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Youth Campaign for human rights online

Follow-Up Group

Report of 12th meeting

18 – 19 September 2017

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

Table of Contents

Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda.....	1
News from the observers in the Follow-up Group and other partners	2
Updates on the implementation of the campaign.....	2
Review of the outcomes of the 5 th coordinators meeting	3
Review of activities foreseen for 2017	3
Action Day countering antisemitic hate speech, 9 November	3
Action Day for Human Rights online, 10 December	3
Strengthen use of counter and alternative narratives in the campaign	4
Cooperation projects	4
Seminar on Youth Participation in Internet Governance	4
The external evaluation of the NHSM youth campaign.....	4
Exchange of views on the follow-up to the Youth Campaign.....	5
How to mark the end of the European youth campaign?	6
Future function of national campaign committees and online activists	6
Ownership and maintenance of campaign communication platforms and logo	7
Review preparations for the closing of the Youth Campaign	7
Review preparation process of campaign closing and evaluation conference	8
Closing of the meeting	9

Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda

Apologies were received from Bruno del Mazo Unamuno (CDEJ), Finn Yrjar Denstad (EEA and Norway Grants), Ellen Lange (European Steering Committee of Education Policy and Practice), Laszlo Foldi (Online Community Manager, consultant for the Youth Department), and Rui Gomes (Head of Division Education and Training) apologised for Monday morning session.

Djuro Blanusa has taken up a new job and left the CDEJ as representative of Serbia.

Matej Manevski chaired the meeting.

The agenda was adopted after moving the ‘review of action days’ and ‘joint action to mark closing of Youth Campaign’ under point 6 to Tuesday morning.

News from the observers in the Follow-up Group and other partners

The campaign secretariat spoke with the EEA-Norway grant before the meeting. The grants are presently signing framework agreements with the beneficiary countries. Hate speech remains a key priority and calls for project proposals will be opened by end of 2018 in most countries concerned.

ERYICA finalised the manual 'tackling violent radicalisation of young people from a Youth information centre perspective. Following the proofreading of the CoE, it will be first published in French and an English translation is foreseen.

EYCA has 40 members in 37 countries reaching over 6.7 million youth. Most are involved in the campaign and the national campaign actions. Three examples were highlighted:

- In Scotland a twitter action was set up during black history month
- In Madrid the marathon in May was dedicated to the campaign
- In Malta three projects celebrated cultural diversity and challenged hate speech.

The INGO had on joint meeting on hate speech attended by 35 NGO's. The INGO working group on hate speech is seeking cooperation with the No Hate alliance of the Parliamentary Assembly.

Updates on the implementation of the campaign

The Follow-up Group took note of the secretariat report on the implementation of the campaign. The group noted that:

- Communication frequency between the secretariat and the national campaigns seem to fluctuate. This could be related to staff changes within national campaigns who often work with volunteers. Secretariat should regularly ask national campaigns to provide new contact lists. It also seems to indicate national campaigns have good communication channels of their own and work more independent
- Secretariat should sent regular reminders to national campaigns and partners to contribute articles for the newsletter. This could be a fixed feature in the Flashnews
- National campaigns should be reminder by the online community manager they have editing rights and should regularly post on the Campaign Facebook page

The Follow-up Group declined the request to recognise a Turkish campaign support group, arguing that:

- The campaign at European level is closing down
- The Turkish authorities informed the Council of Europe not the support the campaign and has taken active steps to close any previous involvement from their side

The secretariat is asked to;

- Inquire about the reasons for the request for recognition at this stage and the needs of the ngo's concerned
- Provide letter of support to individual NGO's working on hate speech in Turkey were needed and justified
- Ensure Turkish NGO's in a coordinating role for the campaign are on the mailing lists and receive information on the closing conference

Review of the outcomes of the 5th coordinators meeting

The Follow-up Group took note of the report of the 5th coordination meeting in Bucharest. The proposals for the campaign actions for 2017, and the questions and recommendations regarding the closing of the European level Campaign were taken up under related items on the agenda.

Member of the group present at the coordination meeting reported:

- There was a very active process, involving everybody.
- It severed the strong need to sharing experience, learn and challenging each other
- Satisfaction with the results, although questions remained among participants regarding the approach to the closing of the European level campaign and its impact on national campaigns and online activists community.
- Using the Indicators of Success, developed during the coordination meeting in 2016, is challenging. They are very broadly defined and need adaption to the national context. Many participants were not present in 2016 and found it particularly hard to report on them. The exercise again raised the questions if national campaigns are able to set strategic objectives and monitor them considering their budget and time limitations

Review of activities foreseen for 2017

Action Day countering antisemitic hate speech, 9 November

The action day proposals drafted by participants during the seminar combatting antisemitic hate speech in May 2017 were well received. The Follow up Group emphasis this action day must call out the hate speech AND promote human rights narratives as a response. The Action Day should pinpoint how antisemitic hate speech is expressed in Europe today including hidden and new forms of expressions of antisemitism and holocaust denial.

Concrete proposals for the day:

- Give visibility to good practices identified in the seminar
- Provide 2 hour online workshops to national campaign to help them understand better the subject and prepare the content of their actions
- Provide a detailed analyses of articles about the Israel- Palestine conflict to clarify the distinction between antisemitic speech and legitimate criticism of states action

Action Day for Human Rights online, 10 December

The Follow-up Group appreciates the proposal of the secretariat to highlight on 10 December why human rights are important for our daily reality. In other words this action day goes back to the basics and the human rights principles.

This action day must mobilise all national campaigns and European partners and aim to reach a wide youth audience. The secretariat is asked to contact coordinators and key partners directly and assign activists to prepare materials that mobilise others to follow the actions. The Follow-up group agreed to help mobilise its members and other partners.

Proposals for actions:

- Challenge young people to share pictures and video's illustrating how HR affects their lives using a hash tag. Or similarly if HR were not ensured, how their lives would be affected.
- Record information video's about the action day to mobilise member organisations of campaign partners and general youth public
- Infographic describing the human rights structures and its checks and balances.
- Infographic illustrating the practical implication of the human rights articles.
- Review and re-launch campaign materials on Human Rights, making them fit for general use and promote their translation to other languages
- Video statements about why people got involved and stayed involved in the campaign for human rights online

Strengthen use of counter and alternative narratives in the campaign

The Follow-up Group acknowledged the campaign activists and Youth Department continue to develop their competences in using Counter and Alternative narratives (CAN's) to address with young people hate speech. We CAN! is a rich resource but the material is difficult to use if you have little experience. The group encourages the secretariat to:

- Extend the pool of trainers and facilitators that can work with We CAN!
- Provide more information on where to find additional tools and resources to develop CAN's, ranging from drafting slogans, increasing creativity, strengthening outreach and impact

Cooperation projects

The Follow-up Group is pleased the regional seminar on spectator violence and hate speech in cooperation with EPAS and the Bosnian authorities continues despite budget limitations.

The Follow-up Group noted the involvement in the training course with the Commonwealth Youth Division and Countering Violent Extremism Unit, was decreased due to lack of funds. The secretariat is asked to review the outcomes of the pilot and cooperation in light of the legacy of the campaign, and to inform the Joint Council on future possibilities for cooperation.

Seminar on Youth Participation in Internet Governance

The Follow-up Group noted that Internet Governance needs to be made understandable and attractive to the general youth population. Present engagements through the campaign shows the Youth Department needs to develop its competences, but is well placed to add Youth Participation and Human Rights based approach to the Internet Governance process. The seminar should clarify the youth concerns regarding Internet and draft proposals how to address them. The campaigns experiences with EuroDIG and IGF should be documented and shared with the National campaigns.

The external evaluation of the NHSM youth campaign

Hana Bendova, external consultants, updated the Follow-up Group on the approach and progress of the evaluation. The Inception phase will be completed after integrating the feedback from this meeting. The data collection starts in October and runs till end of the year covering two levels: Overall level survey and supporting interviews covering all countries and stakeholders; and five country case studies to assess campaigns approaches and their

impact. The Evaluation and Closing Conference will verify the results and help finalise the recommendations for future campaigns and work on hate speech.

The consultant confirmed Theory of Change methodology will be applied in part, specifically for the country cases. The Theory of Change was not been define at the onset and therefore reconstructed with the secretariat retroactively.

The surveys will cover national campaigns, online activists and European partners providing general feedback on the functioning and results of the campaign. Other sources of information gives further meaning to the survey results, this includes among others the working session at the 5th coordination meeting and the 5 country case studies. To ensure comprehensive feedback it was suggested that:

- Interviews with Online Activists goes beyond the 5 country cases, covering the diversity of engagements regarding topics, online tools and campaign activities eg. action days, hate speech watch, social media, offline connected to national campaigns etc.
- Interviews with European partners goes beyond the 5 country cases.
- EYCA and ERYICA will sent out and collect the feedback on the survey from their members and compile a comprehensive response. ERYICA will organise a group discussion on the campaign at its Governing Board meeting 29-30 November using guiding questions provided by the Evaluator.
- Campaign secretariat develops a matrix mapping all stakeholders and their relation to the campaign and each other. The Follow-up Group is asked to provide feedback, and help identify other stakeholders for the survey and interviews.

Exchange of views on the follow-up to the Youth Campaign

The Follow-up Group was joined for this item by Matthew Johnson, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation and Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department.

Matthew Johnson opens the discussion confirming the role of the Youth led campaign in raise awareness about the threat hate speech poses for democratic societies in Europe, including within the Council of Europe. The Secretary General's annual report notes how hate speech chips away at Human rights and democratic principles that were taken for granted. The Council of Europe needs to reaffirm the basics. Peace in Europe relies on integrated relations between member states based on common values.

The role of young people to meet these challenges is clear. Through youth work and human rights education young people gain the competences to be at ease with multi-cultural diverse societies. The youth angle to the on-going work on hate speech by the Council of Europe needs to be secured, but the campaign is losing momentum and a new format is needed.

The Council of Europe's approach entails offering more support and guidance to member states to develop adequate responses covering policy measures and programmes. The legacy of the campaign, particularly the network of national campaigns, should be linked to

the wider work on anti-discrimination of the organisation, including its monitoring bodies such as ECRI.

Antje Rothemund adds that the campaign has built the expertise of the Youth Department and the Council of Europe as a whole in new areas. The campaign reached out to many new partners that got involved in the Youth Departments work. The move of the European Coordinator, Menno Ettema, to the new Anti-Discrimination Department will secure links to the legacy of the campaign; even if it is no longer a youth led initiative. The Programming Committee has prioritised the follow-up to the campaign in the budgeting of activities within the three programme priority for 2018-2019.

The follow-up group added that the No Hate Speech Movement has become a brand on its own that represents values of equality, non-discrimination and human rights. The campaign is also an entrée point for young people to learn about the work of the Council of Europe and its youth sector. Key results not to be lost in the follow-up phase of the campaign.

Some of the main concerns identified at the 5th coordination meeting of the campaign were reviewed.

How to mark the end of the European youth campaign?

Most of the national campaigns continue. They are joined by several European partners and new partners funded through the re-launched programme of the EEA Norway grants and Erasmus+.

To mark the end of the European coordination of the campaign is therefore relevant for the national campaigns and partners not the general (youth) public. The end should be marked by the celebration of the achievement of the campaign and identifying proposal for the future work on hate speech.

The end of the European level Youth Campaign and its coordination by the Youth Department need to be communicated to the national campaigns and partners. At the same time they should receive clear explanation about what support to expect from the Council of Europe and their future points of contact within the organisation.

National campaigns have requested this information is provided as soon as possible to allow relevant ministries to plan their involvement in the national campaigns and support for the work on hate speech for 2018.

Future function of national campaign committees and online activists

The national campaign committees could be national focal points on hate speech for the Anti-Discrimination Department. Some national committees however only focus on young people and many others are set-up by, or associated with, the Ministry responsible for Youth Affairs. They might continue to associate themselves to the Youth Department and request it to provide support and coordination.

The secretariats of the two Departments are requested to set up clear guidelines for the set-up and function of the focal points of the Anti-Discrimination Department and the role of the national campaigns within it.

The online activists' community is moving towards a self-functioning network that organises on and offline activities. This development is encouraged knowing that many youth networks have grown out of the programmes of the Youth department. A future network or organisation can apply for support through the European Youth Foundation and holding Study Sessions similarly to other youth organisations.

Ownership and maintenance of campaign communication platforms and logo

The need to secure an online presence of the No Hate Speech Movement is clear, it is suggested to:

- Maintain the logo and url: www.nohatespeechmovement.org, which will lead in 2018 to the campaign site with clear information on the initiatives of national campaigns and partners, the Council of Europe's work on hate speech, and list essential resources and tools.
- Maintain social media channels in 2018. Facebook and Twitter will cover the work of the Council of Europe and national campaigns. Other channels (YouTube/Flickr) will remain but their functionalities limited.

Review preparations for the closing of the Youth Campaign

Based on the exchange of views on the closing of the campaign and the proposals of the secretariat listed in 'Item 9 Review preparations for the closing of the Youth Campaign' the Follow-up group suggest that:

- The campaign website:
 - o will be the only portal for both general (youth) public wanting to know what is hate speech and how to take action and national campaigns and organisations needing detailed information about the campaign and the Council of Europe's work on hate speech.
 - o should inherit from the campaign platform a blog function and information on reporting mechanisms, all other functions will be discontinued and archived. The blog should portray work of national campaign, good practices and new developments related to hate speech.
- Social media platforms should be kept but their functionalities reviewed because lack of capacity to administrate them actively. It's suggested that:
 - o Facebook page remains available in 2018 for national campaigns and the Council of Europe to post information on their work and events. Administrative rights should be critically reviewed.
 - o Facebook group remains a tool for communication.
 - o YouTube channel remains available but most of its functionalities, specifically comments section are closed. Good videos should be highlighted on the channel and the campaign website.
 - o Flickr should be reorganised according to thematic area, cleaned and most functionalities deactivated. It can become a repository of campaign materials and visuals.

- Twitter hashtag should be kept alive in close cooperation with the national campaigns and online activists.
- Action days are taken up on the initiative of national campaigns and partners. The Council of Europe can join if there is shared thematic interest and give visibility, through its social media channels.
- The secretariat should develop with the Norwegian and other national campaigns a proposal for marking 22 July, day for the commemoration of victims of hate crime, in the future. This should be presented at the closing conference.
- The Director General of Democracy sends a letter to all Ministries on youth affairs and key campaign stakeholders to thank them for the commitment to the campaign in 2016-2017 and inform them of its follow-up, covering:
 - Scope of the Council of Europe's future work on hate speech and human rights online, in particular in relation to the Youth Department and Anti-Discrimination Department
 - Who to contact in the Council of Europe secretariat for the various areas of work on hate speech
 - The scope and type of support and/or coordination to be expected from the Council of Europe towards the work of the national campaigns, online activists and partners
- The possibility to continue using the logo by national campaigns and partners should be emphasised and the legal framework clarified.
- The achievements of the youth campaign in general and from the period 2016-2017 in particular must be documented. Three separate but closely connected publications should be prepared and available at the closing conference:
 - (draft) Report of the external evaluation covering 2015-2017
 - A publication on the main achievements of the No Hate Speech Movement youth campaign 2012-2017. It will provide an overview of the developments and major achievements within the campaign through its multi facet approach implemented through the variety of stakeholders at local, national and international level.
 - An online compendium of good practices and resources developed by the campaign stakeholders.

Review preparation process of campaign closing and evaluation conference

The conference objectives and composition of the preparation group listed in item 8, preparation process of evaluation and closing conference of the campaign, were adopted. The secretariat will prepare the call for preparatory group members and draft a selection for consultation with the Follow-up Group.

A brain-storm session on the conference programme and festive elements produced the following ideas:

- Symbolic event where national and local campaigns receive the no hate flame from the Council of Europe to carry it forward
- Visual presentation of the campaign achievements through a flashmobs or big sketch prepared by national campaigns and activists
- 'Chinees' dragon parade covered with No Hate hearts
- No hate heart tram in Strasbourg

- No hate heart in the grass lawn before the Paleis and No hate logo in the sign at the front of the lawn
- 1 minute video on the campaign 2012-2017
- 5 minute video on the closing conference
- Google banner on the No Hate Speech Movement and/or make the No Hate Speech Movement trending on social media
- Session in the programme on 'great idea's never realised and stupid ideas that were'
- Event with the permanent representations providing clear examples what has and will be done in the member states
- Invite persons to the programme involved in the launching phase of the campaign
- A celebrative thank you should be available for the campaigners, such as:
 - o A tattoo artist sets a No Hate heart remembrance badge
 - o Campaign pins with a special visual element or colour
 - o Campaign diary or notebook
 - o A laptop camera cover with campaign logo

Closing of the meeting

All members of the Follow-up Group appreciated the experience being member of the group and the good cooperation over the past 1,5 year.

Annex: agenda and participants list

Monday 18 September

9.30 – 18.00

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of agenda
2. News from the observers in the Follow-up Group and other partners
3. Updates on the implementation of the campaign
 - a. European campaign activities and secretariat
 - b. National campaigns and support groups
 - c. Online activists.
4. Review of the outcomes of the 5th coordinators meeting
5. Review and update on the external evaluation with Hana Bendova, external consultants
6. Review and planning of activities foreseen for 2017
 - a. Youth participation in Internet Governance processes
 - b. Work on/with Counter and Alternative Narratives
 - c. Cooperation with EPAS and Commonwealth youth secretariat
7. Exchange of views on the follow-up to the Youth Campaign with Matthew Johnson, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, and Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department

Tuesday 19 September

8. Review preparation process of campaign closing and evaluation conference
9. Review preparations for the closing of the Youth Campaign
 - a. Mapping of campaign tools to retain after 2017
 - b. Reflection on future relation with national campaigns and online activists community
 - c. Planning the report of Follow-up Group to the Joint Council on Youth
6. Review and planning of activities foreseen for 2017 continues
 - a. Action Days
 - b. Joint action to mark closing of Youth Campaign at European level
10. Closing of the meeting
 - a. AOB
 - b. Evaluation

List of Participants

European Steering Committee on Youth

Jehona Roka, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth of Albania

Advisory Council on Youth

Youssef Himmat, Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations

Oleksandra Kovyazina, World Esperanto Youth Organisation

Matej Manevski, Youth for Exchange and Understanding

Observers

Gilles Bloch, Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe

Nelli Gishyan, National Campaign Committee Armenia

Cristina Mancigotti, representative of the online activists and moderators

Lilla Nedeczky, National Campaign Committee Hungary

Manel Sanchez, European Youth Card Association

Imre Simon, European Youth Information and Counselling Agency

Secretariat

Menno Ettema, No Hate Speech Movement campaign coordinator, Youth Department

Laszlo Foldi, Online Community Manager, consultant for the Youth Department (by visio)

Estelle Glessinger, Campaign Assistant, Youth Department

Rui Gomes, Head of Division Education and Training, Youth Department

Marius Jitea, Programme Officer, Youth Department

Matthew Johnson, Director of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation

Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department

Apologised:

Bruno del Mazo Unamuno, Spanish Institute for Youth

Ellen Lange, European Steering Committee of Education Policy and Practice

Finn Yrjar Denstad, EEA and Norway Grants