



The December issue looks at:

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(1) The big picture

Andorra took over the [chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers on 9 November 2012 until 16 May 2013. The chairmanship is part of a troika with Armenia and Austria. One of the three priorities of Andorra is youth and the promotion of the values of the CoE to young people, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will work closely with the Ministry of Education and Youth to put the priorities into practice. A seminar on “Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe” will be held as part of the Andorran chairmanship on 6-8 March 2013. The event, which will be organised jointly by the youth sector and [EYCA](#) should identify youth mobility trends and concerns in Europe today; reflect on the barriers and supports to effective mobility for young people and consider how to support more effective youth mobility for young people in Europe.

At their 1158th meeting on 12-13 December the Ministers’ Deputies will examine the Report by the Secretary General on the 9th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth held in St Petersburg on 23-25 September 2012, as well as the conclusions of the Youth Event which had been held prior to the Conference.

The PACE Bureau, meeting in Andorra on 29 November, instructed the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media to prepare a report on “Young people’s access to fundamental rights” based on the conclusions of the Youth Event in St Petersburg. The Committee of Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development was asked to provide an opinion. A joint hearing on the theme will be held in Strasbourg during the January part-session of the Assembly. Representatives of the Joint Council on Youth will participate in the meeting.



Preparations for the **Online Youth Campaign against Hate Speech**, to be launched in 2013, continued steadily in November. A workshop for bloggers and online activists brought together 55 young activists at the EYCB. The participants deepened their understanding of hate speech and how to address and combat it and made several practical proposals for preparing and implementing the national campaigns. The [EEA and Norway Grants](#), partners in the workshop, pledged to financially support projects of participants in the 15 EU countries concerned by the grants. The project was also presented at a meeting with grant operators on 26 November. Both the grant managers and Ambassador Shulerud (in charge of the grants at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs) called on national grant operators to support the campaign at national level.

The Secretary General officially announced the Campaign at the Conference “[Tackling Hate Speech](#)” on 27 November. The [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) welcomed the campaign as a drive to promote human rights online. Thanks go to the members of the CDEJ and Advisory Council for their active involvement and support to the campaign. Very special thanks to Finland and to the French Speaking Community of Belgium for their financial support – and, of course, to Norway and the Financial Mechanism Office of the EEA and Norway Grants.

The Campaign also met general enthusiasm and support at the Conference on “[Human Rights and Democracy - Looking Ahead](#)” held in Strasbourg on 29-30 November on the implementation of the charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and its impact. The Conference was preceded by a seminar on the legacy of János Korczak (sponsored by the Permanent Representation of Poland) and by a preparatory seminar for NGO representatives on 28 November. The Conference organised under the auspices of the Andorran chairmanship of the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission and European Wergeland Centre, brought together a variety of participants who made various recommendations to intensify the follow-up processes of implementing the charter in member states. The results of a survey on the impact of the Charter on non-governmental actors in HRE, carried out with non-governmental

organisations, were presented during the Conference. The 2012 version of *Compass* was also presented (*see below: 6 Publications*). The excellent cooperation and synergies between the Education and Youth Sectors in these activities should be highlighted.

Senior officials from the CoE and the EU Union met in Strasbourg on 20 November to discuss current issues including cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean covering confidence building of young people and the review of national youth policies.

A first meeting bringing together the Bureaus of the Steering Committee on Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) was held on 28 November in Strasbourg to discuss cooperation between the Committees and transversally across the Education and Youth Sector of the Council of Europe.

A consultation with Roma young people organised by the CoE Youth Sector and Congress, “Youth participation: from exclusion to dialogue” was held in Strasbourg on 25 November.

The Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation has launched a [new topic page](#) on human rights and citizenship education. The page lists among its achievements the fact that in the Council of Europe’s unique European Youth Centres, in Strasbourg and Budapest, 5,000 young people a year learn about human rights and intercultural dialogue.

The [European Court on Human Rights](#), responding to the interest expressed by the AC in a selection of the Court’s case-law concerning young people, provided a compilation prepared by the Research and Library Division of the most relevant cases concerning matters such as expulsion of foreigners, objection to military service, university studies or access to a professional career. A similar request was addressed to the European Committee on Social Rights regarding [European Social Charter](#) case-law.

(2) 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe youth sector

The [40th anniversary](#) of the Strasbourg European Youth Centre (EYCS) and the European Youth Foundation continued to be celebrated [[video](#)].

(3) Youth Department update

The statutory meetings of the Council of Europe in the youth sector (CDEJ, CMJ, CCJ) were held in Strasbourg on 12-14 November. The Programming Committee, which establishes, monitors and evaluates the programmes of the European Youth Centres and of the European Youth Foundation, will meet on 5 to 7 December.

The gender equality rapporteur, nominated to represent the CMJ participated in the first [Gender Equality Commission](#) of the Council of Europe on 16 November.

The 31st meeting of the Coordination Board of the [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) met in Strasbourg on 12 November.

The 2013 Plan of Action between Russian Federation and the Youth Department will be signed in Moscow on 11 December.

Heartfelt thanks to the French speaking Community for its contribution of 25 000 € for the Online “Youth Campaign against Hate Speech” (mentioned above) and to the Flemish speaking Community of Belgium for contributing towards the upgrade of the Belgian Bar at the EYCS.

Activities held in November and early December included:

- Training Course for Trainers and Multipliers on Human Rights Education (Chernigiv, Ukraine 5-11 November)
- Seminar on “Access to Social Rights for young people in the UK” (Leicester, UK, 15-16 November)
- "Training of trainers for democratic youth participation" organised in cooperation with the League of Arab States and hosted by the government of Tunisia (Tunisia, 8-16 December).

Other activities held at the EYCs in November and early December included:

- “Gender: Revised!?” - Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe ([EYCE](#)) World Student Christian Federation - Europe region ([WSCF-E](#)) (EYCB, 11-18 November)
- Youth Peace Ambassadors: Network Conference (EYCB, 5-9 November)

- “Rainbow Resources: Gender and sexuality rights education with children” - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Education International ([IFM-SEI](#)) (EYCB, 11-18 November)
- “Responding to hate - learning to protect human rights online” - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Education International ([IFM-SEI](#)) (EYCS, 19-25 November)
- Training seminar for students and youth leaders on fighting segregation in school environments. (EYCS, 20-25 November)
- Seminar on “The role of youth work in combating segregation in school environments: a seminar for youth workers and actors in formal education” (EYCS, 21-24 November).
- Human Rights and democracy in action – looking ahead (EYCS, 28 November – 1 December)
- «*Vers une société plus juste grâce à la participation de tous les jeunes. Quelles sont les conditions nécessaires pour que des jeunes et notamment ceux qui vivent la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale soient reconnus comme acteurs de solidarité ?*» [Mouvement International ATD Quart Monde](#) (EYCB, 2-8 December)
- “Together we can overcome the challenges for equal participation” National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan ([NAYORA](#)) (EYCB, 2-9 December)

Forthcoming activities include:

- Meeting of the Informal Contact Group on the Roma Youth Action Plan (EYCS, 7-8 December)
- Euro-Arab Training course for Trainers for Democratic Youth Participation (Tunisia, 9-18 December)
- “Step in: Be active against racist propaganda and hate speech” study session with [United for Intercultural Dialogue](#) (EYCS, 9-15 December)
- Youth Peace Ambassadors meeting (Stevenage, UK – 12 December)

Other events at the EYCS

- “Step in! Be active against racist propaganda and hate speech” [United for Intercultural Action](#) (EYCS, 9-15 December)

The [CoE/EU partnership](#) will hold its Management Board meeting in Brussels on 13 December. It will also organise an expert meeting in Tunisia on indicators of intercultural dialogue as well as an expert workshop on national knowledge networks on 17 December in Budapest.

Upcoming deadlines:

- 20 December Long-Term Training Course (LTTC) for Youth Workers on access to social rights for young people (Enter! project) [[application](#)]

(4) Other Council of Europe news

The [Pompidou Group](#) Jury awarded the “[European Drug Prevention Prize](#)” to three winning projects on 14 November: « Youth Connection - High on Life! » in Beirut (Lebanon); « Juvente – Sober is Sexy! » in Berlin (Germany); and « Lonja Laket! Working in vacant business places » in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Spain).

(5) Other news

The United Nations’ Third Committee overlooking human rights issues approved a draft resolution on 20 November that for the first time acknowledges the need to protect individuals from extrajudicial executions on the basis of their gender identity. This is a distinct reversal from 2010 when the same committee stripped ‘sexual orientation’ from the resolution, which also never included gender identity before now. The Committee passed the resolution by a vote of 108 to 1, with 65 abstentions. Iran was the only country to oppose the resolution, which was approved after ‘vigorous debate’ over the language, according to a United Nations’ [press release](#). The passage of the draft resolution mentioning gender identity caps two years of historic developments for the LGBT human rights at the United Nations. Last year, the UN Human Rights Council passed the first resolution endorsing the rights of LGBT people, inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity.

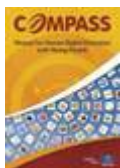
Around 250 delegates from member organisations, National Youth Councils and INGOs met in Maribor (Slovenia) on the 21-24 November for the European Youth Forum’s biennial General Assembly. The member organisations decided upon the new leadership for the next two years: Peter Matjašič ([JEF](#) & [MSS](#)) was elected as President, Guoda Lomanaitė ([LYMEC](#)) and Lloyd Russell-Moyle ([BYC](#)) as Vice-Presidents, and newly elected board members include Maggie Dokupilova ([FYEG](#)), Márcio Barcelos ([WOSM](#)), Miroslaw Krzanik ([AEGEE](#)), Jure Stajnbaher ([ECOSY](#)), Johanna Nyman ([Allianssi](#)), Jerry Den Haan ([DNYC](#)), Elise Drouet ([CNAJEP](#)) and Aleksandra Kamilova ([ENL](#)). The YFJ also adopted two official position papers: the first one aims to tackle youth rights through a [rights based approach](#). The second adopted position paper on [LoveYouthFuture](#) puts forward a set of proposals which aim to mainstream youth in all policy areas and to ensure that they are at the core of the European Union’s agenda. The city of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) was also elected European Youth Capital 2015.

The Council of the European Union issued a [press release](#) on 27 November following its 3201st Council meeting on Education, Youth, Culture and Sport. Among other results, the Council reached a political agreement on a proposal for a recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning, one of the priorities of the Cyprus Presidency. The Council also adopted [conclusions](#) on the contribution of education and training to economic recovery, growth and jobs, which seek not simply to underline, but also strengthen the key role of education and training in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

(6) Publications

The Council of Europe Youth Department publications may be [consulted online](#).

Two new publications are now [available](#): “[T-Kit No. 12 - Youth transforming conflict](#)” and “[Intercultural learning in non-formal education: theoretical frameworks and starting points](#)”.



[Compass](#), a manual for Human Rights Education with Young People was fully revised and updated in 2012. This new version includes many new activities and themes, illustrations and even a glossary. It can be ordered from www.book.coe.int and you can also download it from www.coe.int/compass. Hopefully this 2012 version of Compass will be translated into as many languages as the first edition – if not more – and it will be used to support EDC and HRE across Europe.

Facebook pages:

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)



We should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy festive season over the coming period and we will be back with more news in January.

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Abbreviations:

CCJ: Advisory Council on Youth

CDEJ: European Steering Committee on Youth

CM: Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

CMJ: Joint Council on Youth

CoE: Council of Europe

Congress: The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

DG: Directorate General

EDC: Education for Democratic Citizenship

EYCA: The European Youth Card

EYCB: European Youth Centre Budapest

EYCS: European Youth Centre Strasbourg

EYF: European Youth Foundation

HRE: Human Rights Education

ILO: International Labour Organisation

PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

YFJ: European Youth Forum

For comments and suggestions, change of address or if you no longer wish to subscribe to this service, please contact: anna.trigona@coe.int, claire.georges@coe.int or emma.hellyer@coe.int

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