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## A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

### (1) The big picture



The European Action Day on 10 December focused on human rights online. The next European Action Day will be 11 February 2014: “Safer Internet Day”.

The [European Law Students' Association \(ELSA\)](#) hosted a [conference](#) on the No Hate Speech Movement from 3-8 December in Oslo, Norway. The conference included lectures and workshops on the online human rights concept, combating hate speech and shared important tools for activists.

A regional conference on “Tolerance and dialogue against hate speech” was held in Belgrade on 13 December bringing together more than 110 participants.

On 10 December the NHSM observed 95 seconds of silence to honour the struggle of Nelson Mandela for freedom and human rights.

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

The *No Hate Ninjas* in Portugal have produced a [short film](#) about the “dark side of the internet” .

The Campaign Follow-up Group will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 13-14 January in Strasbourg. Proposals for the 2014 Programme of Activities should be sent to: [youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int).

BOOKMARKS – the Manual for Combating Hate Speech Online through Human Rights Education, the campaign ‘Schoolpack’ has been finalised and is now available for use for education and training activities and translation into national languages. Contact [youth.nohatespeech@coe.int](mailto:youth.nohatespeech@coe.int) .

Annina Grob ([annina.grob@sajv.ch](mailto:annina.grob@sajv.ch)) is the new campaign coordinator in Switzerland and Olga Batir is the new campaign coordinator in Moldova ([olga.batir@cntm.md](mailto:olga.batir@cntm.md); [olga.batir1@gmail.com](mailto:olga.batir1@gmail.com)).

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.coe.int/youthcampaign). Also: [Detailed brochure](#) (updated 14 June); [Flyer](#); [Poster](#).

Have you joined the official online Campaign? Please check out [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://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](#). Azerbaijan will follow on 14 May and will be hosting the No Hate Speech Movement youth meeting in September, a Global Forum on Youth Policies in October / November and a meeting of Youth Foundations in Europe

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](#).

## **(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 first statutory meetings of the CDEJ, CMJ and CCJ will be held in Budapest on 24-26 March. Bureau meetings will be held in Strasbourg on 27-28 January.

The [30 new members](#) of the Advisory Council on Youth have been invited to participate in a tailor-made Training Course on 29-31 January in Strasbourg, organised by the Council of Europe together with the support of the [European Youth Forum](#).

The European Platform of Youth Centres will meet in Villa Elba Youth Centre in Kokkola, Finland on 4 – 6 February 2014. The official presentation of the Quality Label plaque will take place during this meeting. The “European Platform of Youth Centres” is an annual meeting of European youth centres interested in applying for the [CoE Quality Label for Youth Centres](#) or which have already been awarded the label. It serves as a forum for exchange and knowledge-sharing on the Quality Label and questions pertaining to the management of youth centres with a European focus. 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.

***Activities held in December included:***

- Euro-Arab training course on democratic youth participation and intercultural dialogue (29 November-6 December, EYCB)
- 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)

***Forthcoming activities include:***

- “*Reacting to extreme right hate speech online*”- The Association of Service Civil International - IVZW ([SCI](#)) (2 – 9 February, EYCB)
- “*Sensitive approaches to sexual orientation in intercultural youth exchanges*” European Federation for Intercultural Learning ([EFIL](#)) (2 – 9 February, EYCB)
- Evaluation of the [Youth Peace Ambassadors](#) Project (10 – 15 February 2014, EYCS)
- Consultative meeting on the priority on transition to labour market (17 – 21 February 2014, EYCS)

***EU-CoE youth partnership***

- A first residential seminar of the training course on youth policy was held in Malta on 16-18 December.

***Staff***

Anastasiia Nohovitsyna who provided precious support to the Advisory Council on Youth for one month has now left the Division.

### **(3) Council of Europe**

On 15 January the Committee of Ministers will be examining Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2015 \(2013\)](#) on “Young people’s access to fundamental rights”.

A [Declaration](#) on “protecting public health by ensuring essential services in drug policy under austerity budgets” (Athens Declaration), was adopted at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Permanent Correspondents meeting of the [Pompidou Group](#) last November. Herwig van Staa, President of the [Congress](#), congratulated Annemarie Jorritsma on her unanimous election as President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions ([CEMR](#)).

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

At their 1187<sup>th</sup> meeting on 11 December 2013, the Ministers’ Deputies adopted a [Reply](#) PACE Recommendation [REC 2014 \(2013\)](#) n

At a ceremony attended by Jean-Claude Frécon, French senator and Vice-President of the [Congress](#), it was announced that the City of Paris will join the [European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion](#).

The [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) will be visiting Georgia and Montenegro in January.

The [PACE](#) part session will be held in Strasbourg on 27-31 January 2014. On 28 January a debate on “A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe” will be presented by [Mr Jonas GUNNARSSON](#) (Sweden, SOC) followed by a statement by Ms Laura BOLDRINI (President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy). A second theme “Tackling racism in the police” will be presented by [Mr David DAVIES](#) (United Kingdom, EDG). Members of the secretariat of the Youth Department will be available after the debate to provide information about the No Hate Speech Campaign.

#### **(4) Other news**

Greece took over the European Council Presidency on 1 January 2014. Among its [priorities](#) are growth, jobs, cohesion and mobility. The second phase of the Structured Dialogue review involving young people and policy makers was completed successfully last November and the [Joint Recommendations](#) adopted should feed into a Council Resolution on Structured Dialogue to be adopted during the Greek Presidency.

The EU's new [Erasmus+](#) programme kicked off on 1 January 2014. The new [Erasmus+ guide](#) was published in December and is available for organisations wishing to bid for funding in 2014. The new "[youth](#)" website of the Erasmus+ programme will be available on 16 January.

In "European Youth Policy Watch Issue" [No. 89](#), the outgoing Advisory Council on Youth was thanked for its hard work and achievements over the past two years and the new Advisory Council was encouraged to continue to make progress on youth rights.

The [Eurydice Network](#) published a report on Education and Training in Europe 2020 which concentrates on national reforms concerning: early school leaving, higher education, youth employment and vocational education and training and lifelong learning.

The [Youth Volunteering and Dialogue Conference](#), held in Jeddah on 3-5 December, adopted the "Jeddah Youth [Declaration](#) on Volunteering and Dialogue".

The 4<sup>th</sup> [Arab-Euro Youth Forum](#), co-organised by the Youth department and the League of Arab States, Youth and Sport Department was held in Doha, Qatar on 8-11 December, aimed at giving Arab and European youth a voice on inter-regional youth cooperation based on Human Rights, Youth Participation and Intercultural Dialogue. The Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage HE Dr Hamad bin Abdulaziz al Kuwari announced that "A creative interaction between Arab and European youth will do doubt contribute to a better understanding of the world and the changes it is currently encountering, which in turn will result in policies which guarantee the rights of the youth, and serve to protect them." Advisory Council Chair Maria Paschou, and members Giovanni Corbo and Bartolomeo Bufi attended the Forum.

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

The [European Youth Event 2014](#) which will be organised on 09 -11 May 2014 in Strasbourg by the European Parliament will focus on “Ideas for a Better Europe”. Martin Schultz, President of the European Parliament, wants to hear from young people about what Europe should look like in the future. Some 5 000 young people from EU member states and candidate countries will participate.

The Youth Department, together with the European Parliament and the European Youth Forum will be holding a living library and two workshops on the No Hate Speech Movement during the event.

European Parliamentary elections will be held on 22-25 May. The [League of Young Voters](#) is aiming to amplify young people's concerns and expectations in the run-up to European elections and increase the turn-out of young voters (less than 30% in 2009). Some 20 MEP candidates have already signed up to the eleven pledges, concerning young Europeans, outlined in the [Love Youth Future](#) 2014 election campaign, initiated by the European Youth Forum.

The UNESCO [Forum on Global Citizenship Education](#), held on 2-4 December, dealt with the theme “Preparing learners for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. “Young people are tired of talk. We believe at the core of global citizenship is action”.

[Eurofound reports and other information on youth issues](#) include [Is the European Youth Guarantee becoming a reality?](#) Eurofound will also be organising its [5<sup>th</sup> European Social Week](#) on 23-25 January in Oostende, Belgium. The main theme will be “Europe, the age of responsibility”.

## **(5) Publications**

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

### *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, is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [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](mailto: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](#)

*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*

*EDC: Education for Democratic Citizenship*

*EYCB: European Youth Centre Budapest*

*EYCS: European Youth Centre Strasbourg*

*EYF: European Youth Foundation*

*NSC: North South Centre of the Council of Europe*

*NHSM: No Hate Speech Movement*

*PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

*UNESCO: United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*

*UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*

*YFJ: European Youth Forum*

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