitious and universal vision, based on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets, which are all integrated, indivisible and interlinked.

▬▬ They apply universally to all and are highly relevant for the Council of Europe; countries are expected to take **ownership** and **establish national frameworks** for the achievement of the 17 goals. Most, if not all, of the Council of Europe's activities are relevant and contribute to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.

▬▬ Recognising the intrinsic links between sustainable development and the protection of human rights, the Council of Europe is committed to working with and supporting its 47 member states in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda through a **wide range of actions**.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4 – SDG4



Obtaining a **quality education** is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for women and girls. Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make even greater strides towards achieving universal education goals.
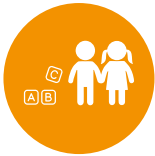
**The world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.**

## 4.1 Universal primary and secondary education

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

## 4.2 Early childhood development and universal pre-premary education

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

## 4.3 Equal access to technical/vocational and higher education

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

## 4.4 Relevant skills for decent work

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

## 4.5 Gender equality and inclusion

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

## 4.6 Universal youth literacy

By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

## 4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

The Council of Europe has a number of roles and responsibilities in supporting its member states in their efforts to achieve the Goal 4.

## The Standing Conference of Council of Europe Ministers of Education

At their Standing Conference in Brussels, 11-12 April 2016, European Ministers of Education agreed that the Council of Europe should support national efforts to achieve SDG4 by developing **a long-term strategy** for more coherent and comprehensive Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC / HRE). Such a strategy should, where possible, provide evidence and data on EDC / HRE on which to base further policy recommendations.

## The Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE)

In October 2016, the CDPPE decided to include SDG4 as a **standing agenda item** in its bi-annual plenary meetings to exchange best practice and lessons learned in implementing the measures required to achieve SDG4.

## SDG Education 2030 Steering Committee

The Council of Europe was selected as one of two regional organisations for the European and North America region on the SDG Education 2030 Steering Committee.

The Council of Europe contributes to the work of this Committee by presenting **regional initiatives**, representing and reporting back to its member states and identifying and promoting good practice in efforts to achieve SDG4 among its member states.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTING TO SDG4

The Council of Europe's approach to **quality education** is outlined in **Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13** on ensuring quality education as well as **Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)7** on the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. The Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) contributes but also projects suchs as Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED) and the Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants (LIAM) to SDG4.

Additionally, through its co-operation and capacity-building programme, the Council of Europe's Education Department offers tailored support to member states, individually or in groups, to identify and **promote best practice** across a range of education issues, allowing SDG4 related outcomes to be given more visible priority.

The **specific mapping** of the Education Department's contribution highlights the essential correlation between activities implemented by the Department and the SDG 4 targets.

**POLICY MAKING**

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

**COMPETENCES FOR LIFE IN DEMOCRACY**

Competences for Democratic Culture
Digital Citizenship Education
Democratic mission of higher education

**INCLUSIVE APPROACHES IN EDUCATION**

Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants
History teaching and remembrance of the Holocaust
Academic freedom, fair recognition in higher education

**CAMPAIGN "FREE TO SPEAK, SAFE TO LEARN"**

**DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS FOR ALL**

**ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN EDUCATION**

Combatting education fraud
Integrity in higher education
Effective implementation of ethical codes in education

## 4.1 Universal primary and secondary education

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

### REFERENCE FRAMEWORK OF COMPETENCES FOR DEMOCRATIC CULTURE (RFCDC)

developed by the Council of Europe and to be adapted for use in primary and secondary schools, higher education and vocational training institutions throughout Europe as well as in **national curricula and teaching programmes.**

### EDUCATION POLICY ADVISORS NETWORK (EPAN)

contributes to reform in the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education by implementing the **Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.**
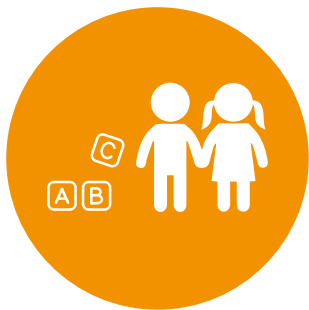
### LANGUAGE POLICY PROGRAMME

**seeks to develop effective skills** in the language(s) of instruction which are essential for successful learning across the whole curriculum.

### PLURILINGUAL EDUCATION

designs and implements initiatives for the development and analysis of language education policies aimed at promoting **linguistic diversity and plurilingualism.**

### LANGUAGE OF SCHOOLING

developed a **Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)5** on the importance of competences in the language(s) of schooling for equity and quality in education and for educational success as well as the **European Language Portfolio (ELP)** to support the development of learner autonomy, plurilingualism and intercultural awareness and competence.

## 4.2 Early Childhood development and universal pre-primary education

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

The activity of the Council of Europe's Education Department does not really focus on early childhood. Indeed, in many member states, this matter is not the responsibility of the Ministries of Education but of other Ministries such as of Health or Social Affairs, etc.

## 4.3 Equal access to technical / vocation and higher education

By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.

**THE LISBON RECOGNITION CONVENTION**

aims to ensure that holders of a qualification from one signatory country can have that **qualification recognised** in other signatory countries. The Convention was developed by the Council of Europe and Unesco.

**ACTIVITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

focus on issues related to the **recognition of qualifications**, public responsibility for higher education and research, higher education governance and other fields relevant to the establishment of the European Higher Education Area.

**ENIC: EUROPEAN NETWORK OF INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE EUROPEAN REGION**
**NARIC: NATIONAL ACADEMIC RECOGNITION INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

implement the **Lisbon Recognition Convention** and, in general, develop policy and practice for the recognition of qualifications. The Council of Europe is a partner organisation.

**EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES**

is a pilot project based on the Council of Europe **Lisbon Recognition Convention**. It is a specially developed assessment scheme for refugees, even for those who cannot fully document their qualifications.

**ETINED PLATFORM**

addresses the challenge of **corruption** in Education through a genuine European dialogue and by drawing upon the materials and norms developed by the Council of Europe over the years.

## 4.4 Relevant skills for decent work

By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

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### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF INTERCULTURAL ENCOUTERS

is a cross-sectoral initiative that involved experts in the fields of **language education**, **inter-religious dialogue** and **citizenship education.**

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### LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION OF ADULT MIGRANTS TOOLKIT

offers **guidance** and easy to-use **teaching materials** for volunteers working with refugees. The project provides assistance to member states in developing coherent and effective policies, practical support and encouraging good practises.

## 4.5 Gender equality and inclusion

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

### 2018 EDUCATION CAMPAIGN "FREE TO SPEAK, SAFE TO LEARN: DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS FOR ALL"

focuses on strengthening safe learning environments free from any violence and fear, and the promotion of freedom of speech in schools. Campaign activities will promote **democratic school governance** as well as the development of **key competences** (values, attitudes, skills and knowledge and critical understanding) among students.

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### LINGUISTIC INTEGRATION OF ADULT MIGRANTS

The Council of Europe toolkit aims at providing **guidance** and easy to-use **teaching materials** for volunteers working with refugees. The project also aims at providing assistance to member states in developing coherent and effective policies, practical support and encouraging good practises.

### EUROPEAN REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR LITERACY AND SECOND LANGUAGES - FROM ILLITERACY TO A1 LEVEL - FOR NON-LITERATE MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

aims to be an instrument for a flexible and inclusive education for non-schooled and low-educated adult migrants in Europe. It will provide the syllabus content from non-literacy to level A and will complement the existing **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** and its Companion volume with descriptors for levels below A1.

## 4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

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**EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (EDC/HRE)**
is reflected in the adoption of the **Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.** The Council of Europe's Education Department runs several projects and programmes in this field.

**JOINT PROGRAMME EU/CoE «DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL CULTURE IN OPERATION (DISCO)»**
provides **funding** to enable at least three States Parties to the European Cultural Convention to cooperate on projects of common interest within the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE).

**PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN 6 EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES (EU/CoE)**
strengthens education policy and practice in **6 EAP (Eastern Partnership Countries)**, in line with Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) standards.

### REGIONAL SUMMER ACADEMIES

aim to bridge **policy and practice**, based on training and networking programmes for school teams from Eastern Europe and South East Europe. The Summer Academies are a joint project of the European Wergeland Centre, the Council of Europe and the authorities of Poland and Montenegro.

### INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP ON CITIZENSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

was set up in 2011 with a view to ensuring close co-operation among **regional and international initiatives** on EDC / HRE. It brings together several international and regional organisations.

### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

examines the role education plays in enabling all children to acquire the competence they need as **digital citizens** in order to participate actively and responsibly in democratic society, whether offline or online.

### SHARED HISTORIES FOR A EUROPE WITHOUT DIVIDING LINES

seeks to, inter alia, raise awareness of the **common historical heritage** of the member states and contribute to preventing conflicts and providing support for processes of reconciliation through a better understanding of historical interactions and convergences of all kinds.

### SIGNPOSTS – POLICY AND PRACTICE FOR TEACHING ABOUT RELIGIONS AND NON-RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS IN INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

assists policy makers and practitioners in interpreting and applying ideas from **Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)12** of the Committee of Ministers on Education about religions and non-religious convictions.

### EXCHANGES ON THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

promote and strengthen **the fundamental Council of Europe values** – respect for human rights and furtherance of democracy and rule of law – in order to foster mutual respect and awareness, tolerance and mutual understanding within European society. The purpose of the exercise is to associate with this goal the representatives of the religions traditionally present in Europe, the representatives of non-religious convictions and the other players in civil society.

### REMEMBRANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST AND PREVENTION OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

seeks to improve teaching and learning about the Holocaust and implement activities in the field of history teaching, **to strengthen trust and tolerance** within and between countries and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

▬▬ **Cyprus and Czech Republic** supported high level consultations for the finalisation of the Competences Framework for Democratic Culture

▬▬ **The Lisbon Recognition Convention Commitee** adopted a new Recommendation on Recognition of Qualifications held by Refugees, Displaced Persons and Persons in a Refugee-like Situation

▬▬ **Institutes from 57 countries** participated in the validation of the new descriptors of the Common European Framework of Languages

▬▬ **300 representatives of governments**, education institutions and civil society organisations debated the future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe at a conference in Strasbourg

▬▬ **200 organisations and experts** contributed to the definition of Digital Citizenship Education and its 10 Digital domains

▬▬ **858 teachers in 16 countries** took part in the piloting of descriptors for the Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture

▬▬ **Estonia, Greece, Netherlands and Serbia** supported the development of the history education project

▬▬ **Albania and Malta** launched the national policy profiles to support the development of new policies for language learning and teaching

▬▬ **Italy, Norway and Greece** supported the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

▬▬ **730 higher education actors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"** took part in the evaluation of Integrity Maturity of their Universities

▬▬ **Italy, UK and Belgium** piloted the Council of Europe Toolkit for language support for adult refugees

## Education is a human right

Despite great progress in the last few years, millions of children are still denied their right to education.

Restricted access to education is one of the surest ways of transmitting poverty from generation to generation. **Education is a vital human right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Every girl and every boy should have the right to a quality education so that they can have more chances in life, including employment opportunities, better health and also to participate in the political process.

## Investing in education yields significant development benefits

Education **reduces poverty, boosts economic growth and increases income.** It increases a person's chances of having a healthy life, reduces maternal deaths, and combats diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

Education can promote **gender equality**, reduce child marriage and promote **peace**.

**In sum, education is one of the most important investments a country can make in its people and its future.**

## Competences for life in democracy

- Competences for Democratic Culture
  **www.coe.int/competences**
- Digital Citizenship Education
  **www.coe.int/DCE**
- Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/ HRE)
  **www.coe.int/edc**
- Higher Education and Democratic Culture
  **www.coe.int/higher-education**
- Education and Culture of Democracy (ECUD)
  **www.coe.int/ecud**
- Education and Religious Diversity
  **www.coe.int/religious-diversity**

## Inclusive approaches to education

- Language policy
  **www.coe.int/lang**
- Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants
  **www.coe.int/lang-migrants**
- History teaching
  **www.coe.int/historyteaching**
- Remembrance of the Holocaust
  **www.coe.int/holocaust**

## Ethics and integrity in education

- Council of Europe Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education
  **www.coe.int/ETINED**

## Capacity Building

- European qualifications Passport for Refugees
  **www.coe.int/eqpr**
- Promoting Human Rights Education and Democratic Citizenship
  **www.coe.int/HRE_DC**
- EEAI Norway Grants
  **www.coe.int/eea-norway-grants**

**www.coe.int/education**

ENG

**www.coe.int**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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