

The art of Learning Equality, Dignity, Democracy



Forum on the present and future of citizenship and human rights education in Europe with young people

<https://worksup.com/HREFORUM/>

11-13 April 2022

ONLINE PROGRAMME

Monday 11 April

- 08:45-08:55 **Online session: Technical introduction**, introduction to the platforms and organizational announcements (2 parallel sessions: in English and in Italian)
- 09:00-10:00 **Streaming: Opening of the Forum**, welcome by Giuseppe Casale, Director *a.i.*, International Training Centre of the ILO, and artistic introduction
- Opening speeches by:
- Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor of the city of Torino
 - Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe
 - Spyridon Papadatos, Advisory Council on Youth
 - Marie Struthers, Amnesty International Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
 - Fabiana Dadone, Minister for Youth Policies of Italy
 - Message of Luigi Di Maio, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
- 10:00-10:45 **Streaming: The right to humanity without hate**, message of Liliana Segre, Italian Senator for life
- Universalising human rights through education**, keynote speech by Nils Muiznieks, Amnesty International Regional Director for Europe
- 10:45-11:45 **Online session: Introductory session**, introductions, getting to know each other, programme and methodology, working group sign-up
- 11:45-14:30 Screen break and lunch*
- 14:30-15:00 **Streaming: The state of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE)**
- Presentation of the findings of the review of the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE, by Barbara Santibañez and Elizaveta Bagrintseva
- 15:00-16:30 **Online session: Working groups**, Discussing, completing and validating the conclusions of the review
- Group 1: facilitated by Ekaterina Sherer in English
 - Group 2: facilitated by Xavier Baró Urbea in French
 - Group 3: facilitated by Ana Morgado, in Italian
 - Group 4: facilitated by Carly Walker-Dawson, in English
- 16:30-17:00 **Online session: Feedback from working groups**, report back and discussion/reflection

17:00 *Close of day*

Tuesday 12 April

- 08:45-09:00 **Online session: Coffee morning** (optional)
- 09:00-09:05 **Streaming:** Opening of the day
- 09:05-09:15 **Streaming: The role of education for a culture of universal human rights**, messages by Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and by Dunja Mijatović, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- 09:15-10:30 **Streaming: The right to human rights education in times of crisis**, experiences by young human rights educators:
- NN, Italy
 - Clémence Bisson, France
 - Maryia Yasenovska, Ukraine
- 10:30-11:00 *Break*
- 11:00-12:30 **Online session: Thematic working groups - Making sense of Universality, Equality and Dignity** in citizenship and human rights education:
- The Covid pandemic and the right to human rights education
 - Mainstreaming EDC/HRE in youth policy and youth work
 - EDC/HRE and armed conflict
- 12:30-13:00 **Online session: Feedback from working groups**, report back and discussion/reflection
- 13:00-15:00 *Screen break and lunch*
- 15:00-15:15 **Streaming: The Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture** and the EDC/HRE Charter, presentation by Louisa Black, consultant with the Council of Europe
- 15:15-15:30 **Streaming:** The youth campaign **Democracy Here, Democracy Now** – introduction by Anca- Ruxandra Pandea, campaign coordinator at the Council of Europe
- 15:30-17:00 **Online session: Open space - sharing practices in EDC/HRE**, in participants-led sessions (more details to be provided according to offers of participants)
- 17:00 *Close of day*

Wednesday 13 April

- 08:45-09:00 **Online session: Coffee morning** (optional)
- 09:00-09:15 **Streaming:** Opening of the day
- 09:15-10:45 **Streaming: The future of EDC/HRE**, roundtable with:
- Elena Ippoliti, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Krittika Vishwanath, Head of the global HRE Team at Amnesty International
 - Cecilia Barbieri, Chief of the UNESCO section on Global Citizenship and Peace Education
 - Ana Perona-Fjeldstad, Executive Director of the European Wergeland Centre
 - Michail Beis, Deputy Head of Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- 10:45-11:00 **Streaming:** Presentation of the **message/conclusions of the forum**
- 11:00-11:30 *Break*
- 11:30-13:00 **Online session: Working groups: Guidelines and priorities for the future of EDC/HRE:**
- Group 1: facilitated by Ekaterina Sherer in English
 - Group 2: facilitated by Xavier Baró Urbea in French
 - Group 3: facilitated by Ana Morgado, in Italian
 - Group 4: facilitated by Carly Walker-Dawson, in English
- 13:00-13:30 **Online session: Feedback from working groups and planning**, report back, discussion/reflection and preparation for plenary
- 13:30-15:30 *Screen break and lunch*
- 15:30-16:00 **Online session: Closing of online space**, summary on plenary preparation and evaluation
- 16:00-16:45 **Streaming:** Presentation of results from the working groups
- 16:45-18:00 **Streaming: Conclusions and closing**, conclusions by Felisa Tibbitts, general rapporteur of the forum, and closing words with:
- Paulína Jalakšová, member of the Bureau of the European Youth Forum
 - Maria Cristina Pisani, President of the Italian Youth Council
 - Giuseppe Ronsisvalle, Council of Europe Steering Committee for Education
 - Emanuele Russo, President of Amnesty International Italy
 - Carlotta Salerno, Turin Deputy Mayor for Education and Youth Policies
 - Patrizio Bianchi, Minister of Public Education of Italy
 - Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Citizenship, Council of Europe
- 18:00 *Close of day*

ABOUT THE FORUM

The state of education for democratic citizenship and human rights

Education plays a key role in the promotion of the core values of the Council of Europe: democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as in the prevention of human rights violations. The Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2010, stresses the complementary role of the formal and non-formal education actors in promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (EDC/HRE). The Charter asks member states frame their policies, legislation and practice with the aim to *provide every person within their territory with the opportunity of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education*.

The Council of Europe has conducted reviews of the implementation of charter in member states in order to support its implementation, encourage evaluation of national strategies and policies in member states as well as supporting cooperation among national stakeholders, from both governmental and non-governmental sectors. The reviews allow also for an updating of the trends, challenges and innovations in policy and practice of human rights education.

The purpose and principles of the Charter have lately been translated into the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC), an important tool that was designed to help the educational institutions in implementation of the Charter. The RFCDC provides a systematic approach to designing the teaching, learning and assessment of competences for democratic culture, and introducing them into education systems in ways that are coherent, comprehensive and transparent.

The Council of Europe youth sector has remained committed to provide the platform for youth organisations and networks to develop EDC/HRE with young people, mainly through its Human Rights Education Youth Programme. The programme has focused on key resources for capacity-building and advocacy, chiefly Compass and Compasito, manuals on human rights education with young people and with children, respectively. They are complemented by a programme of Compass national training courses, study sessions and related activities at the European Youth Centres. The recently adopted [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) confirmed the central role of human rights education as a part of the priority of supporting young people's access to rights, namely by

increasing capacity building and resources for youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders to provide human rights education and advocate access to rights.

The last [review of the Charter](#) was conducted in 2017. The review concluded that many national governments and youth organisations are committed to develop and strengthen EDC/HRE but at the same time many fell short in fulfilling their commitments. Since the last review many challenges were deepened and some new emerged, such as: weakening democratic processes in many countries in Europe, raise of ultra-nationalistic organisations, challenges related to the use of artificial intelligence and digitalisation, and those stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and all restrictions related to it. This has had an impact on the realisation of human rights: the space is shrinking for many youth organisations and other NGOs, inequalities are increasing especially when it comes to access to human rights for young people, many youth organisations had to close or to limit their scope of operation.

These challenges are also highlighted in the 2021 report of the Secretary General on the state of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, *A democratic renewal for Europe*, in which she notes that:

- steps are required to ensure that a culture of democracy is open to all and that innovations, notably artificial intelligence, provide widespread benefits, while upholding our common values;

- there must be access to education for democracy; citizens – and young people in particular – should be able to acquire competences for democratic culture;
- public provision of youth spaces, programmes and services is decreasing in some member states; half of youth civil society organisations fear retribution when they exercise freedom of expression and many young people show a high degree of political interest but a low degree of engagement with essential democratic processes, including voting in elections (...).

Five years after, it is crucial to take stock of what EDC/HRE looks like now in Europe in order to be able to respond to the existing and emerging challenges and reflect on the role youth organisations and networks need to play in this respect. The Council of Europe has thus initiated the 3rd review cycle of the Charter. Its findings and conclusions will be presented and discussed at the Forum by a large number of stakeholders and partners from a variety of sectors and from all member states. The review should further strengthen the Charter implementation, support the development of strategic goals for the next five years and facilitate the development of national indicators/benchmarks/priorities that can allow assessing progress achieved and guiding further action at national and international level.

A Forum to share, create and advocate

The forum is organised to bring together and review experiences and expectation of stakeholders in EDC/HRE in youth work, non-formal and formal learning.

This forum is co-organised by the Council of Europe (Education and the Youth sectors) and the Department for Youth Policy and the Universal Civic Service of the Italian government, in cooperation with Amnesty International (Europe and Central Asia Office and Italian section), the City of Turin, the National Youth Council of Italy and the European Youth Forum. The activity is organised within the Italian Presidency of the Council of Europe, which made youth policy one of its strategic priorities.

Aims and objectives

The Forum aims at strengthening the quality, recognition, and outreach of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education with young people

Objectives

- To review the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE;
- To identify and address successes and challenges in carrying out EDC/HRE in a (post) pandemic context for human rights education and linking specifically with some of the thematic priorities of Italian Presidency in the Council of Europe;
- To make proposals for the further development and sustainability of EDC/HRE in the state's parties to the European Cultural Convention;
- To share practices and support exchange and cooperation between different stakeholders from formal and non-formal education fields concerned with EDC/HRE in the thematic priorities;
- To enhance the recognition of the role of youth civil society and further develop cross sectoral cooperation for EDC/HRE, including youth work;
- To strengthen cross sectoral dialogue and partnerships between different stakeholders in EDC/HRE: educators, trainers, authorities and policy makers, intergovernmental organisations and others;
- To contribute to the strategic priorities and programme of the Italian Presidency in the Council of Europe, and to the work on HRE in Italy and particularly in the city of Turin.