

CINGO Committee Report for the General Assembly (short format)

Version 3: Spring 2026 – to be returned by Friday 10 April

Committee name: Education for Democracy

Date of report: 08th April 2026

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**Date committee was approved by CINGO General Assembly: originally on 6th April 2022,
prolongation on 10th April 2024**

N.B. If this committee was approved in Spring 2024 it will come to the end of its mandate at the 2026 Spring Session of the General Assembly. Please be sure to complete section 5 to request a mandate for another year. Please keep answers short and focused on priorities and actions

1. Committee Chair/Vice Chair name/s and contact emails

Arja Krauchenberg a.krauchenberg.cingo@gmail.com

Pil Maria Saugmann pilmaria.saugmann@eurodoc.net

2. Which INGOs are represented on the committee?
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AEGEE
 ANDANTE
 ASSEDEL
 DARE
 EAEA
 Education International
 EFIL
 EPA
 ESAN
 ESN
 ESU
 ETUCE
 Euroart
 Eurochild
 Euroclio
 Eurodoc
 European Centre Robert Schuman
 FICEMEA
 LLLP
 Volonteurope

WOSM
 Haute Ecole Vinci
 OIDEL
 UNAEC-Europe
 Artevelde University
 HENALLUX
 UIGSE
 European Association of Schools of Social Work
 UCAPE
 CITI
 EUNET
 OIEC international
 Youthexpressnetwork
 METANOIA Group
 PAX ROMANA
 OENDDF

3. Which Council of Europe committees and other activities is this committee mainly involved in? Please provide a list, a brief description of how your committee is involved.

CEDU – several members of the Committee Education for Democracy are part of the CEDU

Participation in CoE events:

Several members of the Committee Education for Democracy are regularly invited to and participate in conferences and working groups of the CoE specifically in events related to education, e.g. Digital Citizenship Education Forum, Shaping democratic renewal: civic space and the path to a New Democratic Pact for Europe, etc.

4. How has this committee linked with other CINGO committees in the last year?

The mandate of our committee officially ended in April 2025 therefore we've only engaged by participating in various online events organized by other committees, e.g. the webinar on "Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe" (SASCE) by the Committee for interreligious & interconvictional Dialogue or the webinar on empowering working mothers organized by the Committee "NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights", etc.

5. If your committee is at the end of its two-year mandate at the 2026 Spring Session of the General Assembly, please answer the following questions:

a. Does the committee wish to continue its mandate for another year?

The committee would like to submit a proposal for a renewed committee at the session in October as there was no possibility to present it during the past sessions and it'll also be difficult this time due to the change in days.

b. If 'yes', please describe your objectives over the next 12 months up to Spring 2027 (no more than 250 words). If you have a workplan for the year please add it to the bottom of this form.

Proposal for the establishment of a new Committee on Democratic Citizenship Education from October 2026 for 2 years

Rationale:

- Backsliding of democracy in many countries, also in Europe

- Learning democracy is a lifelong process but starts in families and needs to be taught in educational settings, i.e. kindergartens, schools, etc.
- Currently many attempts towards Global Citizenship Education (GCE), Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) within the CoE but also by the EC
- Closer cooperation with the CDEDU on ad-hoc topics that are discussed in this framework counting on members who are represented in this committee as well.

c. Who is proposed as Chair for the extension of the committee's mandate?

The chairmanship proposal will be discussed at the meeting of the committee on 14th April as well as the working plan – see a draft attached.

6. Activity and Outcomes Report – please choose up to 6 main activities and outcomes.

Please add links to any online resources created and published in the last 12 months.

Topic	Summary of activities/impact in last year.	Current key issues/concerns	Plans for next 6 – 12 months
1. Education for democracy in VET institutions	Two practices by ENAIP from Piemonte region in Italy presented during a webinar Sindaco in classe and Felicamente a Scuola https://rm.coe.int/education-committee-4th-webinar-report-11-march-2025/1680b544f2	Very few initiatives in VET but increasing necessity to better equip VET students with democratic competences (skills, knowledge, attitudes and values) as future adult citizens	See workplan below
2. Education for democracy in ECEC settings	Living Democracy initiative by Step-by-step Association presented during a webinar with video examples from their educators' training sessions https://rm.coe.int/education-committee-5th-webinar-report-26-03-25/1680b544f5 https://rm.coe.int/education-committee-5th-webinar-report-26-03-25/1680b544f5	Importance of starting early to teach and practice empathy, respect for others and diversity, conflict resolution, problem solving and critical thinking as these are the foundations for living peacefully together and guarantee future cohesion of diverse societies.	See workplan below

3.			
4.			
5			
6			

7. Is there anything else you would like to share with CINGO members and/or the CINGO Standing Committee? (max 200 words)

Proposal for the establishment of a

Committee on Democratic Citizenship Education

Rationale:

- Backsliding of democracy in many countries, also in Europe
- Learning democracy is a lifelong process but starts in families and needs to be taught in educational settings, i.e. kindergartens, schools, etc.
- Currently many attempts towards Global Citizenship Education (GCE), Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) within the CoE but also by the EC
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Work plan:

For 2025/2026

Topic 1: Digital and Media Literacy

- Falls in line with the CoE Year of Digital Citizenship Education
- Organize a webinar involving CDEU, OECD and researchers, ask members for contacts with experts and/or experiences/materials they would like to share
- Participate in the CoE events of the Yr of DCE

Topic 2: AI in education

- Builds on topic 1 but is more specific
- Organize a webinar with the committee on Human rights, Democracy and artificial intelligence of the INGO involving CDEU and UNESCO, ask for members' experiences with AI

Develop a report/paper with input from members and asks/recommendations to the member states at the end of the process

For 2026/2027

Topic 1: Inclusion of third national children in the education systems

- Migration is a "hot topic" in most European countries and inclusion of children and young people in the education systems of their host countries is crucial for a resilient future-proof society that upholds democratic values
- Organize a webinar with the committee on Migration Issues of the INGO, involving also the Committee on Migration of the CoE, the EC, researchers

Topic 2: Interculturality in education

- Based upon the findings from the first webinar what changes are needed on the policy level, e.g. in teacher training, education system structures, etc to foster inclusion
- Organize a webinar with the Committee on Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue involving NGOs working in the field

Develop a report/paper with input from the members and asks/recommendations to the member states at the end of the process