



The February issue looks at:

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(1) The big picture

Speaking at a high-level conference in [Brussels on 29 January](#), Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland recalled that the CoE is the only organisation where young people and government representatives take decisions side-by-side on policies and programmes. He encouraged other organisations to follow the lead, reiterating that “democracy is only democracy if it is representative of all citizens, not just a privileged few.” “The first step is to reach out to pupils and students across Europe by teaching human rights and citizenship education in the classroom, to invest time and resources in preventing human rights violations before they happen.”

The CoE has signed a first MoU with a non-member state establishing a [CoE office in Tunis](#), dealing with operational projects in the fields of Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. A first class of the School of Political Studies in Tunisia was inaugurated on 8 January by Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini Dragoni. This class, which will bring together students aged between 25 and 40, will represent a 50/50 gender ratio and include journalists, young business persons, union delegates and representatives of various political parties. The class is carried out within the programme “[Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood](#)” funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The [Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers](#) , which will [promote knowledge](#) of the European Convention on Human Rights among civil society and youth, will soon launch a campaign to promote the Convention. As part of its [chairmanship](#) a High-Level Conference on "Competences for a culture of democracy and intercultural dialogue: a political challenge and values" will be held in Andorra la Vella on 6-8 February. A Seminar on “Developing better youth mobility for young

people and for Europe” will also be held in Andorra on 27 February-1 March.

On 21 January during the [PACE part session](#) a joint meeting was held of the members of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media and of the members the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development chaired by Mr Gvozden Srećko Flego. The meeting brought together the Chair of the CCJ and CMJ – Ms Maria Paschou, the Vice-Chair of the CDEJ – Ms Laurence Hermand and the General Rapporteur on LGBT rights - Mr Håkon Haugli, to discuss the draft report on “Young people’s access to fundamental rights”. Other PACE themes are focusing on the situation of young persons. The report “Culture and education through national parliaments: European policies” was approved on 18 December 2012 and the draft report “Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge was discussed during the January part-session.



The [Online Youth Campaign against Hate Speech](#) will be launched on 21 March 2013. A third meeting of the follow-up group on the Campaign was held in Strasbourg on 22-23 January. The group adopted a name for the campaign – **No Hate Speech Movement** - and a slogan – **Young People for Human Rights Online**. Heartfelt thanks to the government of Finland and in particular its Ministry of Culture and Education for their generous contribution of 30,000€ towards the Campaign.

National campaign preparations are already under way in 13 countries: *Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia* and “*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*” and should be launched in the first half of 2013. *Ireland, The Netherlands* and *Sweden* should soon overcome the difficulties encountered in setting up their national campaign committees. Some member states are still working on their national campaigns.

The Council of Europe in cooperation with the French-speaking Community of Belgium (*Bureau International de la Jeunesse*) is organising a two day workshop for CDEJ representatives and/or coordinators of the national campaigns. This workshop will support the

member states in setting up their campaign structures and designing their campaign activities. The Workshop will take place in Brussels on 13-14 March.

(2) Youth Department update

The Bureaus of the Council of Europe organs concerned with youth questions (CDEJ and CCJ) met in Strasbourg on 24-25 January and prepared for the forthcoming statutory meetings to be held in Budapest on 3-5 April.

The national hearing for the Ukraine international youth policy review took place in Kyiv on 1 February in the presence of some 100 participants many of whom came from the five areas of Ukraine which the expert team had visited in 2012. The final report will be presented at an international hearing in Budapest during the statutory meetings in April. An interim evaluation of the capacity-building activities in youth participation and human rights education in Ukraine was held on 31 January. The participants also took part in the hearing.

The Evaluation and Planning Meeting of activities carried out in the framework of cooperation with the Russian Federation will be held in Moscow on Thursday 7 February. Seija Astala, Chair of the CDEJ and Sergio Belfor, Vice-Chair of the CCJ, will take part in the meeting on behalf of the Joint Council.

Activities held in January included:

- “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)

Other activities held in the EYCs in January included:

- 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)

Forthcoming activities include:

- “More Young Farmers, Better Food” - European Coordination Via Campesina ([ECVC](#)) (3-8 February 2013, EYCB)

- “Stronger students' participation for the open society: sharing practices and developing innovative approaches” European Students' Union ([ESU](#)) (3-9 February 2013, EYCB)
- “Together for social rights - youth workers and local authorities promoting and networking for access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods” Informal Network of youth organisations and youth workers for access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods ([Social Rights Network](#)) (24 February – 3 March 2013, EYCS)
- “Youth encountering environmental human rights” - International Young Naturefriends ([IYNF](#)) – (24 February – 2 March 2013, EYCB)

The seminar “[EYF re-loaded](#)” (involving 40 projects organisers) will take place on 4-6 February in the EYCS. The seminar aims to further exchange up-dates, news and views about the new regulations and working system starting in 2013. The seminar will also tackle the issue of the [EYF](#) (perceived) role in supporting civil society, in respect to the values, principles and the structure of the Council of Europe.

Other events at the EYCs

- Third phase of the long-term training course with Serbian youth workers and trainers (14-20 February, EYCB)

Upcoming deadlines:

7 February: Training course for young online activities (6-14 April, EYCB)

Information and application

8 February Seminar on "Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe", Andorra la Vella (28 February – March) [Document and application form](#)

Partnership

A Symposium on “[The Current Crisis and Youth – Impact and Ways Forward](#)” will be held at the EYCS on 20-21 February.

Staff

Welcome to our newcomers! In the Education and Training Division: Ms Natia Jgenti, project assistant and Ms Marina Filaretova, national secondment from the Russian Federation; in the European Youth Foundation Division: Ms Eva Lehmann, project assistant; in the Youth Department: Ms Laurie Merkle, trainee.

Goodbye to Claire Georges who terminated her traineeship at the end of January 2013. Since her arrival in September she provided valuable

support to the Department in particular the preparation of the Youth Event in St Petersburg, the Advisory Council on Youth activities and Think Youth! Her research papers on specific topics, such as the CoE and the 2012 law on NGOs in Russia were greatly appreciated for their professionalism. Claire will be sorely missed. We wish her every success in her new ventures.

(3) Other Council of Europe news

Congress [Resolution 346\(2012\)](#) on youth and democracy, adopted at the 23rd session of the Congress in October 2012 inspired the theme: “involvement of young people in public life” for the 2013 [European Local Democracy Week](#) which will be held on 14-20 October.

The [Venice Commission](#), which should soon count the [United States](#) amongst its members, has been asked to provide an opinion to the [PACE Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination](#) on the subject of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The [Commissioner for Human Rights](#)’ agenda for February includes participation in the OSCE internet conference “[Internet 2013: shaping policies to advance media freedom](#)” as well as exchanges with the [European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights](#) and the [Centre for European Policy Studies](#) on “addressing the human rights challenges underlying the criminalisation of irregular immigrants and national minorities in Europe.

(4) Other news

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 17 January [the appointment of Ahmad Alhindawi](#) as his Envoy on Youth. Ahmad Alhindawi has widely cooperated in the youth policy and human rights education events organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership in the framework of the programme on Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation, human rights education and intercultural dialogue. His appointment is a crucial indicator of the growing importance of youth within the United Nations. The UN Secretary-General in his [Five Year Action Agenda](#) identified ‘Working with and for Women and Young People’ as one of his top priorities. This appointment also sends a clear message to the world that youth should be included and represented in decision-making bodies.

At the [Tripartite Seminar on Youth Employment in Europe](#) which was held on 11 January in Budapest, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder [declared](#) that: “*failing to act on the youth job crisis would sow the seeds*

of social unrest and destroy hopes for sustainable growth. That is a cost the world cannot afford". Ryder stressed that measures promoting youth employment should be shielded from austerity policies and that spending on such programmes should be increased.

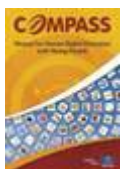
On International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January) the OSCE Chair [urged renewed efforts](#) to fight intolerance, stressing the importance of youth human rights education

The Council of Ministers of the European Union has adopted a [recommendation](#) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning on 20 December 2012. This recommendation was foreseen in the European 2020 Flagship Initiative 'Youth on the Move' and 'Agenda for New Skills and Jobs' and will complement the [2008 Council Recommendation on the European Qualification Framework](#) (EFQ), which proposed validation of non-formal and informal learning (NFIL), but gave no further guidance on its implementation. The present recommendation aims to support the development of national systems for the validation of NFIL, and thus to fill the gap between the available tools and instruments – the EQF, Europass and credit systems. The European Commission 2013 Youth in Action Programme Guide and Application forms are now available [online](#). The Programme Guide includes the necessary information about the criteria and conditions on how to participate.

(5) Publications

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

Reminder:



The new version of [Compass](#), a manual for Human Rights Education with Young People includes many new activities and themes, illustrations and even a glossary. It can be ordered from www.book.coe.int and it can also be downloaded from www.coe.int/compass. It would be good to have this version translated into as many languages as possible, as was the case with the first edition, 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'Éducation populaire et de la vie associative* has 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](#)

Best regards,

Anna Trigona

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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
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
NSC: North South Centre of the Council of Europe
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