



The April issue looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The "[No Hate Speech Online](#)" campaign was officially [launched](#) by Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland. He stressed the importance of Internet in young people's everyday life and the impact of hate speech online. *"The contacts are virtual but the people are real. It is not a reason to allow this medium to be misused to violate human rights and dignity of others or to put them at real risks in the real world."* Aleksandra Mitrovic (CDEJ member), Sergio Belfor (AC Vice-Chair) and Peter Matjašič (YFJ President) emphasised the importance of youth participation in this broad movement. The [official online Campaign platform](#) is now open to the public. An information meeting for CDEJ members and campaign coordinators from national campaign committees had been hosted on 13-14 March by the French-Speaking Community of Belgium. It was attended by participants from nearly 30 countries.

The CM Rapporteur group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment (GR-C) held an exchange of views on 14 March with CDEJ Chair, Ms Seija Astala and CCJ / CMJ Chair Ms Maria Paschou. The delegations welcomed the action of the youth sector and its institutional structure as well as the cross-sectoral dimension of its work. Emphasis was placed on furthering capacity building of young people and their transition to working life, non-formal education and training in the new technologies.

At a meeting of the PACE Legal Affairs Committee on 19 March, rapporteur, Boriss Cilevics [stated](#) that “*too many children are still born stateless and this is a blatant violation of the most basic of human rights*”. In his report on 'Access to nationality and the effective implementation of the European Convention on Nationality' he pointed out the impact of statelessness which prevents persons from enjoying full political rights and generates discrimination.

The PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, [meeting](#) in Paris on 12 March 2013, proposed that the Committee of Ministers be asked to appoint a European ombudsperson “*to ensure that the rights of young people are respected and protected*”. The committee adopted a draft recommendation on “[Young people’s access to fundamental rights](#)” on the basis of a [report](#) by Michael Connarty (UK). It also adopted a draft resolution and a draft recommendation on “[Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge](#)” on the basis of a [report](#) by Polonca Komar (Slovenia).

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which aims to reward outstanding civil society action in defence of human rights in Europe and beyond, was [launched](#) on 25 March by PACE President Jean-Claude Mignon in Prague. The Prize, which will be worth 60 000€, will be awarded each year. It is open to nominations from any individual, non-governmental organisation or institution working to defend human rights.

In his official visit to Romania on 20-21 March, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland [urged](#) governments to co-operate in the integration of the young Roma and to make education a priority in support of projects at the local, national and European level.

(2) Youth Department update

The CoE statutory organs concerned with youth (CDEJ, CMJ, CCJ) will meet in the European Youth Centre in Budapest on 3-5 April and will be addressed by the Minister of State for Sport and Youth, Mr István Simicskó.

The [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres](#) will be awarded for the first time at a ceremony to be held on 4 April in Budapest. The two centres selected – the Euromed Youth Centre (Adrasan, Turkey) and the Youth Cultural Centre Brezice (Brezice, Slovenia) - will be receiving a certificate and a metal plaque with the label.

The conclusions of the CoE international review team on youth policy in Ukraine will be presented at an international hearing during the Joint Council on 4 April. These will be introduced by Mr Igor Khokhych, Director of the Department on Youth and Communications, and CDEJ member for Ukraine. This is the 19th youth policy review carried out by the CoE. The 20th youth policy review will be carried out in Greece in 2013-2014; a first visit to Athens by the international expert team will be held on 14-20 April. A second visit will be held in September 2013. Romania, whose first youth policy review took place 13 years ago, has requested a second phase of the review process to take into account political and social changes affecting young people in the country. A first meeting with the Romanian authorities will take place in June. [[link](#) to previous reviews]

Other events running parallel to the statutory meetings include a working dinner of the [Partial Agreement Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) and a photo exhibition by [ERYICA](#).

The EYF launched its new [website](#) in March.

The First and second phases of the Enter2! Long-term training course took place in the EYC in Strasbourg on 10-23 March. This project aims at promoting access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence through practical workshops.

Other activities held in March included:

- Study session “*Changing Youth Projects from Multinational to intercultural - Towards a united strategy for intercultural learning and youth participation*” in co-operation with the Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organizations ([ALLIANCE](#)) (17 – 24 March 2013, EYCB)
- Study session “*Youth for promoting legality and human rights*” in co-operation with the International Youth Human Rights Movement ([YHRM](#)) (17 - 23 March 2013, EYCB)
- First and second phases of the *Enter 2!* Long term training course (10 – 23 March, EYCS).
- Conference: “*Mobility spaces, Learning spaces – Linking Policy, research and Practice*” organised by the [European platform on learning mobility](#) (20 – 22 March, Berlin, Germany)

Forthcoming activities include:

- Study session “*Participation and Democracy: a legal framework for school student rights*” with the Organising Bureau of European School Student unions ([OBESSU](#)) (7 – 14 April, EYCB).
- Study session “*A young volunteer can do anything! Strengthening youth activism on sexual and reproductive rights*” organised by International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network ([IPPF EN](#)) (21 – 27 April, EYCB)
- Study session “*World Perspectives: Minority Voices*” organised by the [European Youth Press](#) and [Minority Rights Group Europe](#) (21 – 28 April 2013, EYCB).
- Study session “*European Young Women Advocating for Human Rights and Equality*” in co-operation with the European Young Women's Christian Association ([European YWCA's](#))

- Training course “30 young bloggers and on-line activists on human rights standards on hate speech, key actors in the project and campaign against hate speech on-line” (6 – 14 April, EYCB)
- Training course "TC Moderators – Campaign platform training course" (14 – 17 April, EYCB).

- Pre-consolidation seminar of the Youth Peace Ambassadors with Andorran youth representatives (14 – 17 April, Andorra La Vella)
- Consolidation training seminar of the Youth Peace Ambassadors (16 – 21 April, Andorra La Vella)
- Seminar for the members of Youth Parliaments (21 – 27 April, EYCS)

Upcoming deadlines:

7 April 2013: “*Social Inclusion for Active Youth Participation*” - [study session](#) organised by the [‘Participation for All’](#) network in cooperation with the CoE Youth Department (EYCB, 26 May – 2 June). Call for participants.

10 April 2013: call for participants for the [Symposium](#): “Youth Policy Cooperation in South East Europe: Symposium on the role of information and counselling in fostering young people's social inclusion and access to their rights” organised by the [EU-CoE youth partnership](#), the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of Croatia, [ERYICA](#) and [SALTO](#) (19-20 June in Zagreb). [[application](#)].

10 April 2013: application for youth NGOs wishing to apply for [EYF](#) support.

13 April 2013: the [right2move poster competition](#) for the European Year of Citizens 2013

15 April 2013: [ILO Photo contest WORK4Youth](#) focusing on young people at work.

17 April 2013: [Youth Peace Camp](#) to be held in the EYCB 21-20 June 2013

30 April 2013: Call for NGO representatives or networks on the Advisory Council on Youth. [Presentation](#) and [application form](#)

Staff

Welcome to Meltim Kutlu, seconded from Turkey to work in the Education and Training Division in particular on the No Hate Speech Movement; and Alexia Bellemin and Gavin Alexander, trainees in the Youth Department! Farewell and sincere thanks to Laszlo Foldi who helped set up the No Hate Speech campaign.

(3) Council of Europe

The CoE Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (also called the [Lanzarote Convention](#)) which entered into force on 1 July 2010, was signed by Latvia (7 March) and ratified by Belgium (8 March). The Czech Republic is now the only member state not to have signed the Convention. The 4th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention was held on 4 March to [monitor](#) the implementation of the Convention. The Advisory Council on youth sent a message supporting the important work of the Committee recalling that “*Children are the next generation of young people and their early experiences shape their future*”.

On 12 March, the Congress launched a [new online tool](#) for the [Pact of Towns and regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children](#). This is part of the broader [ONE in FIVE Campaign](#) developed by the Council of Europe which started on 29 and 30 November 2010. The aim is to mobilise local and regional authorities as well as associations along a four pronged approach of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Participation by showcasing the initiatives and policies implemented. Also in the frame of the CoE ONE in FIVE campaign, the European Law Students’ Association ([ELSA](#)) held a panel discussion on 20 March in the European Parliament to conclude the [ELSA for Children Legal Research](#)

[Project](#). This project resulted in a report compiling national data from 23 countries on the national implementation of European and international instruments protecting children against violence and sexual abuse.

The semi-finals and finals of the [28th René Cassin European Human Rights Competition](#) will take place at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg on 15 and 16 April 2013. Sixteen international teams were selected to conduct mock legal proceedings based on the European Convention on Human Rights.

The [European action week against Racism](#) was held between 16-24 March with the campaign title: “Who Says We Don’t Fit Together? – Value Diversity!”. Thousands of events were organized across Europe especially on the 21st of March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination dedicated this year to racism and sport. At this occasion, the PACE Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination made a [statement](#) about the importance of sport which “should lead by example in combating this plight”.

(4) Other news

On 28 February, the EU’s EPSCO Council [agreed](#) on the adoption of the European Youth Guarantee based on [the proposal of the European Commission](#) in December 2012. The [main task](#) is “to ensure young people receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education”. This scheme is a response to the alarming situation in a certain number of member states concerning the rate of youth unemployment. Furthermore, on 7-8 February 2013 the European Council decided to create a Youth Employment Initiative setting aside €6 billion for the period 2014-2020 to be allocated to regions where youth unemployment exceeds 25%. These funds will be available to implement the Youth Guarantee.

The [EU Youth Conference](#) held in Dublin on 11-13 March during the Irish presidency, focused on social inclusion. Seven thematic areas were discussed, drawn from the results of national consultations with 11,000 young people across the member states: employment, education, participation, welfare, support, youth organisations and quality. “As *President of the EU Council of Youth Ministers, I will present these conclusions for adoption by the Council of Ministers in Brussels in May 2013 and the findings will feed into policy-development by the Council*” said Ireland’s Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald.

The second phase of consultation for the [8th UNESCO Youth Forum](#) (Paris, 29 - 31 October) is now open until 9 April. More than 1,800 young people participated in phase 1 of the online survey consultation in order to define the Forum's thematic agenda. Employability, democracy and sustainable communities were the top choices. Young persons between 15 and 35 from all over the world can participate by filling out the [questionnaire](#).

The annual [G20 Youth summit](#) will take place in St. Petersburg between 17 and 21 April 2013. It will bring together young leaders from G20 member nations studying in the field of international relations, economics, finance and law. They will discuss global development issues in conjunction with the G20 meetings.

The 2nd [Anna Lindh Mediterranean Forum](#) will take place in Marseille (France), the 2013 European Capital of Culture between 4 and 7 April. Every three years, the Forum aims to promote intercultural dialogue between youth leaders, civil society organisations, policy-makers and intercultural experts coming from the 38 states involved in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The debates and workshops will focus on topics such as "How to value diversity and share universal values" or "Culture of peace and non-violence".

The 2nd edition of [the generation@school competition](#) is an initiative [launched](#) by the European Commission which takes the European Day of Solidarity between Generations (29 April) as an opportunity to bring together pupils and elderly people at schools and to engage in conversation. The aim is to promote a better intergenerational understanding.

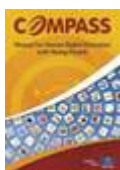
(5) Publications

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

- *Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice*. Polish, Bulgarian and German versions are now available.

- *The [Council of Europe book](#)* is now available in 12 different languages ([Turkish](#), [Macedonian language](#), [Italian](#), [Russian](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Georgian](#), [Polish](#), [Albanian](#), [Armenian](#), [Spanish](#), [German](#))

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 version of *Think Youth !*, kindly translated by the « *Mission coopération européenne et internationale jeunesse vie associative, Ministère des Sports, de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation populaire et de la vie associative* » is 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,

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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
EPSCO: Council of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Ministers
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
NSC: North South Centre of the Council of Europe
PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
SALTO: Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities
YFJ: European Youth Forum

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