



The December issue looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The NHSM **European Campaign Conference** was held in **Strasbourg on 7-9 November**. The Conference brought together the main players and actors of the campaign who discussed objectives and strategies and planned the programme of major activities for 2014.

Conference videos: [Opening](#) of the No Hate Speech Movement conference ([French](#), [English](#)); “[10 reasons](#) to fight against Hate Speech” ([French](#), [English](#)); “[Initiative](#) for the prevention of Hate” ([French](#), [English](#)); [Roundtable](#): Learning practice through online campaigns ([French](#), [English](#)); [2014 Action Plan](#) Development ([French](#), [English](#)) 1st part; [2014 Action Plan](#) Development ([French](#), [English](#)) 2nd part; [Closure](#) of the No Hate Speech Movement conference ([French](#), [English](#)).

Interviews: [Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni](#), Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe; [Mr Jerry den Haan](#), Board Member of the European Youth Forum; and [Mr Rui Gomes](#), Head of Division, CoE Youth Department.

Orange Magazine, an online youth magazine created by the European Youth Press, [widely followed](#) the No Hate Speech Campaign during the Conference. Two videos were released: [Flash Mob](#) and [Kristallnacht Never Again](#).

The World Forum on Democracy (Strasbourg, 27-29 November) included a special laboratory on the No Hate Speech Campaign

introduced by Sergio Belfor, Vice Chair of the AC. Speakers included Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Ana López, blogger and online activist for the campaign, Frédérick Ansart, Academy of Strasbourg, Jonathan Hayoun, President of the Union of Jewish Students of France and Iulia Gheorghe, Club de la Presse, Strasbourg Europe.

The European Action Day on 10 December will focus on human rights online.

A seminar for activists organised by the Portuguese national committee - "Dealing with Hate Speech Online and Offline" will be held in Lisbon on 16-17 December. It will provide an opportunity for exchange of good practice and identify the challenges to be tackled in 2014.

The coordinators of the recently established Lithuanian National Committee are Marijke Boessenkool, Neringa Jurčiukonytė and Viktorija Bružaitė. The NHSM will be launched in Lithuania on 14 February 2014.

At the high-level conference of Ministers responsible for media held in Belgrade on 7-9 November, CoE Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland mentioned the [NHSM](#). CMJ Chair, Maria Paschou, presented the Movement together with the results of the survey conducted by the Youth Department on young people's encounter with hate speech-online. She encouraged participants to support the national action strategies proposed by their countries and encouraged the Ministers present to create a multi-sectoral approach to tackle hate speech, reminding them that although hate speech may be anonymous, its victims are real.

A complete list of coordinators of the national campaign structures is available on the campaign [website](#). Coordinators are invited to help keep this list updated. 35 projects have benefited from the EYF "[Cyberspace is public space: young people defending human rights online](#)" which is linked to the NHSM.

A campaign newsletter is produced twice a month. You may wish to contribute to the campaign's newsletter by writing to: youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. You can also subscribe to the newsletter by joining the movement or clicking "sign up our newsletter" in www.nohatespeechmovement.org. National coordinators and members of the Joint Council on Youth receive a Flash newsletter with information about the campaign preparations.

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.

Austria took over the CM chairmanship on 14 November when it announced its [priorities](#). The many events scheduled during the chairmanship include a meeting on “Investing in our Youth: Education is Key” to be held in Klagenfurt on 31 March – 1 April 2014. Within the context of Austria’s chairmanship, a [conference](#) was organised on 19 November on “Combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance against asylum-seekers and refugees in Europe” in co-operation with ODIHR and the UNHCR in Strasbourg. The event gathered more than 120 participants, including member state representatives, NGOs and academics. It aimed at sensitising participants as well as sharing good practice on 1) the fight against hate speech and racially motivated violence, 2) the use of education as a tool to prevent intolerance and discrimination and 3) campaigns. The CM was invited to reflect on the possibility of adopting a recommendation on combating racism, xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance through a European Education Curriculum based on human rights principles. The No Hate Speech Movement was included in the conference as was the CoE Youth Department study on the situation of minors (refugees, asylum-seekers) in transition to adulthood.

The [World Forum for Democracy](#) (WFD) was held in Strasbourg on 27-29 November 2013 with the active participation of youth representatives both in the Forum and in the [Fringe programme](#). [Laboratory 20](#) was

dedicated to the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and presented by AC Vice-Chair Sergio Belfor. [Laboratory 21](#), sponsored by the Alsace Region and the European Youth Forum focused on “Youth Abstention at European Elections”. [Ahmad Alhendawi](#), UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth attended the Forum and participated as a discussant in Lab 20.

(2) Youth Department update

The Terms of Reference for the period 2014-15 of the statutory bodies of the youth sector ([CDEJ](#), [CMJ](#), [CCJ](#) and [CPJ](#)) were adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on 20 November when the programme and budget for that period were also adopted.

The 30th meeting of the Programming Committee on Youth will be held at the EYC in Strasbourg on 5-6 December.

The report following an exploratory visit of the expert group to the Eco Center in Sremski Karlovci (Serbia) on 24-27 September 2014 is now available. The Eco Centre had applied for the [CoE Quality Label for Youth Centres](#). The Quality Label was set up in 2008 to promote the European Youth Centres of the CoE as standard-setting instruments and examples of good practice for youth policy.

The EYF has published [video messages](#) from staff explaining the recent changes in applications. The EYF [user-guide](#) on how to apply for a pilot activity is available on the website.

Activities held in November included:

- National Seminar ‘From Regional and local youth policies opportunities for young people to access to social rights for all young people (3-7 November 2013, Florence, Italy)
- International seminar with bloggers and campaign activists (3-7 November, EYCS)
- European campaign conference against hate speech online – (6-10 November 2013, EYCS)
- Conference on youth participation and access to social rights (in cooperation with the Congress) (12-16 November, EYCS)
- Seminar on the role of youth policy in the support of the social inclusion of young Roma. (18-22 November, EYCB)

- Training course on the management of youth organisations for Roma youth leaders (16-24 November, EYCB)
- Euro-Arab training course on democratic youth participation and intercultural dialogue (29 November-6 December, EYCB)

Forthcoming activities include:

- Meeting of the Informal Contact Group on the Roma Youth Action Plan (1–4 December 2013, EYCS)
- Korczak Initiative seminar (1–5 December 2013, EYCS – Europa Park)
- Consultative Meeting: Approaches and Practices in Youth Work and Education for Remembrance of the Roma Genocide (3–6 December EYCS)
- Fourth Euro-Arab Youth Forum on human rights, youth participation and intercultural dialogue , Doha, Qatar 8-11 December. The forum is being organised in cooperation with the [League of Arab States](#) and the [European Youth Forum](#).
- Consultative meeting with members of the Trainers' pool on the role of non-formal education in democratic participation. Bi-annual meeting with pool trainers to review practices, share experiences and competences (11-15 December 2013, EYCS)
- 2nd seminar of Training courses for Roma Youth Leaders on human rights and action against discrimination (15-22 December 2013, EYCS)

EU-CoE youth partnership

- [A Youth Policy Symposium with EECA countries](#) was held in Yerevan on 13-14 November, organised by the EU-CoE youth partnership in cooperation with the Ministry of Sport and Youth of Armenia and [SALTO Resource Centre for Eastern Europe and Caucasus](#). The event gathered more than 70 participants from the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus and other European countries.
- [A seminar on Youth and Citizenship](#) with a focus on various types of participation in different areas in which young people live and act was held on 19-22 November in Amman, Jordan. The event was held in cooperation with UNFPA and gathered around 40 young people and experts from both sides of the Mediterranean.
- A first residential seminar of the training course on youth policy will be held in Malta on 16-18 December.

Staff

Welcome to Anastasiia Nohovitsyna who is providing support to the Advisory Council on Youth until 20 December.

A warm welcome also to new arrivals as from January 2014:

- Oonagh Tyrrell who will work as Assistant to the Head of the Youth Department and to the Advisory Council on Youth;
- Yücel Biricik who will work in the European Youth Foundation; and
- Denis Durmis who will provide project assistance to the Roma Youth Action Plan.

Srd Kisevic has left the secretariat of the EU-CoE youth partnership Brussels Office, to work in the European Commission. We thank him for his great contribution and wish him the best in his new post.

(3) Council of Europe

The [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) has spoken out on [racist attacks in France](#), [children's rights in migration and asylum in Denmark](#) and [police misconduct in Turkey](#).

The 6th European Drug Prevention Prize was launched in Athens on 26 November during the 73rd Permanent Correspondents meeting of the [Pompidou Group](#). Three youth projects will be rewarded for their work and will each receive a trophy, a diploma and € 5,000. Applications should reach the Secretariat by 30 March 2014: Pompidou.PreventionPrize@coe.int

“The new Meldcode or Reporting Code, in the Netherlands, aims to help professionals to ensure a swift intervention in suspected cases of domestic violence and child abuse by providing clear steps to be taken” stated Johan van de HOUT, the [Congress](#)'s new Thematic Spokesperson on Children at the extraordinary meeting of the Network of Contact Parliamentarians on the One in Five campaign to stop sexual violence against children, on 13 November 2013 in Geneva. *“All sectors working with or welcoming children must set up a reporting system,”* he added, highlighting the success of such action during a trial period in Rotterdam. He also reported on the progress in raising local and regional awareness of the Congress Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children in the Council of Europe member states.

On 13 November, the Youth Department in cooperation with the Congress and within the [“Enter!”](#) project, organised a seminar on [“Local youth participation and access to social rights for all young people: which ways forward?”](#) in Strasbourg. The seminar brought together some 40 youth workers and youth leaders, local decision-makers and

researchers to identify strategies and ways to support youth participation at the local level as a means of ensuring access to social rights for all young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence.

“[The Lake](#)”, a powerful new short video was launched by the [PACE](#) on 14 November in time for [UN Children’s Day](#) on 20 November. As part of the “[One in Five Campaign](#)” the video encourages children facing sexual abuse within their family to “break the silence”.

On 22 November, José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) said “*2013 will prove to have been a turning point in combating violence against women*” at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ([PACE](#)), ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November).

David Hayward, consultant from the University of Glasgow, presented the document he had been commissioned to prepare in coordination with members of the Advisory Council on Youth - “Young persons and the case-law of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter” –to the House of Lords on [22 November](#) in London. The document is being published by the Council of Europe and should be available soon. AC member Ilaria Esposito also addressed the session on “Rights for Youth in the Council of Europe”.

A Hearing on “[Access to Justice for Women Victims of Violence](#)” organised by the CoE Gender Equality Commission in partnership with the French Ministry of Women’s rights will be held in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in Paris on 9 December 2013. Ilaria Esposito, Gender Rapporteur representing the CMJ will participate in the Hearing.

(4) Other news

On 6-8 November, the European Parliament hosted the [Agora event](#), inviting young workers and job seekers from across the EU to debate how youth unemployment should be tackled. [Conclusions](#).

On 7 November the EU Court of Justice ruled that people fleeing their country with a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of their sexual orientation may qualify for asylum in the European Union. Rules to grant asylum in European Union Member States are laid down in the [Directive on asylum qualifications](#). The Directive holds that depending

on circumstances in their country of origin, people belonging to “particular social groups” may seek refuge in the EU.

The EU’s [new Erasmus+ programme](#), approved by the European Parliament on 19 November, will fund grants for students, teachers, trainers and apprentices to study abroad in the EU. Youth leaders, volunteers and young sportsmen and women will also be eligible. A new guarantee mechanism will enable students to get cheaper loans to study abroad. Erasmus+ will also support new partnerships between teaching institutions and firms. « Knowledge alliances » and the « sector skills alliances » should permit training in a real working environment, new teaching approaches and new courses tailored to the world of work. More information in the [background note](#).

The first meeting of the [Chamber of Young Lawmakers](#) was held at the Council of the Federation on November 25, 2013 in Moscow, Russia. The Chamber of Young Lawmakers was formed in April, 2012 and it provides regulation of the rights of young people by making recommendations and preparing proposals on legislative issues affecting the rights and interests of young people. The meeting was attended by Alexander Borisov, the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Committee on Social Policy and Coordinator of Youth Chamber of the Council of the Federation. He ensured that the Council of the Federation is ready to discuss current issues on young people with the representatives of the Chamber of Young Lawmakers, work on these issues, and to bring this work to its logical conclusion - to finished bills in the area of youth policy.

On 6 November the [UN and the World Bank](#) pledged their support to an initiative to improve women’s reproductive health and girls’ education in Africa’s Sahel region, and to invest \$200 million in a new project to achieve these goals.

[The limits of Europe](#) will be the topic of upcoming Europe@debate in Helsinki on 9 December 2013. Carl Haglund, Finnish Minister of Defence, will open the debate with a keynote speech, followed by a panel debate that will explore how the EU defines its relationship with its neighbouring countries and possible strategies from the young generation’s point of view. The youth perspective will be provided by participants of [FutureLab Europe](#).

[Ganja](#), Azerbaijan’s second-largest city was awarded the [European Youth Capital 2016 title](#) by the [European Youth Forum](#) on 21 November.

Ganja's application had focused on strong local and European youth participation and the commitment to work on human rights. The President of the European Youth Forum, Peter Matjašič, said: "*we congratulate Ganja for their strong, diverse and detailed proposal and their commitment to tackle issues such as youth participation, education, social inclusion, employment and volunteering*". Ganja's key theme will be 'Connecting' and its programme will aim to promote close cooperation across borders and bring together policy, research and practice for young people. The Azerbaijani government and local youth-related organisations are committed to working in close cooperation with young people, paying special attention to disadvantaged and marginalised youth.

[UN Universal Children's Day](#) on 20 November, was marked by a [call](#) to make child protection a priority in the global development agenda for the decades to come.

Also on 20 November, Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai made a [passionate plea](#) in the European Parliament for more education as she accepted the 2013 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in Strasbourg. Ms Yousafzai, who was honoured for her fight to promote education for girls despite the threat of Taliban violence, said: "*There is poverty, lack of freedom, fear and terrorism, but there is hope, because we are all here together united to help these children, to speak for them, to take action.*"

On 26 November the [European Council adopted](#) conclusions on enhancing the social inclusion of young people not in employment, education or training ("NEETS") ([15770/13](#)). The EU ministers stressed the role of leadership in education and the global dimension of higher education. In public deliberation, the ministers discussed the future EU Work Plan for Youth. The Council was also briefed on the [outcome](#) of the EU Youth Conference held on 9-12 September in Vilnius on the topic of NEETS. The work programme of the incoming Presidency (Greece) includes as priorities: social inclusion (in particular through culture and entrepreneurship) and the promotion of access to new technologies, in particular in remote areas.

The [conclusions](#) of the [8th UNESCO Youth Forum](#) which was held in Paris on 29-31 October are now available.

The [Love Youth Future](#) 2014 election campaign, initiated by the European Youth Forum, encourages MEP candidates to sign up to eleven pledges covering a range of issues concerning youth Europeans.

[Transparency International](#) and the [OECD](#) are organizing a Joint Conference on “[Integrity and the crisis: How to earn back the trust of young people](#)”, on 9 December in Paris.

(5) Publications

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

The Youth Department general presentation leaflet “Young people building Europe” is now available in English and French. It should soon be available in German, Russian and Turkish.

Reminder

- [Youth Policy in Ukraine](#) is now available in English. Other [Youth policy reviews](#) are available on line including the youth policy review on Belgium which is available in [English](#) and soon available in French.
- The Advisory Council on Youth’s leaflet on its activities, already available in [English](#) and [French](#), is now also available in [Russian](#).
- The revised European Youth Foundation leaflet is now available in 5 languages: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Russian](#) and [Turkish](#)
- [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.
- “[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
- T-Kit No.11 – Mosaic: The training kit for the Euro-Mediterranean youth work is now available in French: “[Mosaïques](#)”.
- [T-Kit No. 12](#) – Youth transforming conflicts.

“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](#)



I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy festive season. Think Youth no. 22 will be available in the middle of January.

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
CPJ: Programming Committee on Youth
DG: Directorate General
ECRI: European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
EDC: Education for Democratic Citizenship
EUROSTAT: Statistical Office of the European Communities
EYCA: The European Youth Card
EYCB: European Youth Centre Budapest
EYCS: European Youth Centre Strasbourg
EYF: European Youth Foundation
ILO: International Labour Office
NSC: North South Centre of the Council of Europe
NHSM: No Hate Speech Movement
ODIHR: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
SALTO: Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities
UNESCO: United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
YFJ: European Youth Forum

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