



The July/August issue (published 11 July) looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The second European Action Day (EAD) was observed on **20 June** - UN World Refugee Day. The [Hate Speech Watch](#) devoted [June](#) to those people who were obliged to flee their home and find their shelter elsewhere. The [EAD web page](#) includes video messages of young refugees. Many thanks to all the volunteer moderators!

22 July will be a European Action Day for Victims of Hate Speech and a petition will be sent to members of the PACE and the European Parliament to establish this day as the European Day of Victims of Hate Crime. On 22 July 2011 Anders Breivik had shot 77 people, mostly young persons attending a summer camp on the Norwegian island of Utøya. [Secretary General](#) Thorbjørn Jagland will be making a video statement at this occasion.

A European Action Day (International Youth Day!) is also being planned for **12 August**.

On 10 June Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini Dragoni [launched](#) the No Hate Speech Movement (NHSM) in Italy during a parliamentary seminar in Rome [[speech](#)]. The Movement is up and running in some [35 CoE member states](#) or being prepared in countries stretching from Mexico to Kazakhstan. Activists everywhere continue to show an interest in the Movement.

On 15 June the No Hate Speech Movement was promoted at the [Warsaw Equality Parade](#) by the team of the EEA Norway Grants in Poland. No Hate (and some love...) was the positive message to rally people and hopefully inspire other parades and other campaigners. [[video](#)]

On 20 and 21 June the campaign was presented and discussed at the [EuroDIG](#) conference on Internet Governance held in Lisbon; prior to that, the participants in the New Media Summer School also discussed ways of supporting the movement.

The campaign has recently been launched in Serbia, Poland, Slovakia and the Russian Federation. [[Photos](#)]

[EEA Norway Grants](#) are offering support to campaign activities in the 16 countries they cover.

A campaign newsletter is now being produced twice a month ([latest newsletter](#)). You may wish to contribute to the campaign's newsletter by writing to: youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. Campaign material – videos, templates for posters and the brochure presentation can be downloaded from www.coe.int/youthcampaign.

Have *you* joined the official online Campaign? Please check out www.nohatespeechmovement.org.

You may also wish to join the campaign on [Facebook](#) and subscribe to the campaign Tweets [[#nohatespeech](#)].

Hate speech, as defined by the Committee of Ministers of the CoE, covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance, including: intolerance expressed by aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination and hostility against minorities, migrants and people of immigrant origin. For the purpose of the campaign, other forms of discrimination and prejudice, such as anti-gypsyism, christianphobia, islamophobia, misogyny, sexism and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity fall clearly within the scope of hate speech.

A conference on [Participatory Democracy at Local Level](#) was held in Yerevan in June as part of the [Armenian Chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE and in close cooperation with the Congress.

Speaking at the Conference, the Armenian Vice Prime Minister, Mr Armen Gevorgyan, said that Armenia would “*continue to pay attention to the issue of raising the level of citizen participation in the decision-making processes with regard to issues of local and regional concern*”. At the same Conference, the President of the Congress stated, “*the issue of participation is included in the priorities of the Congress for 2013-2016 and we reaffirm our conviction that the quality of democracy depends on citizen participation in democratic processes*’.

At its third part session on 24-28 June, [PACE](#) involved members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) in their discussions within the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media on “Identities and Diversity within intercultural societies” (rapporteur: Mr Costa Neves); and within the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons on “Unaccompanied migrant children; what rights at 18?” (rapporteur: Ms Mailis). The CCJ was also represented in a debate organised during the PACE part-session by the Conference of INGOs on “Interaction between local authorities and NGOs in favour of youth participation in the decision-making process”. [Texts adopted](#) at this part-session included recommendations and resolutions on [Equal access to health care](#) ; [Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity](#) – following a [speech](#) by French Minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem; and [Popular protest and challenges to freedom of assembly, media and speech](#).

The first [Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship](#) took place in Hammamet, Tunisia on 1-8 July. It was organised by the [North-South Centre](#) in co-operation with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia and in partnership with the [CoE Youth Department](#), the [EU-CoE youth partnership](#), the League of Arab States, the [Forum Nazionale dei Giovani](#) and other youth organisations.

The [Gender Equality Commission](#) of the CoE organised a [Conference](#) on “Media and the Image of Women” on 4-5 July in Amsterdam which was attended by the Gender Equality Rapporteur for the CMJ, Ilaria Esposito.

(2) Youth Department update

The [Programming Committee](#) met in Budapest on 4-5 June to establish the 2014 Programme Activities of the CoE’s work in the youth sector, and made decisions on applications for study sessions at the EYCs and EYF grants.

The new [EYF website](#) and the application and registration system are now up and running. The EYF has announced a call for participants (deadline 9 August) to take part in the 2013 edition of the [World Forum for Democracy](#) (WFD) on "Re-wiring democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age" which will take place in Strasbourg on 27-29 November 2013.

A preliminary expert visit to Romania took place on 3-4 June 2013 in Bucharest at the invitation of the Ministry of Youth and Sport to consider a 2nd phase review of the CoE youth policy review made in 2000. The new review which should start in 2014, will take into account the Ministry's Strategy on Youth which will be launched on 12 August 2013.

CDEJ and AC members have been invited to attend the annual CDEJ summer university which this year will be held 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.

The [YFJ](#) has elected 20 organisations which will select a representative to form part of the Advisory Council on Youth in 2014-2015. The names of 10 representatives of youth organisations or networks (not members of the YFJ) who should form part of the AC in 2014-2015 will be put forward to the CM by the Secretary General. The CM will have its final say on the new members of the AC in November 2013.

Activities held in June / July included:

- National Training Course on Human Rights Education for trainers and multipliers from the Russian Federation (9-16 June 2013, EYCB)
- "[Youth Peace Camp](#)" - bringing together young people from conflicting sides and communities to initiate dialogue and conflict transformation. (21-30 June 2013, EYCB)
- Seminar for the Members of Youth Parliaments (23-29 June 2013, EYCS)
- Toolkit on combating discrimination, antigypsyism and Romaphobia affecting young people (1-2 July EYCB)
- Youth Camp on Intercultural Dialogue in the Russian Federation with neighbouring regions (3-6 July 2013, Kaluga)
- Consultative Meeting on Euro-Arab training for democratic youth participation ([JP South](#)) – (4-6 July 2013, Hammamet, Tunisia)

Forthcoming activities include:

- “*COMPASSing DBYN towards HRE*” - Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw ([DBYN](#)) (7-14 July 2013, EYCS)
“*Partnerships for Youth Mobility and Active Citizenship*” - European Youth Card Association ([EYCA](#)) (7-12 July 2013, EYCS)
- “*Hate speech in video games*” – Center for Intercultural Dialogue and Integration ([CIDI](#)) (9-15 September 2013, EYCB)
“*Creative youth campaigning for a positive image of Roma*” - [TernYpe - International Roma Youth Organisation](#) (15-21 September 2013, EYCB)
- “*Equality in Action: mobilizing LGBTQ youth around the Council of Europe recommendations combating discrimination on the grounds of SOGI*” - International LGBTQ Youth and Student Organisation ([IGLYO](#)) (22-28 September 2013, EYCS)

- Youth Peace Camp in Kosovo¹ engaging young people and youth organisations from conflict-stricken regions in dialogue and conflict transformation (18-23 August 2013, Pristina, Kosovo¹)
- Training course on intercultural dialogue and human rights education in the Euro-Mediterranean space - in cooperation with the [Anna Lindh Foundation](#) (*tbc*) (8-14 September 2013, EYCS)
- Portfolio for youth workers (revision) (10-11 September 2013, Strasbourg)
- International seminar with bloggers and campaign activists (23-27 September 2013, EYCB)
- Seminar for the Members of Youth Parliaments (29 September – 5 October 2013, EYCS)

Members of the CMJ this summer will participate in the International Youth Forum InterSeliger (22-25 July) and in the Baltic Artek camp on the Future of Europe (8-14 August) being organised as part of the CoE programme of cooperation with the Russian Federation for 2013.

Forthcoming deadline:

9 August 2013 The [EYF](#) is supporting the involvement of youth representatives in the 2013 edition of the [World Forum for Democracy](#) (WFD) “Re-wiring democracy: connecting institutions and citizens in the digital age”. [Call for participants](#) / [Application form](#).

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

EU-CoE youth partnership

A [workshop](#) on youth participation and social media was held in Hammamet (Tunisia) on 2-4 July. Themes tackled included the impact of social media on youth participation, the exchange on relevant tools and practices and awareness-raising on media diversity and ethics. Guidelines for the efficient use of social media by youth and civil society organisations were proposed and a special [Facebook](#) page was set up.

A [Symposium](#) on Youth Policy in South East Europe “The Role of information and counselling in young people’s social inclusion and access to rights”, was organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership together with the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of Croatia, ERYICA and SALTO RC SEE, on 19-20 June in Zagreb.

Representatives of the EU-CoE youth partnership participated in the Euro-Mediterranean partners and stakeholders meeting organised by [UNFPA](#) on 20-21 June in Cairo and in the Project Opening Conference of the Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit, held in Kyiv on 20-21 June 2013.

Staff

Welcome to Sophie de Peco who joined the Youth Department on 1 July as assistant to the CCJ and to the Head of the Youth Department. She has replaced Benedicte Stevenin who left at the end of June. Many thanks to Benedicte for her valuable contribution to the Department in general and to the CCJ secretariat in particular. Farewell and many thanks also to Aoife Sheils who was working in the European Youth Foundation and to Morgane Adelsbach who ended her traineeship in the Youth Department on 5 July. We will miss them!

(3) Council of Europe

On 13 June, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland made a [statement](#) on legislation in the Russian Duma prohibiting “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations” among minors. On 13 June he also made a [statement](#) on the situation in Turkey.

On 20 June, [Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Nils Muižnieks released a [report](#) following his March visit to Estonia expressing his concern on stateless children. *“There are still 1200 stateless children in Estonia, a situation which prevents them from taking part in society as full members. This situation must be remedied urgently”*. On 10 July he [stated](#) *“Violence against women is one of the most widespread and*

serious human rights violations occurring every day in Europe” and warned that “without education, all other measures aimed at stamping out violence against women cannot succeed.”

A Hearing on Roma Young People was held during the meeting of the Current Affairs Committee of the [Congress](#) on 26-27 June in Ankara. It allowed for an exchange of views on obstacles to inclusion and participation of Roma young people. The situation of LGBT young persons was also discussed as well as how to improve partnerships between grassroots authorities and civil society. The Committee examined reports on local and regional responses to the economic crisis and migrants’ access to regional labour markets.

The Executive Committee of the [North South Centre](#) met in Strasbourg on 28 June.

(4) Other news

The UN [Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner](#) is organising an Expert discussion on the human rights of youth in Geneva on 25-26 July which will be attended by the Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth, Ms Maria Paschou.

The [YFJ](#) again brought together young people and EU representatives at its annual [YO! Fest](#) during the [European Youth Week](#) (26 May – 2 June). On 3 July at a Conference on Youth Employment in Berlin the YFJ and national youth councils adopted a [joint statement](#) addressed at the Council of the European Union whose measures fell short of expectations.

On 27-28 June the European Council had [agreed](#) on a comprehensive approach to combat youth unemployment, building on concrete measures, speeding up the Youth Employment Initiative and the Youth Guarantee and promoting increased youth mobility.

On 25 June the European Union quoted the OECD report confirming that [EU investment for education and youth employability](#) pay off. The OECD’s [Education at a Glance](#) had stated that “[a good education is the best insurance against a lack of work experience.](#)”

Participants at the [Cedefop](#) Conference in Thessaloniki on 12-13 June observed that the EU needs to implement solid initiatives to develop

work-based training in order to respond to the rising youth unemployment.

On 2 July the European Alliance for Apprenticeships [was launched](#) by Commissioners Androulla Vassiliou and László Andor at the 2013 WorldSkills competition in Leipzig, Germany. The Alliance should help fight youth unemployment by improving the quality and supply of apprenticeships across the EU through a broad partnership of key employment and education stakeholders. *“We need to pull together and act now to ensure that our young people get the skills they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives”*, said Commissioner Vassiliou. *“Given the unacceptable levels of youth unemployment there is an urgent need for those responsible for education and employment to work together to facilitate the transition of young Europeans from school to the world of work”*, added Commissioner Andor.

Speaking in the Caribbean on 3 July, [ILO](#) Director General, Guy Rider, [called for urgent action](#) on youth employment. He recalled that “there are two hundred million unemployed today and the crisis, as we have been reminded, is particularly acute among young people and that is particularly disturbing.” In May the ILO had launched an [on-line platform](#) for young people to come together to share experience and ideas on achieving [decent work](#) for youth.

The 6th edition of the [EuroDIG](#) was held in Lisbon, 20-21 June 2013. It brought together some 600 representatives from civil society, business, governments, parliaments and international organisations. [Workshop 8](#), organised together with the CoE and its NSC, was dedicated to “Cross-border hate speech and defamation – living together online”

Following the publication in May of its new Eurobarometer study [“European Youth: Participation in Democratic Life”](#), [EUROSTAT](#) declared that “the economic crisis ... seems to have hit the young more than other age groups. From the beginning of 2009, the gap between the youth and the total unemployment rates has increased, so that at the end of 2012 the youth unemployment rate was 2.6 times the total rate.”

The European Forum of Youth Municipal Councils which was to be organised by [COJEP](#) in coordination with the Congress on 26-27 June in Ankara was postponed to September.

On June 21, [AEGEE-Europe](#) denounced Spain’s [decision](#) to suppress its national youth council.

(5) Publications

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

Just published:

- The Advisory Council on Youth's leaflet on its activities [[ENGLISH](#) / [FRANÇAIS](#)].
- [Youth knowledge book 17](#) "Learning mobility and non-formal learning in European contexts", published by the EU-CoE youth partnership
- [Coyote 19](#) "What's going on?!" (in the European youth arena), published by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

Reminder:

- "[Youth Information Starter Kit](#)" has now been published in [German](#) and [Turkish](#).
- "[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].
- 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'Education 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](#)



Wishing you all a very happy summer!

Best regards,

Anna Trigona

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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
EuroDIG: Dialogue on Internet Governance
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
NHSM: No Hate Speech Movement
PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
SALTO: Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
YFJ: European Youth Forum*

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