



The March issue looks at:

- (1) The big picture: main developments
- (2) No Hate Speech Movement
- (3) Youth Department update
- (4) Council of Europe
- (5) Other news
- (6) Publications

(1) The big picture

Organised in the framework of the Andorran Chairmanship on 7-8 February, the international conference "[Competences for a culture of democracy and intercultural dialogue: a political challenge and values](#)" helped define strategic objectives for the CoE's programme of activities 2014-2015 and to provide an input for the Conference of Ministers of Education (Helsinki, 26-27 April) which will be attended by members of the CMJ. On this occasion the Andorran Chairmanship launched the campaign "[Nurturing human rights](#)", which aims at raising awareness of civil society and young people of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

A Seminar on "Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe" was also held in Andorra on 27 February-1 March under the Andorran Chairmanship of the CM in cooperation with the European Youth Cards Association (EYCA). Youth mobility was looked at from policy, practice, research and employers' perspectives.

[Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland](#) addressed the dangers of rising discrimination against the Roma, Europe's largest minority, and stressed the need for effective integration policies in a [speech](#) to the UN Human Rights Council on 26 February, in Geneva.

In his [address](#) in The Hague on 25 January 2013, CoE Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks warned that "this generation has no reason to believe in the European social model, rhetoric about solidarity, and the promises of the political elite. The economic crisis is feeding into various social and political movements, some of which have anti-democratic methods or goals."

The Chairs of the CDEJ (Seija Astala) and the CCJ (Maria Paschou) will hold an exchange of views with the GR-C (CM Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment) on 14 March.

On 12 March the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media will be examining two reports concerning youth: “Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge [Rapporteur Ms Polonca Komar, Slovenia] and “Young people’s access to fundamental rights” [Rapporteur Mr Michael Connarty, United Kingdom]. The draft resolution and recommendations adopted will be presented at the PACE June session.

A European [moot court competition](#) on the European Convention on Human Rights, took place in Strasbourg on 25 - 27 February. It aimed at providing law students with an opportunity to gain practical experience by simulating the procedure of complaints to the ECHR.

2. No Hate Speech Movement



The [No Hate Speech Movement](#) will be launched on 21 March 2013. The campaign will be officially opened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe in the presence of representatives of the CDEJ and CCJ. At this occasion, the Secretary General will upload his own message of support to the No Hate Speech Movement - the online platform for all the campaign activists.

Currently the campaign is being organized in some 20 member states, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Turkey. A two-day workshop organised by the Council of Europe and the French-speaking Community of Belgium (Bureau International de la Jeunesse) for CDEJ representatives and/or coordinators of the national campaigns, will take place in Brussels on 13-

14 March with a view to supporting member states in setting up their campaign structures and designing their campaign activities.

(3) Youth Department update

A call for candidates for the 2014-2015 mandate of the Advisory Council on Youth has gone out for the 7 representatives of national youth councils and for the 13 representatives of international non-governmental youth organisations proposed by the [European Youth Forum](#). Regarding the 10 representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks (not members of the European Youth Forum) a call from the Council of Europe will go out in March. It will be published on the [CoE Youth Website](#) as well as on the [AC Facebook page](#).

The [Roma Youth Action Plan](#) was revised in February 2013. The [Roma Youth Action Plan](#) is carried out within the framework of the co-management system of the Youth Department. Its programme of activities is funded through the Council of Europe's budget and Voluntary Contributions. For 2012 and 2013, the activities of the Roma Youth Action Plan are made possible thanks to a significant contribution from the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The CoE Youth Department in co-operation with EYCA, under the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers organised a European Seminar "[Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe](#)" in Andorra on 27 February – 1 March. It examined how youth mobility could/should be reflected in Council of Europe programmes and considered tools for youth mobility.

The [European Youth Foundation](#) will launch its new online application system on 15 March, allowing direct communication between NGOs and EYF. The deadline for annual work plans and international activities taking place in 2014 is 1 April 2013.

For the first time the Chair of the CDEJ and the Chair of CCJ participated in the meeting of the [CDPEE](#) held in Strasbourg on 20 February, reinforcing transversal cooperation between the three bodies.

The [Quality Label](#) expert team carried out its 3rd visit to applicant centre Villa Elba in Kokkola, Finland on 18-21 February in the presence of a representative of the Youth Policy Division of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Ms Tarja Tolonen. The CDEJ will take its

decision based on the team's recommendation at its forthcoming meeting in Budapest in April.

The final report of the Ukraine youth policy review will be presented at an international hearing in Budapest in April during the meeting of the Joint Council on Youth. The Greek policy review will kick off with a first visit by the international expert team on 14 – 20 April followed by a second visit in September. The Romanian authorities have also asked for an expert 2nd phase review of their international youth policy review which had been carried out in 2000.

Activities held in February included:

- “More Young Farmers, Better Food” - European Coordination Via Campesina ([ECVVC](#)) (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) took place on 4-6 February in the EYCS. The seminar aimed to further exchange up-dates, news and views about the new regulations and working system starting in 2013. The seminar also tackled 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 activities held in the EYCs in February included:

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

Forthcoming activities include:

- Study session “*Changing Youth Projects from Multinational to intercultural - Towards a united strategy for intercultural learning and youth participation*” in co-operation with Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations ([ALLIANCE](#)) (17 – 24 March 2013, EYCB)

- Study session “*Youth for promoting legality and human rights*” in cooperation with International Youth Human Rights Movement ([YHRM](#)) (17 - 23 March 2013, EYCB)

Other activities at the EYCs:

The First and second phases of the Enter 2! Long-term training course will be held on 10-23 March 2013 at the EYCS. The course, a European level complementary training for 33 youth workers, aims to develop their competences in designing and implementing responses, projects and partnerships in support of youth-led initiatives that promote access to social rights and overcome discrimination, exclusion and violence.

Upcoming deadlines:

15 March: [Applications and expressions of interest](#) for organisers of national training courses on human rights education.

1 April: [Applications](#) by youth organisation for activities in cooperation with the European Youth Centre (study sessions, symposia, special projects...).

1 April: [EYF online application](#) for 2014

Partnership

A Symposium on “[The Current Crisis and Youth – Impact and Ways Forward](#)” was held at the EYCS on 20-21 February. It brought together some 50 policy-makers, researchers, youth workers and youth NGO representatives from all over Europe. It aimed to enhance the understanding of the effects of the crisis on the young people, contribute with solutions, ideas and recommendations, as well as to highlight areas for further research. [Interview](#) with Advisory Council member Simona Mursec.

A Conference on “[Mobility Spaces, Learning Spaces - Linking Policy, Research and Practice](#)” will be held in Berlin on 20-22 March 2013.

Staff

Welcome to Antonina Bejan who has just joined the Youth Department for a two-month traineeship and Claire Uszynski whose traineeship in

the EYCS will end in July. Welcome also to Natia Jgenti who took up her role as administrative assistant to the Education and Training Division in February. And last but not least, welcome to Marina Filaretova, a seconded official from the Russian Federation. Marina will be supporting the activities of the Education and Training Division in member states and the coordination of the No Hate Speech Movement.

(4) Other Council of Europe news

Corrigendum: In the February issue we announced that [Congress Resolution 346\(2012\)](#) on youth and democracy, adopted at the 23rd session of the [Congress](#) in October 2012 had inspired the theme: “involvement of young people in public life” for the 2013 European Local Democracy Week to be held on 14-20 October. The theme finally retained by European Local Democracy Week was: “[Active citizenship: voting, sharing, participating](#)” which remains relevant to young people.

(5) Other news

On 15 February, the newly appointed UN Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhindawi, [addressed](#) the UN Commission for Social Development. He referred to the Millennium Development Goals which, he felt “was ‘a golden period’ for governments, civil society, youth and others to set the development agenda for the post-2015 period, and that his mission would be to help young people participate in that framework. The Commission approved a draft resolution on “[Policies and programmes involving youth](#)” was approved. The text urges governments, in consultation with young people, to develop holistic and integrated policies based on the Programme of Action for Youth. It also underlines the importance of consulting with young people in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, encouraging States to consider including youth representatives in all relevant discussions of the Council and the General Assembly.

The findings of a three year large-scale research study of the Environmental Research and Preventive Actions (AAA-PREVENT) research team on the alcohol abuse among adolescents was presented in the final conference of the project [Effective Environmental Strategies for the Prevention of Alcohol Abuse among Adolescents in Europe](#) on 25 February in Brussels. The ultimate goal is to present the results with specific attention to policy implications for alcohol prevention in Europe.

From February 27 to 28, the [5th Global Forum](#) of the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations, preceded by a Youth Event on February 26 took place in Vienna, Austria.

[UNESCO](#) is supporting the following events in the Asia Pacific region: a [National Conference on Youth Migration and Development](#), a [Training Session on Youth Participation and Advocacy](#), a [National Dialogue on Inclusive Youth Policies](#) and a [National Consultation on Policies and Laws Affecting Women and Youth](#). Recent studies have revealed that 9 out of 10 young people will be living in developing countries by 2025, half of which with less than 2 US\$ per day.

An annual essay contest is being organised by the [Goi Peace Foundation](#) and [UNESCO](#), in an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's youth in promoting a culture of peace and sustainable development. The theme "The Power of Culture to Create a Better Future" invites participants to describe the traditions, customs, arts of their country or region; the wisdom, values, lifestyles and trends of the people living there, as well as their utility for youth in the creation of a peaceful world. Entries must be received by 30 June.

The ILO Youth Employment Programme launched a [photo contest](#) focusing on young people at work. The objective of the contest is to highlight the challenges young people face in the workplace, as well as innovative ideas to address them. Deadline for submission of photos is 15 April 2013

The [ILO promotes one woman's success story](#) showing how green entrepreneurship could be an answer to both youth unemployment and environmental degradation in Africa.

European Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou [announced](#) on 15 February a new programme in the area of education, training, youth and sport and the importance of an adequate budget to ensure that programmes such as Erasmus for All can work smoothly over the forthcoming 7 years. In her [address](#) to a European Students' Forum ([AEGEE](#)) meeting in Malta on 1 March she mentioned the preparation of a Council recommendation to introduce youth guarantees: "We want to ensure that young people receive a quality job offer, further education or training within 4 months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education".

The Council of the EU [adopted conclusions](#) on investing in education and training, in response to the recent Commission communication "Rethinking Education". It also held a policy debate on "Education and Skills for Jobs, Stability and Growth", in the context of the European Semester and in particular the education aspects of the 2013 Annual Growth Survey.

The [European Policy Centre](#) is urging young citizens aged 18 to 30 to express their opinion on "*The European Parliament – Why should I care?*" and the need to vote in the 2014 European parliamentary elections.

European Commissioner, Androulla Vassiliou, mentioned on 1 March in her [address](#) to a European Students' Forum ([AEGEE](#)) meeting in Malta, the preparation of a Council recommendation to introduce youth guarantees: "We want to ensure that young people receive a quality job offer, further education or training within 4 months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education" she announced.

The Slovenian city of [Maribor](#) takes over from Braga (Portugal) as [European Youth Capital](#) for 2013. In 2014, the title moves to Thessaloniki Greece and in 2015 to the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca.

On 9 and 10 April 2013 the European Commission and Cedefop, in association with the Irish Presidency of the European Union, are hosting a [seminar](#) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.

(6) Publications

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

- The [Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#) (01/02/2013) is now available. It contains principles, best practices and guidelines to enhance youth participation at local/regional levels. It is not a legally binding instrument but member states have a moral responsibility to implement it.
- [Reimagining democratic societies: a new era of personal and social responsibility](#) (Council of Europe higher education series No. 18) (2013)
- [Share social responsibility: putting theory into practice](#) (Trends in social cohesion n°24) (2013)

Reminder:



[Compass - Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People](#) (2012 edition - fully revised and updated) (29/11/2012) can be ordered from www.book.coe.int. It can also be downloaded from www.coe.int/compass.

“Pensez Jeunesse!”

The French versions of Think Youth, kindly translated by the “*Mission coopération européenne et internationale jeunesse vie associative*”, *Ministère de Sport, de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation populaire et de la vie associative* are available on request.

Facebook pages:

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

[Combating hate speech](#)

[EU-CoE youth partnership](#)

Best regards,

Anna Trigona

Youth Department - Service de la jeunesse

Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation - Direction de la citoyenneté démocratique et de la participation

Council of Europe - Conseil de l'Europe

67075 Strasbourg

France

tel. +33 3 88 41 30 34

www.coe.int/youth

Abbreviations:

CCJ: Advisory Council on Youth

CDEJ: European Steering Committee on Youth

CDPPE: Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice
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
GR-C: Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment of the Committee of Ministers
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

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