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Learning to Live Together:  
a Shared Commitment to Democracy  
Conference on the Future of Citizenship  
and Human Rights Education in Europe  
Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 20 – 22 June 2017

## 20 June – Taking Stock

0800-0900	Ice-breaking / networking activity Lobby of the Committee of Ministers
Opening session - Hemicycle	
0900-1030	<p>Chair: Snežana <b>SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ</b>, Directorate General of Democracy</p> <p>Welcome addresses Gabiella <b>BATTAINI-DRAGONI</b>, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe 10 minutes</p> <p>Mr. Jaroslav <b>FIDRMUC</b>, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic / Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers 10 minutes</p> <p>Video Education for Democracy and Human Rights in 10 Steps 10 minutes</p> <p>The Council of Europe: 20 years of supporting the member states in the promotion of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Introduction to the Conference Matthew <b>JOHNSON</b>, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation 10 minutes</p> <p>Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe Moderator: Antonia <b>WULFF</b>, Education International</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Summary of replies from governments: Katerina <b>TOURA</b>, Education Department, Council of Europe</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Feedback from civil society organisations Dariusz <b>GRZEMNY</b>, Consultant, Youth Department, Council of Europe</p> <p>30 minutes</p> <p>Feedback on the Report from the perspective of human rights protection and brief introduction on the HELP programme of the Council of Europe Eva <b>PASTRANA</b>, Head of Unit, HELP Programme, Council of Europe 10 minutes</p> <p>Practical information 10 minutes</p>
Coffee Break	

<p>Workshop 1:</p> <p>Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe - challenges and opportunities</p>								
1100-1200	Pre-school education Room 16	Primary and lower secondary education Room 11	Upper secondary education Room 10	Higher education Room 8	Non-formal education and youth work Room 7	Vocational education and training and adult education Room 17	Lifelong learning Room 6	Lifelong learning Projection Room
Lunch break								
1330-1500	Workshop 1 (continued)							
Break								
<p>Promoting human rights and democracy through education in Europe today</p> <p>Case Studies</p>								
1530-1700	A. Children have a say – do we understand them?	B. Tackling disenchantment with democracy – framework of competences for democratic culture	C. Students or suspects? - How to ensure respect of human rights while addressing violent radicalisation?	D. Teaching and Managing Controversy in classrooms and schools in Europe - Practical on-line Support Tools	E. Inspiring! The contribution of youth organisations to Citizenship Education	F. Local authorities leading promotion of democracy through education	G. Addressing intolerance and discrimination – on-line training programmes	H. Studying citizenship education for progress: Why and how? The case of IEA ICCS 2016
1700	Information Market / Welcome Drink Hemicycle Lobby							

21 June - Debate and showcase

0800-0900	Ice-breaking / networking activity Lobby of the Committee of Ministers									
0900-1030	Workshops conclusions - Hemicycle Facilitators: Villano QIRIAZI, Head of Education Policy Division, and Sarah KEATING, Head of Capacity Building Division, Education Department									
Break										
Workshop 2: Putting learners at the centre of education: good practices and lessons learned (Based on the Articles of the Charter)										
1100-1200	Curriculum (Article 6)	Higher education (Article 7)	Democratic governance and learning environment (Article 8)	Training (Article 9)	Role of NGOs, youth organisations and other stakeholders (Article 10)	Criteria for evaluation / Evaluation and review (Article 11 and 14)	Research (Article 12)	Skills for promoting social cohesion, valuing diversity & handling differences & conflict (Article 13)	Co-operation in follow-up activities / International Cooperation (Article 15 and 16)	
Lunch break										
1330-1500	Workshop 2 (continued)									
Break										
1530-1700	Workshops conclusions – Hemicycle Facilitators: Marko GRDOSIC, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth, and Rui GOMES, Head of Education and Training, Council of Europe									

22 June – Future Action

Hemicycle

0800-0900	Ice-breaking / networking activity Lobby of the Committee of Ministers							
0900-0945	Moderator: Antje ROTHEMUND, Head of the Youth Department  Promoting human rights and democracy through education in Europe today  Round table with participation of:  Haldis Margrete HOLST, Deputy General Secretary, Education International Kishore SINGH, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education Natalia CHARDYMOVA, Director, Academy of Innovation							
0945-1030	Moderator: Sjur BERGAN, Head of the Education Department  Supporting progress towards common objectives on citizenship and human rights education – the role of International Institutions  Round table with participation of: European Commission: Szilvia KALMAN, EU Fundamental Rights Agency: Eva SOBOTKA, OECD: Yuri BELFALI, OSCE/ODIHR: David MARK, OHCHR: Chanmi KIM, UNESCO: Lydia RUPRECHT							
Break								
<p>Workshop 3: Looking to the future: Setting the milestones</p> <p>Recommendations for future action for the CoE, member states, civil society organisations and education institutions, including the development of the indicators as a European contribution towards Target 4.7 of Sustainable Development Goal 4, in the United Nations 2030 Agenda</p>								
1100-1200	Recommendations for the Council of Europe and other international institutions		Recommendations for the member states and national human rights institutions		Recommendations for civil society organisations		Recommendations for education institutions	
	Room 1	Room 6	Room 7	Room 8	Room 10	Room 11	Room 16	Room 17
Break								

Closing session - Hemicycle	
1215-1300	<p>Chair: Maria Esther RABASA GRAU, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire, Représentante Permanente, Chair of the GR-C, Andorre</p> <p>Summary by the Rapporteur General and presentation of the conference outcome  Ana PERONA, Executive Director, The European Wergeland Centre  15 minutes</p> <p>Closing remarks – Council of Europe  Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Directorate General of Democracy</p>
1300	Departure of participants

## Executive Summary

The Conference on the Future of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe will bring together about 300 participants, including representatives of governments, education institutions and civil society organisations, to strengthen the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights.

The basis for the discussion is *The Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe* compiled from the results of an extensive survey conducted with a wide range of stake-holders, and which highlights the Charter as an effective tool in the promotion of human rights and democracy through education.

Participants will discuss the current challenges and opportunities in the broad area of citizenship and human rights education, share examples of good practice and lessons learned, and propose recommendations for action in 2018-2019 including specific criteria and mechanisms for evaluating progress, in particular in the framework of the Charter. A key outcome of the conference will be further peer-to-peer learning and a continuing dialogue among the key actors.

This review exercise is part of the Council of Europe's contribution towards the United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education and the United Nations 2030 Education Agenda (Target SDG 4.7).

The Conference is organised in the framework of the Czech Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

It is being organised to coincide with the annual Council of Europe HELP (human rights education for legal professionals) conference, to demonstrate the benefits of promoting both broad human rights education and human rights education in a specific field.

## Background

"Democratic citizenship and human rights education are [...] increasingly important in addressing discrimination, prejudice and intolerance, and thus preventing and combating violent extremism and radicalisation in a sustainable and proactive way... While taking stock of the present situation, it seems highly desirable to maintain the political momentum by making this a long-term commitment", states Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland in his third Annual Report<sup>1</sup>. Recommendations contained in that Report include the revision of the Council of Europe's activities on Democratic Citizenship Education and Human Rights Education, notably an evaluation of progress made and sharing best practice. The Report calls on member States to improve the visibility of citizenship and human rights education in school curricula, by supporting national co-ordination mechanisms and by promoting comprehensive and sustainable national approaches.

As a result of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education (Brussels, 11-12 April 2016), the Committee of Ministers instructed the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE), on the basis of the results achieved under its programme of activities and with a view to maintaining a long-term impact at European level, to:

- support an improved use of existing instruments, tools and resources developed over the past decade by Council of Europe expert bodies in Education and in other relevant sectors such as Youth
- consider ways of increasing the impact of such resources and of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (hereafter "the Charter")

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe (2016), *State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law: a security imperative for Europe*, Report by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

- renew the network of national coordinators for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education with a view to strengthening its contribution to the implementation of the strategic objectives and specific actions outlined in this Declaration, and to
- contribute from a European perspective to the development of global citizenship education, including education for sustainable development, and undertake a coordination role based on the outcomes of the implementation of the Charter.

In order to evaluate the latest achievements and current challenges in this area, and to promote the values of human rights and democracy through education, the Council of Europe will publish in 2017 a Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe developed in close cooperation with the States Party to the European Cultural Convention and other relevant partners, notably youth non-governmental organisations.

This Report will be the main input for a review Conference on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in to be held on 20-22 June 2017.

The Conference will also draw on the results and information gained in the preparation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Compass Forum on Human Rights Education (“Learning Equality, Living Dignity”) organised by the Council of Europe’s Youth Department in October 2016, which aimed to improve the quality, outreach and impact of citizenship and human rights education. The survey conducted prior to the Forum contains valuable information regarding the role of NGOs and non-formal education in the Charter’s implementation, and highlights cross-sectoral co-operation among youth and education partners in member States in these fields.

The Conference will bring together government representatives, education professionals and civil society organisations to discuss the key conclusions of the Report, to identify present challenges with regards to the implementation of the Charter, to showcase good practice, and to propose recommendations for future action in this area. The Report and the Conference form part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> review cycle of the Charter’s implementation.

#### Organisers

Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe

#### Aim and objectives

The aim of the Conference is to strengthen the Charter’s implementation, and its recognition as an effective tool to promote human rights and democracy through education and training.

The specific objectives of the conference are to:

- *highlight* the need for and the contribution made by citizenship and human rights education to human rights and democracy;
- *analyse* the challenges and opportunities for citizenship and human rights education and training in Europe based on the preliminary results of the Report;
- *encourage* and facilitate dialogue and co-operation among key stake-holders across sectors and at all levels: local, national and international;
- *propose* a set of goals, with associated guidelines and benchmarks for implementation, for the promotion and implementation of EDC/HRE over the next 5 years at a) the Council of Europe level and b) the national level, highlighting the role and contribution to be made by all stake-holders, including civil society organisations and education institutions;
- *produce* recommendations on the renewal of the Council of Europe network of coordinators for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, with a view to the strengthening the impact of the Charter.



## Expected outcomes

The Conference is expected to produce a series of recommendations addressed to a range of stakeholders covering the following areas:

- goals and guidelines for the development of action plans or strategies that promote EDC/HRE over the next 5 years, with possible benchmarks at national level;
- improved understanding of current challenges and opportunities with respect to the promotion of democracy and human rights through education and training;
- a renewed and solid commitment among the key stake-holders that the Charter is a common framework for the promotion of democracy and human rights through education;
- increased motivation for and capacity to use the Council of Europe's support tools and resources such as the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture;
- strengthening of, and support to, the political, social and educational role of EDC/HRE in sustaining a culture of democracy and human rights, including the pursuance of the related Sustainable Development Goals;
- recognition and support of the role of civil society, particularly of youth and students organisations, and other change agents at national level, in furthering the agenda for EDC/HRE;
- increase of participants' motivation and capacity to ensure quality EDC/HRE;
- a reinforced network of partners at national and international levels.

## Expected Outputs

In pursuit of these objectives and outcomes, in addition to a series of recommendations, information will be made available through a Conference report, on the Conference web-site, through factsheets, and through multi-media products.

## Participants

The Conference will gather over 300 participants involved in human rights and citizenship education: representatives of state authorities in charge of education and youth, educational institutions, educational professionals, including youth workers and trainers, as well as civil society representatives.

The opening session of the Conference will coincide with the annual Council of Europe HELP conference, allowing for synergies to be generated from a broad and narrow focus on human rights education.

## Reference texts

This field of work is built upon several legal instruments and other texts of the Council of Europe and other international institutions. The Conference will contribute to their implementation. Some examples include:

### A. Council of Europe

[EDC/HRE Charter: Recommendation CM/Rec\(2010\)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#)

## Declarations and Action Plans

1. [Final Declaration of the 25th Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education](#)
2. [Building Inclusive Societies - Action Plan \(2015-2017\)](#)

3. [The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism - Action Plan \(2015-2017\)](#)

Committee of Ministers Recommendations:

1. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2015\)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights \(Enter! recommendation\)](#)
2. [Recommendation CM/Rec \(2012\)13 on ensuring quality education](#)
3. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2012\)7 on the responsibility of public authorities for academic freedom and institutional autonomy](#)
4. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2012\)2 on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18](#)
5. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2007\)13 on gender mainstreaming in education](#)
6. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2007\)6 on the public responsibility for higher education and research](#)
7. [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2004\)4 on the European Convention on Human Rights in university education and professional training \(2004\)](#)

B. European Union

[Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#)

C. United Nations

1. [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
2. [Plan of Action for the third phase \(2015-2019\) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education \(A/HRC/27/28\)](#)
3. [Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training](#)
4. [Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms \(1974\)](#)