



Happy New Year to all our readers!

The January issue looks at:

- (1) The big picture: main developments
- (2) Youth Department update
- (3) Council of Europe
- (4) Other news
- (5) Publications

(1) The big picture

At their 1158th meeting on 12-13 December the Ministers' Deputies took note of 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 (document [CM\(2012\)152 rev](#)).

As part of the Andorran [chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers a seminar on the "European Social Charter and the discretion of States" was held on 6 December 2012. [The [Charter](#) is the major European treaty which secures the rights of young persons.] Another seminar will be held on 6-8 March on "Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe" together with the CoE youth sector and [EYCA](#). "Education will be the [top priority](#) of Andorra's Council of Europe Chairmanship"

A Joint Hearing of the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and the Committee of Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development will be held on 21 January in Strasbourg on "Young people's access to fundamental rights" with the participation of representatives of the Joint Council on Youth. A PACE report will be drawn up following this Hearing and based also on the [conclusions](#) of the Youth Event held in St Petersburg in September 2012.

PACE President Jean-Claude Mignon [expressed his sadness and consternation](#) regarding the rape and death of a young student in New

Delhi and recalled the importance of the [Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#).

The [Venice Commission](#) has been invited by the [PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination](#) to provide an opinion on the subject taken up by Håkon Haugli, Rapporteur on Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The [Congress](#) took part in an initiative (Pod 53 Community Café) launched in Stevenage (UK) in December, encouraging local authorities to work with civil society to guarantee young people's social human rights. Such initiatives "help to encourage young people to actively engage in their own transition, to gain new skills, motivation and confidence, confidence which is being constantly eroded by the current social, political and especially economic climate," said Congress Vice-President, Michael O'Brien (Ireland, SOC) at the official opening.

Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe [Commissioner for Human Rights](#), welcomed the decision to stop detaining children under the age of 16 in outdated prison facilities. He also [recalled](#) that States are obliged to protect children against poverty and even though some progress has been made, persistent and widespread violations of children's rights occur in all parts of Europe.



Preparations continue for the **Online Youth Campaign against Hate Speech** to be launched on 21 March 2013. A third meeting of the follow-up group on the Campaign will be held in Strasbourg on 22-23 January. [[Interview with Snežana Samardžić-Marković, CoE Director General of Democracy](#)]

(2) Youth Department update

The Bureaus of the Council of Europe organs concerned with youth questions (CDEJ and CCJ) will meet in Strasbourg on 24-25 January.

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

The gender equality rapporteur, nominated to represent the CMJ, will continue to follow-up decisions taken at the first meeting of the [Gender Equality Commission](#) of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg on 16 November.

The Partnership Management Board of the EU-CoE youth partnership met on 13 December 2012 in Brussels for an exchange on the implementation of the 2012 work plan and to decide on the activities for the coming grant agreement 2013; the meeting was chaired by Director Ólöf Ólafsdóttir who met for the first time her newly appointed counterpart in the European Commission, Director Chiara Gariazzo; members of the Council of Europe delegation were representatives of the statutory organs, Seija Astala for CDEJ and Mihai Floran for the Advisory Council.

Activities held in December included:

- "Training of trainers for democratic youth participation" organised in cooperation with the League of Arab States and hosted by the government of Tunisia (Hammamet, Tunisia, 8-16 December)
- Expert group on Indicators for Intercultural Dialogue in Non-formal Education Activities organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership (Hammamet, Tunisia, 11-12 December)
- Youth Peace Ambassadors meeting (Stevenage, UK – 12 December)
- Workshop on national knowledge networks, organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership 17-19 December 2012 in EYCB.

Other activities held at the EYCs in December included:

- «*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)
- Meeting of the Informal Contact Group on the Roma Youth Action Plan (EYCS, 7-8 December)
- "Step in: Be active against racist propaganda and hate speech" study session with [United for Intercultural Dialogue](#) (EYCS, 9-15 December)

Forthcoming activities include:

- “TransForming Universities: Inclusion, Discrimination and Students” - Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ Student Organizations ([ANSO](#)) – (27 January – 3 February 2013, EYCS)
- “Occupy Peace Online” - The Association of Service Civil International ivzw ([SCI](#)) – (27 January – 3 February 2013, EYCS)
- “More Young Farmers, Better Food” - European Coordination Via Campesina ([ECVC](#)) – (3 – 8 February 2013, EYCB)
- “Youth encountering environmental human rights” - International Young Naturefriends ([IYNF](#)) – (24 February – 2 March 2013, EYCB)

Other events at the EYCs

- Hearing on Challenges faced by young refugees and asylum-seekers in transition to adulthood (14 January 2013, EYCB)
- Seminar for the Members of Youth Parliaments (20 - 26 January 2013 – EYCS)

Upcoming deadlines:

- **9 January 2013 noon** – Symposium: The Current Crisis and Youth – Impact and Ways Forward organised by the [CoE/EU partnership](#) (EYCS, 20-21 February 2013) [[application](#)]
- **23 January 2013** - Call for the creation of a visual identity element for the [European Youth Foundation](#)

(3) Other Council of Europe news

The NSC organised a pilot experience “Towards a Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship” in the International Cultural Centre in Hammamet, Tunisia (8-16 December 2012). It was a test for a University event in 2013, similar to the “University on Youth and Development” in Mollina, Spain, the University on Participation and Citizenship, Uruguay and the African University on Youth and Development in Cape Verde. Three parallel activities were held in this pilot event: the North Africa Sub-regional seminar of the NSC in the framework of the Euro-Africa youth cooperation, the expert group meeting on indicators for intercultural dialogue in non-formal education activities of the EU-CoE youth partnership and the Training of Trainers for Democratic Youth Participation of the CoE Youth Department. The pilot experience was closed and evaluated in a partners’ meeting which discussed further steps towards the 2013 Mediterranean Youth University.

The Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation’s [topic page](#) on human rights and citizenship education continues to provide

information including the EYCs in Strasbourg and Budapest which ensure training on human rights and intercultural dialogue to some 5 000 young people per year.

(4) Other news

In order to address the issue of youth unemployment, the European Commission put forward on 5 December [a youth employment package](#). Alongside an overview of the most recent trends in youth unemployment figures, this package includes a proposed Recommendation to Member States on Introducing the Youth Guarantee to ensure that all young people up to the age of 25 receive a quality job offer, further education or a traineeship within four months of leaving formal education or becoming unemployed. To facilitate school-to-work transitions, the European Commission also announced the launch of a second phase of consultations of European partners on a Quality Framework for Traineeship so as to enable young people to acquire high-quality work experience under safe conditions.

The Culture and Education Committee (CULT) of the European Parliament adopted the new '[Yes Europe](#)' programme for youth, education and sports, merging all the EU programmes for education, training, sport and Erasmus for higher education. 'YES for Europe' stands in opposition to the European Commission's initial proposal of the name '[Erasmus for All](#)'. By pushing for a strong youth exchange chapter, the CULT Committee aims to increase the support for young people taking place in volunteering and non-formal education activities. Before the programme is implemented at the beginning of 2014, the text adopted by the Culture and Education Committee needs to be discussed and voted in a plenary session of the European Parliament.

The UNSDN (United Nations Social Development Network) has launched a new [web portal](#) which invites the sharing of knowledge among social development professionals world-wide. A special section of the web portal is dedicated to [youth](#). The main issues of the UN in the field of social development include poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration.

Among the ILO's [forthcoming projects](#) is the current [Work For Youth \(W4Y\) - An ILO and The MasterCard Foundation Project](#) (30 May 2011 – 1 December 2016)

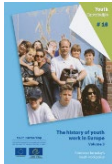
The OECD provides information on labour force statistics [according to sex and age](#), [employment rates by age group](#) and [unemployment statistics according to age and gender](#).

(5) Publications

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

Recent CoE publications of interest include:

- Youth Knowledge book no. 16: [The history of youth work in Europe, Volume 3 - Relevance for today's youth work policy](#) is now available. This can also be consulted [on line](#). Other youth knowledge books may be consulted [on line](#).



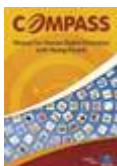
- A new Tool Kit on youth transforming conflict ([no. 12](#)) is now also available. For other tool kits please check [on line](#).



Both publications have been published by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

- [Redefining and combating poverty](#): Human rights, democracy and common goods in today's Europe

Reminder:



[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.

“Pensez Jeunesse!”

The French *“Mission coopération européenne et internationale jeunesse vie associative”*, *Ministère de Sport, de la Jeunesse, de l’Education populaire et de la vie associative* is kindly provided a translation into French of *Think Youth !* starting from *Think Youth ! - No.9*. The French versions will be made available on request. Many thanks to the Mission.

Facebook pages:

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

[Combating hate speech](#) **NEW!**

Set up for those who are active or interested in combating hate speech (on- or off-line)

Best regards,

Anna Trigona

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www.coe.int/youth

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
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
NSC: North South Centre of the Council of Europe
PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
YFJ: European Youth Forum

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