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SEARCH

USER GUIDE

¹ This document has been public from the date of issue

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1 Introduction

The Council of Europe Search is a comprehensive platform designed to facilitate efficient access to a wide array of documents and resources pertaining to the Council of Europe activities, policies, and official communications. The system enables users to research and retrieve relevant content, thereby supporting access to information and promoting transparency.

Search sites are available to the public at the search.coe.int

2 Search pages

The Council of Europe provides a range of specialised search pages to help you find the documents and information you need.

Recommendation: If you know the corporate author or the specific body responsible for the information you are looking for (e.g. Committee of Ministers, Commissioner for Human Rights), search on that page for the most direct and relevant results. **If you are unsure where to search, start with the Archives search page to ensure you cover the widest possible range of material, then narrow your results as needed.**

Public Search	A general search page for all Council of Europe web sites and web content (excluding documents)
Archives	Council of Europe wide digital records and Archives web pages. Extra links to archives catalogue , list of thematic files (Black Book) and media assets .
Committee of Ministers	Documents and web content of the Committee of Ministers, Secretary General.
Commissioner for Human Rights	Documents and web content of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities	Documents and web content of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
Treaty Office	Texts of treaties and related documents.
Democracy and Human Dignity	Documents and web content of the Directorate of Democracy and Human dignity.
Human Rights and Rule of Law	Documents, publications and web content of the Directorate of Human Rights and Rule of Law.
Administrative Tribunal	Decisions of the Administrative Tribunal.
European Audiovisual Observatory	Reports, website, IRIS Merlin database and other databases.
Intergovernmental	Documents from intergovernmental committees and working groups.
Intranet	Regulations of the Council of Europe

3 Overview of the search page fields

Search pages are designed to help users efficiently locate documents using filters, advanced search fields, and result sorting. The interface divides into several main areas:

- **Links to all Search pages (1)**
- **Filter Sidebar (left):** narrow results by various criteria (2), (3)
- **Search field (top center) (4):** simple text search
- **Advanced Search (top center):** expand advanced search and use advanced options available (5), (6)
- **Search Results:** number of matching results (7), printing and extraction options (8), sorting (9)
- **Search Results Criteria & List (main section) (10):** displays matching records

The screenshot displays the Council of Europe search interface. The header includes the Council of Europe logo and name, a search bar, and navigation links like 'NewsRoom' and 'Council of Europe website'. The left sidebar, labeled 'NARROW YOUR SEARCH', contains filters for 'COLLECTIONS' (Council of Europe, Web), 'LANGUAGE' (English, French), and 'DATE'. The main search area features a search bar (4), a 'Search' button, and an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' section (6) with fields for Title, Date, and Period. Below the search bar, the results section shows '68596 Results Found' (7), options to 'Print', 'Send by mail', or 'Export' (8), and a 'Sort by: Date (Newest)' dropdown (9). The results list (10) includes criteria like 'Sort: Date (Newest)', 'Collections: News OR Secretary Ge...', and 'Language: English OR French'. The first result is titled 'L'Oscar du Meilleur Film International récompense la coproduction SENTIMENTAL VALUE, soutenue par Eurimages - EURIMAGES' and includes details about the 98th Academy Awards.

3.1 SEARCH FILTERS OVERVIEW

On each Council of Europe search page, the filter options on the left panel allow you to quickly narrow your search with criteria specific to the collection's context and content. These filters are precisely structured to reflect the Organisation's document management practices and help you find relevant materials with maximum efficiency.

- **Filters (1)**
- **Filters criteria (2):** expand each section by clicking the arrow or section title. Select one or more criteria to refine your results immediately.
- **Full list (3):** click on "+More" to see the full list of filters

The screenshot displays the Council of Europe search interface. On the left, a sidebar contains filter sections: 'NARROW YOUR SEARCH' (1), 'DOCUMENT TYPE' (2), and 'DOCUMENT STATUS' (3). The 'DOCUMENT TYPE' section is expanded, showing a list of document types with their counts: Decision (41001), Resolution (28897), Notes on the agenda (26298), Agenda documents (23202), Distributed document (16624), Reports (8571), Meeting report (7309), Committee of Ministers reply (6589), Convocation (4942), and Synopsis (4685). A red arrow points to the 'Notes on the agenda' option. Below this, a '+ More...' link is visible. The main search area on the right includes a search bar, a 'Search' button, and an 'ADVANCED SEARCH' section with fields for Reference, Title, Date, and Serie. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Advanced Search', 'Preferences', and 'Help'. A banner below the search bar asks 'Do you have an account? Log in to see classified information'. The search results section shows '178084 Results Found' and includes options for 'Print', 'Send by mail', and 'Export'. The results are sorted by 'Date (Newest)'. Two search results are displayed, both for 'DH-DD(2026)167' and 'DH-DD(2026)166', showing details like '1553rd meeting (March 2026) (DH) - Rule 9.1 - Communication from the applicant (29/01/2026) in the case of Demirhan and Others v. Türkiye (Application No. 1595/20) (Yüksel Yalcinkaya group) [anglais uniquement]' and '1553rd meeting (March 2026) (DH) - Rule 9.1 - Communication from the applicant (29/01/2026) in the case of Bakirdzi and E.C. v. Hungary (Application No. 49636/14) [anglais uniquement]'. Each result includes a 'Show more details...' link and tags for '30/01/2026', 'French, English', and 'CM-Public'.

3.2 KEY SEARCH FILTERS

The filters available on the left side of each search page help to refine your search.

- **Collections:** in the context of the Council of Europe search pages, a collection is a group of documents defined by the specific body responsible as being a point of interest. A collection represents either a specific Council of Europe body (e.g. Committee of Ministers, Secretariat General) or document type (e.g. press releases, conventions), or theme (e.g. education, bioethics). Collections help users target their searches.
- **Document type:** filter by the document type, for example, decision, resolution, report; etc
- **Document status:** filter by the stage of a document's lifecycle, for example, working document, final, adopted etc.
- **Language:** refine by the languages in which a document is available (e.g. English, French, German etc.)

- **Corporate author:** filter by the entity that issued documents, such as, Committee of Ministers, Rapporteur Group on Youth, etc.
- **Topic:** filter by themes or subjects addressed by documents, for example, human rights, European Convention on Human Rights, etc.
- **Geographical Subject:** filter by countries, former countries and regions as well as by political and geographical groupings (e.g.: “EU countries”, “Africa”).
- **Corporate Body:** filter, as subject of the document, by Council of Europe’s institutions and entities, as well as its main partner organisations.
- **Classification Level:** filter by public access or limited access (e.g. Restricted, Confidential) if you have an account to log in, in line with the Council of Europe’s document security classification.
- **Validation Date:** limit results to documents validated, adopted or issued within a defined date range.
- **Filters:** other custom filtering options relevant for specialist research.

4 Main search field: simple search

The main search field, located at the top of the page, is designed for simple search. This tool allows you to enter keywords or short phrases to quickly find relevant documents across the selected collection of the search page. Start with a simple search, returning a larger set of results that you can then refine using the available filters on the left.

4.1 HOW TO USE THE MAIN SEARCH FIELD

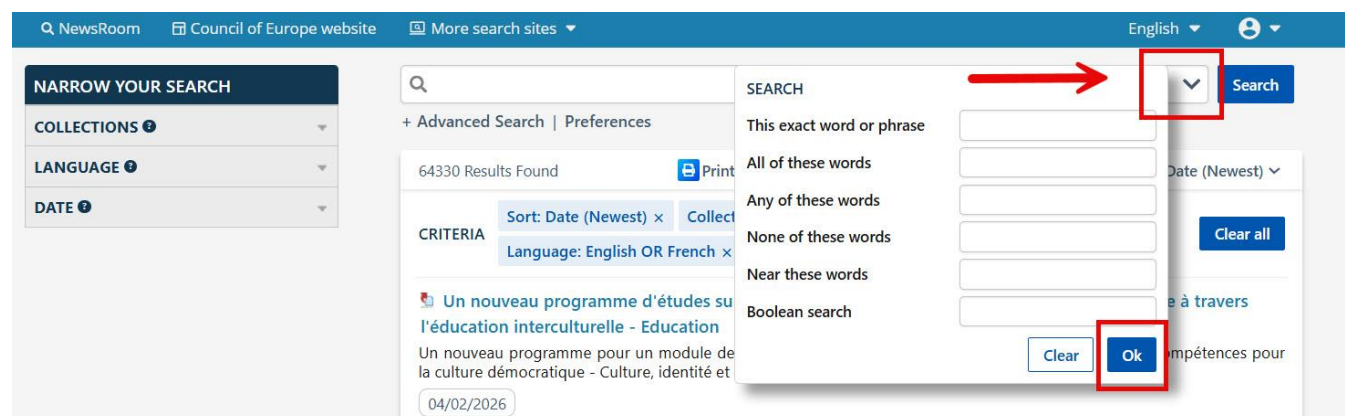
- Type in keyword(s) or phrases relating to your topic, for example, “resolution human rights”, or “minorities’ rights” (1)
- Click the **Search** button or press Enter (2)
- Review your results (3)
- Use the filters on the left to narrow the results further by collection, language, date, and other available filters (4)

Recommendation: it is generally more effective to start by entering your keywords in the main search field and then apply filters to refine the results. This approach helps to ensure that relevant documents are not excluded if they are indexed under different terms.



4.2 SEARCH OPTIONS AND OPERATORS

The search drop-down menu allows you to tailor your search by specifying how the search engine should interpret your keywords. Below are the available options and guidance on when to use each for the most effective results.



OPTION	USE	RECOMMENDATION
This exact word or phrase Finds documents containing exactly that sequence of words	Enter a specific phrase or sentence (e.g. "human rights education")	Use this when you want precise matches and need to avoid unrelated results. Quotation marks serve the same purpose in many search engines.
All of these words Finds documents containing all the entered words, regardless of their order	Enter multiple keywords (e.g. education democracy citizenship)	Use this to narrow results to documents covering several intersecting topics
Any of these words Finds documents containing anyone (or more) of the words	Enter several keywords (e.g. "training seminar workshop")	Use this when the topic may be described in various ways and you want a broader search
None of these words Excludes documents containing those words	Enter words you wish to exclude (e.g. draft, confidential)	Use this to filter out unrelated or unwanted material, such as outdated or restricted documents
Near these words Finds documents where those words are close to each other (within a set number of words)	Enter keywords that should appear in close proximity with each other (e.g., "freedom" NEAR "speech", "climate" NEAR "change")	This is different from a simple AND search, which only ensures both words appear somewhere in the document — possibly far apart
Boolean search Custom or complex searches allowing for logical structuring	Enter a search using Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT, parentheses). Example: (education AND rights) NOT (draft OR confidential).	Use if you are familiar with Boolean operators and need maximum customisation for precise queries

Recommendation: the chosen search options work best when combined with left-side filters for document type, date, etc. Always check your results and adjust your search terms or options as needed for precision.

5 Advanced search

5.1 OVERVIEW OF THE ADVANCED SEARCH

Advanced search is best used when you require documents meeting very specific criteria. Review the options offered on your current search page to make the most of its tailored features. Advanced search options may slightly differ depending on the specific Council of Europe search page you are using. Advanced fields are tailored to the specific content of the searched collections.

- **+ Advanced Search (1):** click on “+Advanced Search” link to display additional fields and options not available in the simple search field.
- **Preferences (2):** opens a dialogue where you can customise certain settings.
- **Help (3):** the “Help” link provides additional information on how to use the search system.
- **Advanced search fields (4):** provides additional metadata fields to fine-tune your queries.
- **Search parameters (5):** additional parameters such as “contains”, “equals”, “Period”.
- **Clear all filters (6):** this button removes all search filters and field entries that you have applied during your current session. Use the “Clear all filters” button before starting a new advanced search to avoid unintended restrictions.

The screenshot displays the Advanced Search interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a dropdown arrow and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, three links are visible: '+ Advanced Search' (labeled 1), 'Preferences' (labeled 2), and 'Help' (labeled 3). The main section is titled 'ADVANCED SEARCH' and contains a list of filter categories on the left: 'Reference' (labeled 4), 'Title', 'Date', and 'Serie'. To the right of these categories, there are search parameter dropdowns: 'contains' (labeled 5), 'contains', and 'Period'. Below these, there are input fields for dates in 'dd/mm/yyyy' format, separated by a 'to' label. At the bottom right, there is a 'Clear all filters' button (labeled 6) and a 'Search' button.

5.2 ADVANCED SEARCH FIELDS

Below are most common advanced search fields and recommendations for efficient use:

FIELD	USE	RECOMMENDATION
Title	Enter keywords or phrases expected in the document title. Use the drop-down list to specify whether the title “contains” or “equals” your entry.	
Reference	Input the exact document reference number in this field if known (e.g. DH-DD(2026)166). Use “contains” for partial references.	Most efficient if you already know the document reference.
Subject All	Choose subject keywords to search across all predefined Council of Europe subject terms.	Useful for topic-driven research.
Date / Period	Specify a date range by entering start and end dates (format: dd/mm/yyyy).	Set a period if you are researching events, sessions, or document releases within a specific timeframe.
Serie	Search for documents issued in a specific series (e.g. CM/Notes, DD, GR-C).	Most efficient if you already know the document serie.
Corporate Body	Search by the Council of Europe’s institutions, entities, main partner organisations, as subject.	Useful for entity specific search as a subject of the document.

Recommendation: use multiple search fields for precision. The more criteria you fill, the narrower your search result will be. After running an advanced search, further refine your results using left-side filters (e.g., document type, language, status).

6 Search results

6.1 OVERVIEW OF THE SEARCH RESULTS

The search results section displays documents that match your specified criteria. Key features include:

- **Criteria summary (1):** active search criteria and filters are highlighted above the results, making it easy to see and adjust your parameters (e.g., date range, language, subject).
- **Result count (2):** shows the total number of documents found based on your search parameters.
- **Action buttons (3):**
 - **Print:** print the current search results list.
 - **Send by mail:** email results to yourself or colleagues.
 - **Export:** download your results for offline use or further processing.
- **Sorting options (4):** results can be sorted by different parameters, such as date, reference, title, relevance. The default option is “Date (Newest)”.
- **Document list (5):** each result is listed with its main identifying attribute (e.g., document reference or title), publication date, and available language(s). Click on the document title to preview or download the document.
- **Details and related links (6):** each document entry may include “Details” to have a quick view of the document features, and “Related” for associated documents. Click on “Details” or “Related” links to see more information.
- **Clear all (7):** use this button to remove all search filters and criteria, returning you to an unfiltered search state.

The screenshot shows the 'ADVANCED SEARCH' interface. At the top, there are tabs for '+ Advanced Search' and 'Preferences'. The search criteria section includes fields for Title, Reference, Subject, and Date. The Title and Reference fields have a 'contains' dropdown and an input box. The Subject field has a dropdown set to 'All' and an input box containing 'access to education'. The Date field has a 'Period' dropdown and two input boxes for dates: '05/03/2025' and '05/03/2026'. Below the search criteria, there are buttons for 'Clear all filters' and 'Search'. The results section shows '1 Result Found' (callout 2). Below this, there are action buttons: 'Print', 'Send by mail', and 'Export' (callout 3). To the right of these buttons is a 'Sort by: Date (Newest)' dropdown (callout 4). Below the action buttons, there is a 'CRITERIA' section with a list of active filters: 'Sort: Date (Newest) x', 'Collections: CoE records x', 'Language: English x', 'Subject All: abkhazia;georgia;rus... x', and 'Validation Date: From 05/03/2025 to 05/03/2026 x' (callout 1). A 'Clear all' button is located to the right of the criteria list (callout 7). The first search result is '2025-NSC-HEY_En' (callout 5). Below the title, there are two buttons: '20/11/2025' and 'English'. At the bottom of the result card, there are two links: 'Details' and 'Related' (callout 6).

6.2 SEARCH RESULTS PREVIEW AND DOWNLOAD

When you click on a result field, you either preview the document or download it depending on the document format (Word, PDF).

- **View (1)**: shows the document content in the preview area (where supported).
- **Details (2)**: displays metadata (e.g. title, date, reference, subject, language, etc).
- **Language Versions (3)**: lists other language versions of the same record (e.g. English, French, German). Click a language to open that version.
- **Related (4)**: links to associated items (e.g. earlier/later versions, addenda, related documents).
- **Document URL (5)**: a shareable link to the document.
- **Highlight Exact term only (6)**: highlights keyword in the preview window.
- **Actions (7)**:
 - **Print**: generates a printer version of the current document.
 - **Send by mail**: opens your mail client to share a link to the record.
 - **DOCX**: downloads the Word file (no in-browser preview).
 - **PDF**: downloads the PDF file.

The screenshot shows a document preview window for '2025-NSC-HEY_En' dated 20/11/2025 in English. The interface includes a top navigation bar with tabs for 'View', 'Details', 'Language Versions', and 'Related'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the text '0 / 0' and a checkbox for 'Highlight Exact term only'. To the right of the search bar are three action buttons: 'Print', 'Send by mail', and 'PDF'. The main content area displays the title 'Human Rights Education for Youth Programme (HEY)' and a paragraph of text. Red circles with numbers 1 through 7 are overlaid on the interface to highlight specific features: 1 points to the 'View' tab, 2 to the 'Details' tab, 3 to the 'Language Versions' tab, 4 to the 'Related' tab, 5 to the 'Document URL' field, 6 to the 'Highlight Exact term only' checkbox, and 7 to the 'Print', 'Send by mail', and 'PDF' buttons.

(1 of 2)
2025-NSC-HEY_En
 20/11/2025 | English

Document URL: <https://search.coe.int/archives?i=0912594880296b02>

View Details Language Versions Related

0 / 0 | ^ v ☒ Highlight Exact term only

Print Send by mail PDF

Human Rights Education for Youth Programme (HEY)

Introducing HEY

HEY (Human Rights Education for Youth) is a Programme by the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe, commonly known as the North South Centre (NSC). HEY is designed to strengthen young people's capacities to act for human rights, by raising their knowledge and understanding of European standards and other international legal frameworks for human rights protection, such as specific United Nations, League of Arab States and African Union treaties, conventions, protocols and charters.