



The May issue looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The "[No Hate Speech Online](#)" campaign officially [launched](#) by the Secretary General on 22 March continues to attract much interest. So far, 34 member states have launched the campaign or started its preparation through national campaign committees. A second training course for bloggers and online activists took place in Budapest in April and a first workshop for moderators for the online campaign was organised and is now active in moderating the online platform and the Hate Speech Watch. Campaign materials – videos, templates for posters and the brochure presentation can be downloaded from www.coe.int/youthcampaign

The focus for the month of May is Homophobia and hate speech targeting LGBT people. A European Action Day is being prepared for 17 May, International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia.

15 countries eligible for funding have benefited from [EEA Norway Grants](#) to support their campaign projects.

A hearing of the PACE sub-committee on racism and xenophobia and the sub-committee on media of the committee on social affairs was held on 25 April with the aim to inform national parliamentarians about the campaign. Other ways of involving the Parliamentary Assembly in the

campaign and its follow-up are being considered.

The official online Campaign platform and the European Hate Speech Watch are now open to the public at www.nohatespeechmovement.org. The codes for the sites are now downloadable for translation and adaptation by national campaign committees.

Armenia will be taking over the chairmanship of the CoE Committee of Ministers on 16 May when it will announce its priorities. At a meeting on 17 April with Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, the [Acting Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian](#) said that Armenia calls for a number of activities at the level of parliaments, constitutional courts, foreign affairs ministries of the member countries on issues such as fight against discrimination and intolerance, cultural and religious dialogue, education and youth policy”.

Youth was also among the top priorities of the Andorran chairmanship which started on 9th November 2012 and will end on 16 May. Recent initiatives included two consolidation seminars, one bringing together Youth Peace Ambassadors and Andorran youth workers and leaders (14-17 April) and the other for Youth Peace Ambassadors only (17-21 April). In his [welcome speech](#) on 14 April, Michael O’Brien, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, stressed the role of towns and regions to promote interculturalism and the importance of youth initiatives: “more than ever, Youth Peace Ambassadors have an important role to play in advocating for the respect of citizens’ human rights and dignity, and in fostering intercultural dialogue”.

At its spring session (22-26 April) PACE adopted 3 reports and resolutions/recommendations concerning young people: (1) [Young people’s access to fundamental rights](#): PACE called for a [specific legal instrument](#) encompassing the social, economic and political rights of young people to ensure their full protection and called for consideration of youth proposals. The Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media which prepared the report had held an exchange of views with CCJ representatives on the subject; (2) [Culture and education through national parliaments](#): National parliaments were asked to [deliver policies for culture](#) based on CoE values, ensure adequate access to education and support participation in cultural life, creativity and innovation; (3) [Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge](#): PACE recommended a series of measures to [address the](#)

[challenge of education](#) with specific mention of validation of non-formal and informal learning and facilitating access to education for young people from disadvantaged groups; and last but not least is PACE's call for a specific legal instrument encompassing the social, economic and political rights of young people to ensure their full protection.

Addressing the PACE on 23 April, Federal counsellor Didier Burkhalter called for a focus on the future and the importance of [offering perspectives to European youth](#). He hoped this would be taken up on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Switzerland's joining the Council of Europe.

On 27 April, Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini Dragoni participated in an interview on "Café de l'Europe" on young people and citizenship participation. [[French only](#)]

(2) Youth Department update

The statutory meetings (CDEJ, CCJ, CMJ) were held in Budapest on 3-5 April 2013. Besides preparing for the 2014-2015 Programme of Activities, among the themes discussed were: youth participation in decision-making at the local and regional level as well as the crisis and young people's access to social rights; access to rights for young persons from disadvantaged areas; children and youth with disabilities; the implementation of the cooperation agreements with the Russian Federation and Ukraine; formal and non-formal education; the EU-CoE youth partnership; the CoE Quality Label for youth centres; recognition of time spent by volunteers involved in youth projects and traineeships; Euro-Arab cooperation and Africa Europe cooperation; cooperation with the Conference of INGOs of the CoE; gender issues and of course last but not least the Campaign "Young people combating hate speech online".

During the Joint Council meeting on 4 April a presentation was made by the international expert team of the Youth Policy Review of Ukraine. This was the 19th review carried out by the Council of Europe and the report should be published later this year. The 20th review, being undertaken at the request of the Greek authorities, was kicked off by a first visit of the International Expert Team to Athens on 14 – 20 April. A second visit will be held in September.

For the first time the CoE has been asked to carry out a second phase review by Romania following the first youth policy review which took

place 13 years ago. This would take account of the many changes (political and social) which took place in the country. A first meeting will be held with the Romanian authorities at the beginning of June.

The annual CDEJ summer university will be held this year on 20-22 August in Košice (Slovak Republic) at the kind invitation of the Slovak government. An information day on the CoE youth policy programmes and structures will be also organised on 19 August for those interested.

Activities held in April included:

- 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 members of Youth Parliaments from the Russian Federation and other member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States (21 – 27 April, EYCS)
- A Consultative meeting on Roma youth issues and the Decade for Roma Inclusion (Budapest, 29-30 April). The meeting agreed on a strategy for promoting the mainstreaming of youth issues in the programme of the decade and for further promoting Roma youth participation.

In Ukraine, the training course on Youth Participation closed the first phase of the project for capacity-building of youth organisations for participation in youth policy and human rights education, co-funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The course was held in Kyiv from 18 to 24 April.

Two Youth Department activities were held in Morocco, in the framework of the Joint CoE/EU [South Programme](#) for strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood:

- An interregional seminar for youth research experts, from 8 to 10 April
- A training course for trainers for democratic youth participation, for participants from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, from 6 to 14 April.

Both activities were held in Rabat, in cooperation with the [Centre for Cross-Cultural Learning](#).

Forthcoming activities include:

- 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](#)) (05-12 May, EYCS)
- Study session “*Coaching for inclusion: closing the gap between urban and rural youth – inclusion for all*” in co-operation with Rural Youth Europe ([RYE](#)) and Youth Express Network ([Y-E-N](#)) (16 May-2 June, EYCS)
- Study session “*Social inclusion for active youth participation*” in co-operation with Participation for All network ([PAFA](#)) (26 May-2 June, EYCB)

- [Enter!](#) Project advisory group (5-8 May, EYCS)
- Training course “50-50” on youth participation and youth policy in the Russian Federation (12 -19 May, EYCS)
- 4th meeting of the Follow-up Group of the No Hate Speech Movement (21-22 May EYCS).
- Consolidation training seminar of the Youth Peace Ambassadors (28 May-1 June 2013, EYCB)
- Focus group on multiple discrimination of Roma young people (gender-based; in cooperation the Directorate of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination) (3-7 June 2013, EYCS)
- National Training Course on HRE in co-operation with the Russian Federation (3 - 9 June, EYCB)

Upcoming deadlines:

21 May 2013: [Call for Russian participants](#) - International Dialogue Camp Kaluga 2013

[\[project description.\]](#)

25 May 2013: [Call for applicants](#) - “Respect – Responsible attitudes and behaviour in the virtual social space”. This training is organized by the Pestalozzi Programme of the CoE in cooperation with the European Youth Foundation. It will take place in Strasbourg between 12 and 15 November 2013.

Staff

Welcome to Marina Filaretova (Russian Federation secondment); to Natia Jgenti (working in the Education Unit); and to Aoife Sheils and Yasmina Cross (working in the European Youth Foundation). Farewell and many thanks to Antonina Bejan who focused her traineeship on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Social Charter regarding young persons; and to Alexia Bellemin who focused her traineeship on research for Think Youth and identities and diversity within intercultural societies. We wish them good luck in their future careers.

(3) Council of Europe

“Europe is an idea that never grows old and one that cannot be achieved without young people” announced [Jean-Claude Mignon](#), PACE President during his official visit to Finland on 2-3 April. He [stressed](#) that “Europe cannot progress unless it invests in young people and unless young people’s voices are heard and heeded in all major decisions affecting society,”

At the end of his ten-day visit to Russia, CoE’s Commission of Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, [expressed his concern](#) on Russia’s judicial system and the impact of the country’s 2012 ‘foreign’ NGO law arguing that “non-governmental organisations have an invaluable role in defending human rights and need to function in an environment conducive to their work”.

(4) Other news

The [24th Session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education](#) took place in Helsinki, Finland, on the 26-27 April 2013. The Ministers of Education of the 50 states party to the European Cultural

Convention devised strategies for governance and quality education, giving direction to future Council of Europe action. The three sub themes were: Decentralisation, social participation and empowerment of local authorities in the governance of education; Ethics and integrity in education; Parent, teacher and student involvement in educational governance and management and quality education. Members of the CoE statutory organs on youth attended the Conference.

A [Seminar](#) on “Re-thinking Youth participation: Breaking patterns, Changing practice” was organised by [Salto Youth](#) on 23-27 April in Vantaa Finland.

The [ILO](#) reported on recent interview in the official press agency in China, Xinhua with UN Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Al Hindawi, on 6 April. Recalling the “alarming challenges” facing the young population his first-term efforts would focus on curbing unemployment rates and increasing participation among young people worldwide. In a speech he delivered at the 8th Commonwealth Youth Ministers meeting on [17th April](#), he called for a rethink and re-debate around youth development.

The University of Bucharest team won the 28th edition of the [René Cassin moot court competition](#). The final took place on 16 April at the [ECHR](#) (Strasbourg). On the basis of an imaginary scenario, the two teams argued their case relying on the European Convention on Human Rights and following the procedures applied in the European Court of Human Rights in front of judges of the Court, academics, and Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality.

On 10 April, 6 cities were shortlisted to compete for the title of [European Youth Capital](#) 2016: Badajoz (Spain), Galway (Ireland), Ganja (Azerbaijan), La Laguna (Spain), Varna (Bulgaria) and Vilnius (Lithuania). European Youth Capital 2016 will encourage the implementation of the Council of Europe’s Charter on Local and Regional Participation of Young People through the promotion of new ideas and innovative projects. The European Youth Capital is a brand initiated by the [European Youth Forum](#) and is now in its eighth edition. The winning city will be announced on 23 November during an award ceremony in Thessaloniki, Greece.

On 2 April, [Eurostat](#), the statistical office of the European Union, published [the unemployment rate for February 2013](#) which shows the

average youth unemployment at 23.5% with broad differences among the member states.

The national winning entries for the annual [European Charlemagne Youth Prize](#), now in its sixth year, were announced on 25 April. The award ceremony will take place in Aachen, Germany, on 7 May 2013. The European Charlemagne Youth Prize is awarded jointly and annually by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen. The competition is open to young people aged between 16 and 30 who have been involved in projects helping to promote understanding between peoples of different European countries.

[The European Youth Forum's Council of Members](#) (COMEM) met in Brussels on 19 April. The spring session was launched by a [debate in the European Parliament](#) on the [post-2015 development agenda](#). The two main points were the elections to the CoE Advisory Council on Youth (AC) and YFJ's work on increasing inclusiveness and combating discrimination and sexual harassment.

[The European Youth Parliament](#) hosted its 72nd International session in Munich from 5 to 14 April. This meeting gathered more than 300 young European aged between 16 and 20 coming from 36 European countries. Its activities are organised under the patronage of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland.

(5) Publications

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

Just published:

- ["Visegrad Youth – Comparative review of the situation of young people in the V4 countries"](#)

(in the series of Knowledge based youth policy)

- The Right to be Young – report of the [Roma Youth Conference](#) – available from the Youth Department: youth@coe.int [please mention Roma Youth in header].

Also available:

- T-Kit No.11 – Mosaic: The training kit for the Euro-Mediterranean youth work is now available in French: ["Mosaïques"](#).

“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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[*www.coe.int/youth*](http://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

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

ILO: International Labour Office

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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