



DDCP-YD/CHATE SPEECH (2014)

20 December 2014



Follow-Up Group

Seventh Meeting

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, 23-25 October 2014

Room 5.1

Report

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda as set out in Document DDCP-YD/CHATE SPEECH (2014) 28 was adopted.

2. Welcome of the new members

The participants presented themselves and new members were welcomed to the Follow-Up Group.

It was agreed that Laurence Hermand (from the CDEJ) would chair the meeting.

3. Updates on the implementation of the European campaign

3.1 Activities in the programme (including meetings of NCCs, seminars, etc.)

3.3 Participation in other activities

The campaign has received enthusiastic support from Mme Brasseur, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly, who has chosen one of the winners from the photo competition for use as her end of the year greetings card.

Bridget presented a list of recent activities organised by the campaign:

- The photo competition was a success: participation was involved and interested, and it spread the message of the movement. A video competition is to be held soon.
- The living library held on the occasion of the third part session of the Parliamentary assembly (organised in collaboration with the Secretariat of the PACE) was also very successful
- Eurodig resulted in successful lobbying and networking with a number of associations and individuals in Germany, and there is hope that a campaign may be started in Germany, possibly without any government involvement at the start.
- At the European Youth Event, the Campaign had workshops and a stand, which attracted interest. It is possible that the EYE will be held on a regular basis in the future.
- OSCE meeting in Warsaw – our side event on Hate Speech had been well attended
- The NHATE SPEECHM had also been presented at other conferences (Brussels)

Bookmarks training in Namur

- The co-operation with the BIJ, as always had been excellent

- The training boosted French-speaking interest and participation and it was proposed to invite the representative of CEMEA to the NCC meeting in Warsaw.
- The participants expressed a wish to see a prolongation of the European Campaign, as well as to kick off a French Campaign.

3.2 The Forum in Gabala

Mara Georgescu joined the meeting at this point.

A discussion was held on the Forum which took place in Gabala, Azerbaijan.

Rui began by noting that there had been good co-operation with Nayora; however the co-operation with the authorities of Azerbaijan in the context of their chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers did not meet expectations.

The forum itself was successful, lively, though rather difficult to manage which is to be expected for such a big event. Participants were able to share their experiences and expectations, their ideas for the future of the campaign, to send a message to the Council of Europe. It was exemplary for how events should ideally work in the Campaign (it was tweeted, shared, etc.)

Certain people thought they should have been invited, but this was clarified early on, which eased any tensions that this might have caused.

The participant evaluations reflected the positive atmosphere of the Forum (although the form of evaluations could be improved (the fact that they were public, and required first and last names, as well as email address was discouraging if the participants had any suggestions or complaints). There were several complaints about security: some participants required extra security (an escort and personal security were provided for the Armenian representative) which made others uncomfortable.

Altogether the Forum proved to be efficiently organised. The results of the Working Groups were good, especially considering that they were disturbed by a serious earthquake.

The Forum was successful in terms of networking. It was important to meet offline, to share experiences and ideas.

Some participants had not understood that they would be expected to help write a message at the end, they were surprised, though it had been explained at the beginning of the Forum.

Laurence and Margarida noted that the Belgian and Portuguese participants were very happy with the Forum, Margarida adding that they wished for more participation and for the European Campaign to be extended past summer 2015.

The participants would be interested in having the contact information of the others. It was suggested that this may not be possible for data protection reasons.

All in all, the Forum was motivating and inspiring, made even more interesting by the intercultural encounters (though Mara pointed out that they had not seen much of Azerbaijan).

3.4 European Action Days

The European Action Days have been better organised and have resulted in an increase in following (on social media).

3.5 No Hate Speech Movement platform; Newsletter and online tools

The platform had been changed since the last Follow-up Group meeting, to make more information immediately visible and available, and there are no plans for any other major changes going forward.

The Newsletter layout has been slightly altered. It is a useful, informative tool. "Flashnews" is also a useful information source for NCC's, but should not replace more specifically targeted e mails to NCC's regarding certain events.

3.6 Cooperation with social media sites

Recent work has been carried out with our contacts with Facebook and Twitter. Facebook is holding a training session in Dublin in November for some of the Campaign staff. Twitter will organise a webinar for Campaign activists. Pro-bono advertising for the Campaign has also been developed with these websites. Google, Facebook and Twitter have agreed to develop a page providing information on how to deal with Hate Speech on their sites. A statement by prepared by the Anti-defamation League concerning Hate Speech has been endorsed by Google, Twitter, Facebook and Microsoft in the U.S.A.

Cooperation with Twitter has proved more fruitful than with other social media sites.

4. Mobilisation of resources for the European campaign

There are only limited resources left until the end of the campaign (in the special account). As a result, it would be good to launch a call for more voluntary contributions.

The Follow-Up Group needs to make clear to the Joint Council on Youth and they should send a message to the Secretary General, that there are not sufficient funds to finish the Campaign properly,

Once the European Campaign closes, the platform will close. However it is important to keep the blog and Hate Speech Watch up and running.

Ellen informed the group that it was said in Gabala that in certain countries where the national campaigns are just starting up, they need the support of the European Campaign. She also remarked that although the CDPPE cannot contribute money, they can perhaps help in other ways (e.g. national education authorities could pay for transportation costs – the EWC could coordinate this).

It was decided that the Follow-Up Group should draft a shopping list of the (post-)Campaign's needs, including:

- 3-4 regional training courses (contributions in cash or in kind (e.g. hosting the participants))
- the evaluation conference (contributions in cash or in kind (e.g. hosting the participants))
- maintenance of the NHATE SPEECHM platform and hiring the necessary moderators

5. News from the observers in the Follow-up Group, other partners and their initiatives

EYCA – The EYCA representative could not attend but sent a written report which was presented to the Group. The EYCA continues to be active in promoting the campaign

ERIYCA/EYF – there were no representative of ERYICA or EYF. This situation occurs regularly, and some members of the Follow Up Group wondered if they should continue to be observers.

CDPPE – The CDPPE representative (Ellen) informed the Group that there was no news from the CDPPE, as a meeting had not yet taken place. There will be an informal meeting in December where Ellen has asked that the question of co-operation and with the NHATE SPEECHM and promotion of Bookmarks in schools be raised.

6. Cooperation with the EEA Norway Grants

The Grants fund over 1000 NGO programmes (with between 2 and 3000 next year) which they have had positive feedback on.

Mid-term interviews for feedback: NCCs could do better. Planning problems (Poland: last minute request to pay for all travel expenses): there is room for improvement.

They were told that there was a problem with translating Bookmarks. People were under the impression that only a translator with a law degree could do it, which made it too expensive. This is definitely not the case and the Secretariat would ensure that the message is conveyed to all the NCC's.

7. Update of the state of play of national campaigns and national committees

Andorra, Luxembourg, San Marino may soon be starting a campaign.

Gubaz considered that there is still no active involvement of national campaigns in the preparations for EADs.

For the activities for the 10th Dec, it is important that everyone is involved: activists could also encourage their NCCs to be involved in the preparation. The NCC meeting in Warsaw could help with preparing the 10 December actions.

The Polish NCC was proposing a major action (nationally) 9 November.

Gubaz informed the group that he has been in contact with someone who is part of an organization of 47/48 African countries and says there is interest in starting a campaign in Africa.

Laurence pointed out that it would be good if national committees co-operated more together, but also stressed the need for the European Campaign to continue in order to ensure this co-operation.

8. Progress on strategic objectives and expected results

As regards the first strategic objective - - It was suggested that ELSA could be asked to prepare a one page explanatory note on The Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime – in order to assist in work to obtain more ratifications.

8.1. Internal task force of the Director General

The task force has not met since the last Follow-Up Group meeting. There is a meeting planned for early December.

Nevertheless, progress had been made, particularly in bilateral co-operation with key services in the Council of Europe –notably the PACE secretariat. The Follow Up Group was informed about the establishment of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance – which will be formally launched in January.

8.2. PACE recommendations and reply from the Joint Council on Youth

8.3. Recommendations by the Committee of Ministers

8.4 Presentation of the work of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, particularly in regard to a new General Recommendation concerning Hate Speech

The representative from ECRI, Mr Stefano Valenti presented a report, stating that ECRI was in the process of writing a General Policy Recommendation (GPR) which will consist of general guidelines to help governments fight racism and monitor Hate Speech and discrimination. A preliminary draft will be completed around January, which will be circulated around March-April to various stakeholders within and outside of the Council of Europe (and would be shared with the Follow-up Group members). A provisional version will be completed around June 2015, with a view to finalising the GPR in December. They need this recommendation to be coherent with the previous GPR (#7), and there is a need for guidelines as to two ways to tackle racism and discrimination: criminal and civil legislation.

ECRI provides a definition of Hate Speech with references to the Council of Europe's definition. However? The definition will not be finalised until the end of the process – since the definition should be wider or narrower depending on the legal methods used to combat it – civil or criminal.

The GPR underlines the importance of gathering data (not only criminal), as well as the destructive nature of Hate Speech and the need to stop the perpetrators. It also promotes self-regulation and provides a code of conduct (created in collaboration with the parliaments of various countries). ECRI insists on the idea of civil responsibility: it is the duty of governments and lawmakers to take action to block Hate Speech; it is the duty of social media companies to disclose the identities of perpetrators of Hate Speech, and of moderators to stop/block the dissemination of Hate Speech

The GPR includes such recommendations as:

- how to raise public awareness (media, education, NGOs, equality bodies, speedy reaction to Hate Speech by public figures)
- withdrawing financial support from and/or dismantling political parties that use Hate Speech
- adopting legislation that facilitates prosecution (prosecutors don't want to deal with Hate Speech/racism because they are difficult issues to deal with legally) and setting up penalties that take into account the seriousness of Hate Speech
- monitoring the effectiveness of policies
- striving for more cooperation to tackle Hate Speech online
- often the police and prosecution don't know what Hate Speech is, and don't want to deal with it, so it would be good to train police experts or prosecutor experts on Hate Speech
- dealing with perpetrators – helping them to leave groups which promote Hate Speech
- helping victims – reporting and trauma treatment
- statement of good practices to be adopted/endorsed by social media, ISPs

Laurence asked if the GPR had a section specifically about online Hate Speech, to which the response was yes, there is a section on cybercrime: a recommendation to ratify additional protocol on cybercrime and to improve national legislation.

There are issues concerning Hate Speech: the definition itself is not clear to everyone; there tends to be confusion between Hate Speech and hate crime. There is also the issue that some people believe Hate Speech prevention would impede freedom of speech, when in reality it is a violation of the freedom of expression of the victims and vulnerable groups.

These recommendations are to country authorities but also to other bodies, including civil society organisations.

Mr Valenti mentioned an ECRI event, once the first draft is circulated in March/April, which could possibly incorporate the actors of the Campaign. Laurence indicated that the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers could be interested in hosting such a high level event in Brussels

8.5 Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

It was suggested that the Secretariat could prepare a checklist for the NCC's on how to use Bookmarks, promote it in formal, non-formal education.

It might be appropriate to approach teacher-trainers. The European Wergeland Centre) works a lot with teacher trainers and with non-formal education. It would be good to link the campaign with r=ifferent national initiatives (such as those preventing radicalisation of young people -) – The NHSM should be incorporated into national plans of actions. The Follow Up group agreed that Josef Huber from the Education Department should be invited to the next meeting. They also expressed their gratitude for the excellent co-operation and high input received from Ellen.

8.6 Internet Governance and Guide on Internet Users' Rights

While progress has been made with the social media -, there was a need to continue - not forgetting also the big Russian social media companies – Vkontakt and Yandex.

We will need to work on a fact sheet with each big organisation. It would also be good to have a higher level meeting with all the companies – the idea of a high level conference in Brussels might give such an opportunity.

Other issues raised included:

Hate Speech Watch needs more promotion (especially in follow-up of the campaign)

The Youth Department Programme for 2015 should include the development of a Virtual Youth Centre

Possible continuing network of online activists (even after closure of the Campaign)

9. Evaluation of the campaign

The group noted the importance of the evaluation process, but also that the amount of work needed and the lack of resources would hamper the task.

Members of the Group noted that it would be good to invite the evaluators to the next Follow Up Group meeting and also that NCC's must be informed of the evaluation process at the next meeting in Warsaw.

It welcomed the launching of the process for recruiting of external evaluators and it asked that the evaluation conference of the campaign be held in Strasbourg in order to secure a maximum of internal visibility and impact in the Council of Europe.

10. Activities and budget for 2015

10.1 Message of The Forum

The Follow up Group took note of the message and agreed to forward it to the Joint Council on Youth, with a view to it being forwarded by them to the Committee of Ministers

10.2 Proposals of the Forum for the conclusion of the campaign

The Follow Up group took note of the proposals. It suggested that the NCC's be consulted at their meeting as to their plans for the future. It proposed that the Evaluation Conference be held in

Strasbourg (19 – 22 May). It proposed that the Joint Council and the Committee of Ministers be called upon to support the proposal that 22 July be officially named as European Day in support of victims of hate crime.

10.3 Budget

As already noted, it was agreed that letters should be sent by the Director General to member states to call for voluntary contributions to maintain a number of specific actions, such as Bookmarks training. It was also agreed to ask the Joint Council to call upon the Secretary General to secure staffing for the Campaign until its conclusion.

10.4 Review of upcoming events

Preparations were under way for marking the next action days – 9 November and 10 December. As regards the latter – the secretariat announce a planned seminar for activists and the exhibition of the photo competition winners. This exhibition would be shown again at the PACE January 2015 part session.

10.5 Definition of the European Action Days

It was agreed that 11 February and 21 March were the two days which had to most relevance to the campaign. The Follow Up Group asked the team repairing these action days to take note of the proposals from the Gabala Forum, namely:

10 February

Translation of the UKR lesson plan for other countries. Contest of training exercises about online safety. Promote Bookmarks in scientific articles for teachers. Get bloggers/famous figures to join NCCs actions (since they are also target of hate speech). Raise awareness/use hashtags/Instagram (take a photo with the hashtag, etc.)

21 March

Racism in political table/discourse. Teaser/business card to attract people to visit the website. Find good messages and events to pass the NHSM info and get more people involved. Develop counter-narratives. Bloggers and Instagram famous people (idea from Finland).

10.6 Survey

The Follow up Group suggested that NCC's be asked to help ensure that the survey receives sufficient feedback . It asked the secretariat to obtain the results of surveys carried out by the EEA/Norway Grants on the question of hate speech and also asked to be kept informed of the developments in the questions which would finally be incorporated into the CoE survey.

10.7 Bookmarks: training courses and translations

Bookmarks has been translated in fourteen countries. Other questions had already been dealt with above. It should however be noted that the Belgian training course had been seen as much more than just a training and that all the participants were multipliers for the issue of Hate Speech.

11. Conclusions and report to the Joint Council on Youth

The Follow Up group agreed to present to the Joint Council the following proposals with a view to helping achieve the strategic objectives:

- The Joint Council on Youth should ask the Committee of Ministers to ensure that the Joint Committee is consulted and involved in the preparation of ECRI's new General Policy Recommendation on Combatting Hate Speech
- The Joint Council should call for (and urge the Committee of Ministers to call for) further [signatures and ratifications](#) of the Additional Protocol to the Budapest Convention
- The Joint Council should propose to the Committee of Ministers that it be mandated to prepare a new draft recommendation on Hate Speech as a follow-up to the No Hate Speech Campaign
- The Joint Council should recommend that the Council of Europe's governing bodies and committees support the regular involvement of youth representatives in Internet Governance processes (e.g. Euro DIG, Internet Governance Forum)
- The Joint Council should recommend that it be invited as an observer to the CDMSI
- The Joint Council should forward/communicate [the message of the Forum to the Committee of Ministers](#).
- The Joint Council should support the [recommendation](#) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe regarding the recognition of 22 July as European Day in support of victims of hate crime
- The Joint Council should call upon the Secretary General to secure staffing for the Campaign until its conclusion.

Sergio agreed to make the report to the meeting of the Joint Council.

12. Dates and place of the next meeting

28 – 30 January room 16, Palais de l'Europe Strasbourg

13. Evaluation and closing of the meeting

All participants felt it had been a useful and positive meeting. However the documents had been sent too late. There is also a feeling that it is difficult to have a clear idea on what is happening 'in the field' with the national campaigns – which makes it difficult for the Follow Up Group to monitor progress.

List of Participants

Members

Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

Sergio Belfor, United for Intercultural Action

European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ)

Laurence Hermand, Bureau International de la Jeunesse, French Community of Belgium

Aleksandra Mitrovic-Knezević, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia, apologised for absence

Margarida Saco, National Campaign Coordinator Portugal

Observers

Catherine McSweeney, EEA Norway Grants

Monika Saggat, EEA Norway Grants

Ellen Lange, European Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice

Gubaz Koberidze, Online Campaign Activist

Ani Giorgadze, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organisation, apologised for absence

Kristiina Ling, European Youth Card Association, apologised for absence

Secretariat

Antje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department

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

Bridget O'Loughlin, Campaign Co-ordinator

Claire Uszynski, Campaign Officer

Mara Georgescu, Educational Advisor

Marina Filaretova, Programme Officer, Youth Department

Alexandra Yobe-Bowen, Trainee NHSM