

Extract of [CM\(2022\)108](#) as approved by the Committee of Ministers ([CM/Del/Dec\(2022\)1435/7.1](#))

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION (CDEDU)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Type of committee: **Steering Committee**

Terms of reference valid from: **1 January 2022 until 31 December 2025**¹

PILLAR/PROGRAMME/SUB-PROGRAMME ▼
<p>Pillar: Democracy Programme: Democratic participation Sub-programme: Education for democracy</p>
MAIN TASKS ▼
<p>Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers and in the framework of the European Cultural Convention, the CDEDU will oversee the Council of Europe's actions in the field of education and advise the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its area of competence. Rooted in the four purposes of education as defined by the Committee of Ministers², the overall aim of the Education Programme is to support member States in developing their policies, legislation and practice in view of promoting democratic, quality, inclusive and corruption-free education systems, and taking into account the Council of Europe Reference Framework for Democratic Culture. The CDEDU will focus on Council of Europe priority areas and cover all levels and strands of education.</p> <p>In particular, the CDEDU is instructed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) ensure the follow-up of the relevant decisions taken at the 131st Session of the Committee of Ministers (Hamburg, 21 May 2021),³ and in particular contribute to the implementation of the key strategic priorities relating to its specific field of expertise as identified in the Strategic Framework of the Council of Europe, and respond to the respective key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General's 2021 Report on the state of democracy, human rights and rule of law "A democratic renewal for Europe"; (ii) focus on the following tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) develop education policies and guidelines and support the implementation of education practices based on the core values and standards of the Council of Europe; b) exchange ideas, information and good practice among its members, associating, as appropriate, observers and other stakeholders; c) promote and facilitate co-operation and understanding between States Parties to the European Cultural Convention; <p>In so doing, it shall draw on the pertinent aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights, particularly linked to the right to education, and build on the European Cultural Convention (ETS 18) and the Lisbon Recognition Convention (ETS 165), conventions for which it has been given supervision by the Committee of Ministers as well as the non-binding instruments that it has prepared ;</p> (iii) continue to ensure the follow-up of the decisions taken by the Committee of Ministers subsequent to the 25th Session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education on 'Securing democracy through Education' and take into account the recommendations by the informal conferences of Ministers of Education organised under the Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers of France (2019) and Greece (2020), including the Declaration on the Education Response to Covid-19 and its accompanying Roadmap for Action; (iv) develop an Education Strategy (2024-2030) that will provide a vision for the mission and priorities of the Council of Europe Education Programme; (v) develop policy guidelines and approaches to increase the effectiveness of education for democratic citizenship and human rights at the European level through the implementation and continued development of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) as well as through projects and activities on digital citizenship education, the democratic mission of higher education, including its local democratic mission, and the Schools of Political Studies; (vi) develop education policies and encourage practice furthering inclusive education, in line with Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13 on ensuring quality education, and education for sustainability; further the integration of refugees and migrants through the Lisbon Recognition Convention (ETS 165) and the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees, the toolkit 'Language support for adult refugees' and contribute to the establishment of an Academy for democratic leadership of persons with a refugee background; (vii) develop education policies to meet the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence and develop digital citizenship education as an integrated and sustainable part of education systems in Europe; (viii) guide higher education policies towards contributing to the promotion of academic freedom and institutional autonomy, democratic higher education governance, the fair recognition of qualifications based on the Lisbon Recognition Convention (ETS 165), social inclusion and structural reforms in the European Higher Education Area;

¹ These terms of reference are approved for the first biennial period 2022-2023. For the second biennial period 2024-2025, they are approved on a provisional basis, subject to confirmation upon the adoption of the budget for 2024-2025.

² Cf. Appendix to Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)6](#):

– preparation for sustainable employment;

– preparation for life as active citizens in democratic societies;

– personal development;

– the development and maintenance, through teaching, learning and research, of a broad, advanced knowledge base.

³ [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2a](#), [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2b](#), [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/2c](#) and [CM/Del/Dec\(2021\)131/3](#).

- (ix) develop strategies for the implementation of language education policies which contribute to the education of learners as democratic citizens, and be informed of the development and activities of the Partial Agreement on the European Centre for Modern Languages;
- (x) based on the 'Principles and Guidelines for quality education in the 21st Century', support member States' development of education programmes that enable teachers to deliver quality history education, including on Remembrance of the Holocaust and prevention of crimes against humanity, and be informed of the development and the activities of the Partial Agreement on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe;
- (xi) promote a culture of trust and integrity through the Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED), develop policy instruments to combat education fraud and foster integrity in higher education through encouraging the exchange of best practices among higher education institutions;
- (xii) follow and, as appropriate, advise on, the work of the Council of Europe's network of Schools of Political Studies, promote their use of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and foster synergy with other parts of the Education Programme;
- (xiii) ensure access to online Council of Europe educational resources to member States, by bringing all professional development and training activities together in an Academy for Democratic Culture for education professionals;
- (xiv) hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
- (xv) take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller⁴ issues;
- (xvi) where relevant, contribute to building cohesive societies and to strengthening the role and meaningful participation of civil society in its work;
- (xvii) in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,⁵ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- (xviii) contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regards to Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 10: Reduce inequality; Goal 13: Climate action; and Goal 17: Global partnership for sustainable development.

MAIN DELIVERABLES ▼

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDEDU is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Deadline ▼
1. Monitoring report on the Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention	31/07/2022
2. Draft Recommendation on the importance of plurilingual and intercultural education for democratic culture	31/12/2022
3. Draft Recommendation on countering education fraud and promoting ethics, transparency and integrity in education	31/12/2022
4. Guidance document on implementation of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture for digital citizenship education	31/12/2023
5. Guidance document on the implementation of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture in vocational education	31/12/2023
6. Monitoring report on the implementation of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture	31/12/2023
7. Draft Education Strategy (2024-2030)	01/07/2024
8. Draft Recommendation on the local democratic mission of higher education	31/12/2024
9. Draft Recommendation on the responsibility of public authorities for the teaching and learning of history	31/12/2024
10. Subsidiary text to the Lisbon Recognition Convention on the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees	31/12/2024
11. Guidance document on the implementation of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture in non-formal education	31/12/2024
12. Standard-setting instrument on inclusive quality education	31/12/2025
13. Standard-setting instrument on furthering ethics, transparency and integrity in education	31/12/2025
14. Standard-setting instrument on ensuring the right to education in times of emergency	31/12/2025
15. Advice, on request, to member States on education legislation, policy and practice	31/12/2025

⁴ The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "*Gens du voyage*", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

⁵ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers ([CM/Del/Dec\(2013\)1168/10.2](#)) and list of Conventions in document [CM\(2021\)132](#).

COMPOSITION ▼**MEMBERS:**

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties. The participation of non-member States referred to by Decision CM/Del/Dec(2022)1429/2.5 and Resolution CM/Res(2022)3 is restricted to meetings and activities convened pursuant to Art. 6 of the European Cultural Convention.

Governments of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention are invited to designate two representatives of the highest possible rank representing the general education and higher education sectors, with responsibility at the national level for the planning, development and implementation of policies relevant to the work of the Committee and appointed by their governments and by the competent body or bodies representing universities or other institutions of higher education. Committee members will co-ordinate at national level all elements of government policy relevant to the work of the Committee.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each State Party to the European Cultural Convention (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair).

States Parties to the European Cultural Convention may send other representatives without defrayal of expenses.

Each delegation shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, it shall designate the member entitled to take part in the voting.

PARTICIPANTS:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB);
- North-South Centre;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Arab League for Education Culture and Science Organisation (ALECSO);
- Nordic Council of Ministers;
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

OBSERVERS:

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- Israel;
- the Conference of European Churches (KEK);
- Education International (EI);
- European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE);
- European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (EURODOC);
- European Cultural Foundation (ECF);
- European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)
- European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE);
- European Science Foundation (ESF);
- European Students' Union (ESU);
- European University Association (EUA);
- European Wergeland Centre (EWC);
- Federation for Education in Europe (FEDE);
- International Association of Universities (IAU);
- Lifelong Learning Platform;⁶
- Organising Bureau of European School Students Unions (OBESSU).

Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

⁶ Cf. [CM/Del/Dec\(2018\)1309/7.1](#).

WORKING METHODS ▼

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2022	49	2	2/3	12	2	2
2023	49	2	2/3	12	2	2
2024	49	2	2/3	12	2	2
2025	49	2	2/3	12	2	2

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

In addition, the following provisions shall apply:

The CDEDU elects a Bureau of six members, of whom the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, representing in a balanced way the general and higher education sectors. Two members of the academic community and two NGO representatives, designated by the CDEDU, participate in the meetings of the Bureau, without the right to vote.

The CDEDU will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

BUDGETARY INFORMATION* ▼

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2022	2	2/3	49	89.1	19.1	-	1 A; 1 B
2023	2	2/3	49	90.3	19.1	-	1 A; 1 B
2024	2	2/3	49	↔	↔	-	↔
2025	2	2/3	49	↔	↔	-	↔

*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.