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Think Youth! No. 24

March 2014



The March issue looks at:

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- (2) Youth Department update
- (3) Council of Europe
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(1) The big picture



The European Action Day on 11 February was: “Safer Internet Day”.
Country activities included:

Armenia: Photo and essay contest “I make the Internet better by...” and reports on “How we can make Internet safer” were posted on different blogs and websites.

Cyprus: Conference "Lets create a better internet together"
<http://www.iportal.cytanet.com.cy/>

Finland: Launching of a campaign with and for bloggers

Georgia: Two day training about “International tools for defending the rights of minorities as the instrument of advocacy” and a panel discussion “How to make internet safer for young people”.

Norway: Launching of the NHSM

Poland: [Polish Safer Internet Day](#) organised

Portugal: Participation in a television show and launching of a video/film contest on the theme “Let’s create a better internet together”.

Serbia: Conference on “Tolerance and Dialogue against hate speech”

Switzerland: Launching of the [campaign](#) [[FB](#), [twitter](#)]

A week of action against racism and intolerance will kick off on **21 March** – European Action Day.

Forthcoming European Action Days are:

- 8 April: Action Day against Antigypsyism;
- 17 May: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia;
- 20 June: International Refugee Day.

A meeting for the national campaign coordinators is being organised on 6-8 April at the EYC in Budapest to address topics of antigypsyism.

On 19-20 February, the Acting Head of Department and the Campaign Co-ordinator visited Dublin to attend a meeting organised by the Irish National Youth Council with the aim of advancing the prospect of Ireland joining the No Hate Speech Movement. Over 25 youth NGOs attended and showed great enthusiasm for the Campaign.

Visits were also made to the three social media corporations Google, Twitter and Facebook to negotiate forms of co-operation in the context of the NHSM.

The CoE Youth Department will be holding a living library and two workshops on the No Hate Speech Movement during the [European Youth Event](#) (Strasbourg, 9-11 May) as well as a panel debate to discuss ‘*Human Rights on the Internet*’ - starting point: the « No Hate Speech Movement».

Country action:

- Among the annual priorities announced by the Bulgarian Ministry of Youth and Sport for the National Programme for Youth for 2014 is the implementation of initiatives to promote the campaign of the Council of Europe "No Hate Speech Movement"
- The Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sport also included “Combating Hate Speech” as an example of a project title that could be supported by the Ministry following its call for projects in 2014. The deadline for applications is 28 March.
- The national campaign committee of Serbia created a [platform](#) on the campaign activities and a chat room for witnesses or victims of hate speech. The EYCA [member in Serbia](#) signed a Memorandum of cooperation with Serbia.
- The national campaign committee of Slovakia launched a [multimedia project NEHEJTUJ.sk](#), for primary and secondary schools and other public and private institutions working with youth and children.
- The NHSM was launched in Moldova on 25 February.

New campaign coordinators (nccs) have been appointed in the Russian

Federation and in Moldova. A complete list of coordinators of the national campaign structures is available on the campaign [website](#), including the [state of play](#). Coordinators are invited to help keep this list updated.

A campaign newsletter is produced twice a month. You may wish to contribute to the 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. Also: [Detailed brochure \(updated 14 June\)](#); [Flyer](#); [Poster](#).

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, currently CM Chair, will host a ministerial session in Vienna on 5-6 May. As part of the Austrian Chairmanship a [Conference](#) will be organised on 20-21 March in Graz on “Quality education and language competencies for 21st century society: traditions, challenges and visions”. The Advisory Council has been invited to participate in the section entitled “Voices from Society”.

Azerbaijan, which will follow Austria as CM Chair, will host the No Hate Speech Movement Youth Meeting and a meeting of Youth Foundations in Europe in September. A Global Forum on Youth Policies is foreseen to take place in October / November.

Following the Secretary General's nomination of Jeroen Schokkenbroek as his Special Representative in Ukraine, the Secretary General nominated Ulrich Bunjes as Director *ad interim* for The Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation.

(2) Youth Department update

The Council of Europe [priorities](#) for the youth sector for 2014 – 2015 will be taken up at the forthcoming meetings of the CoE statutory bodies covering youth (CDEJ, CMJ and CCJ) which will be held in Budapest on 24-26 March 2014. The [30 AC members](#) who will be attending the first meeting of their mandate, have been invited by the [European Youth Forum](#) to participate in a briefing meeting on 23 March 2014.

A first draft of the youth policy review in Greece was presented at a national hearing in Athens on 7 February. The final report will be presented at an international hearing during the statutory meetings in November 2014. A request has been received from Serbia to carry out a youth policy review in 2014.

On 11-14 March the European Youth Foundation will organise the second “EYF R(E)volution”. The meeting builds on previous experience gained during the “EYF reloaded” seminar in 2013. The new regulations (i.e. new grant categories), online application and reporting system and [website](#) have since been launched. Youth NGOs, as well as the EYF Secretariat, have been getting familiar with the new framework and experiencing first-hand the implications of all these changes and developments. The “EYF R(E)volution” seminar will focus on analysing and discussing the NGOs’ experience to further establish, define and strengthen this new way of working together. The EYF is also on [You-Tube](#).

The Council of Europe proposal for the 2014 [EuroDig](#) conference theme - “How to respond to hate speech on line” has won the public voting poll (126 votes).

The Evaluation and Planning Meeting of the cooperation agreement with the Russian Federation was held in Strasbourg on 12 February. An

Action Plan for 2014-2015 (first biennial programme in the five-year framework agreement) was finalised.

Activities held in February and early March included:

- *“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)
- *“More Young Farmers, Better Food”*- European Coordination Via Campesina ([ECVVC](#)) (3-8 February 2013, EYCB)
- *“Stronger students' participation for the open society: sharing practices and developing innovative approaches”* - European Students' Union ([ESU](#)) (3-9 February 2014, EYCB)
- *“Together for social rights - youth workers and local authorities promoting and networking for access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods”* - Informal Network of youth organisations and youth workers for access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods ([Social Rights Network](#)) (24 February - 3 March 2014, EYCS)
- *“Youth encountering environmental human rights”* - International Young Nature friends ([IYNF](#)) (24 February - 2 March 2014, EYCB)

- Third phase of the long-term training course with Serbian youth workers and trainers (14-20 February, EYCB)
- Consultative meeting on the priority on transition to labour market (17–21 February 2014, EYCS)
- Follow-up Group on Recognition of Non-formal learning and Revision of the Portfolio for youth workers (20-21 February, EYCS))
- Training course for trainers in human rights education with young people (24-25 February, EYCB)
- TC Roma Evaluation meeting (27-28 February, EYCS)

Forthcoming activities include:

- *Preventing youth homelessness through access to social rights* - Youth Homelessness Network ([FEANTSA](#)) - (3-7 March, EYCB)
- *Standing together action and advocacy against bullying* - Study Session International LGBTQ Youth and Student Organisation ([IGLYO](#)) and Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions ([OBESSU](#)) (3-7 March, EYCB)
- *Say no to Hate! Young people addressing hate speech from an interreligious perspective* - Preparatory meeting of the Study session Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe (EYCE) (7-8 March, EYCB)

- *Read my story-hear my voice: refugees' contribution to democratic citizenship* - Preparatory meeting of the Study session International Network for young refugees ([VYRE](#)) (7-8 March, EYCS)
- *Seminar on challenges faced by young people on their sexual orientation and gender identity and educational responses to those. The Seminar will be organised in cooperation with the LGBT Unit and in connection with a European Action Day on IDAHO.* (10-11 March, EYCB)
- *Preparatory meeting of the Conference on the effects of multiple discrimination on Roma young people, with an emphasis on LGBT and migrant Roma youth* (11-12 March, CoE, Agora)
- *Stage régionale de formation de formateurs et animateurs pour combattre le discours de la haine par l'éducation aux droits de l'homme*
- *Rebuilding the European story*- Preparatory meeting of the Study session Rural Youth Europe ([RYE](#)) and European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) (15-16 March, EYCB)
- *Beyond roma and diversity – Phiren Amenca study session on gender, multiple discrimination and intersectionality* - Study Session - Phiren Amenca International Network (17-21 March, EYCB)
- *Youth Peace Camp* (17-21 March, EYCS and Europa Park, Rust, Germany)
- *Open source – Open mind* - Study session - Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe ([CDN](#)) Federation of Young European Greens – ([FYEG](#)) (17- 22 March, EYCS)
- *Be active, be open, be YPA!* - a study session for Youth Peace Ambassadors working as activists for peace (17-22 March, EYCB)
- *Training course with Turkey on democratic citizenship through youth policy and youth work* (20-24 March, Ankara, Turkey)
- *Youth Peace Camp* (27-29 March, EYCS)
- *Evaluation of the [Youth Peace Ambassadors](#) Project* (31 March – 1 April, EYCS)
- *Preparatory meeting of the Youth Dialogue Camp (Kaluga)* (1-4 April, Moscow)
- *Seminar with national youth councils and CDEJ experts on the role of youth policies in supporting young people's access to the labour market* (1-5 April, EYCB)

[Applications](#) for the Conference on the specific situation of Roma young people affected by multiple discrimination will be held 24 – 26 June 2014 at the EYCS. Deadline: 10 April.

[EU-CoE youth partnership](#)

The European Commission and the Council of Europe are renewing their cooperation in the youth field. A new Framework Partnership Agreement, covering the period 2014-2016 and a 2014 Specific Grant Agreement will soon be finalised and validated.

Forthcoming partnership activities include:

- Expert meeting “Barriers to vulnerable groups/social inclusion” (18-19 March, Strasbourg)
- Think Tank on “Youth Participation” (31 March – 1 April, Brussels tbc)
- Expert Group on Recognition of Youth Work and of non-formal Education / Learning (3-4 April, Brussels)
- Partnership Management Board, (7 April in Strasbourg)

Staff

Welcome to Ms Ellen Vestad who was appointed assistant to the No Hate Speech Campaign. Welcome back to Sandra Bocquel who will be working with the reception team and Lohini Francispillai who will be working with the European Youth Foundation.

(3) Council of Europe

Following the CM’s [reply](#) to Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2015 \(2013\)](#) on “Young people’s access to fundamental rights” a working group will be set up to examine the options available to be able to respond to the CM with proposals. The CDDH Bureau will examine the question at its meeting on 27-28 March 2014.

In March the [PACE](#) Committees/Sub-Committees will be discussing the following subjects: “The protection of minors against sectarian influence” (Legal Affairs); “Prostitution, trafficking and modern slavery in Europe”, “The situation and rights of traditional minorities in Europe” and “Improving cooperation between national and human rights institutions and parliaments in addressing equality and non-discrimination issues” (Equality and Non Discrimination); “Alternatives to Europe’s sub-standard IDP collective centres” and “Unaccompanied migrant children – what right at 18?” (Migration, Refugees and Displaced persons). Outgoing AC Vice-Chair, Sergio Belfor, has been invited to participate in the discussion on this last topic. On 27-28 February PACE General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people carried out a fact-finding visit to Lithuania.

The deadline to submit nominations for the [Vaclav Havel Prize](#), which aims at rewarding outstanding civil society action in defending human rights in Europe and beyond, is 30 April 2014.

On 25 February [Commissioner for Human Rights](#) posted a comment "[Police abuse – a serious threat to the rule of law](#)". On 3-5 March he will deliver a lecture on Refugee protection, migration and human rights in Europe at University College London and on 13-14 March he will participate in a Conference organised by the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome on "What Europe stands for, Growth, jobs and rights: Will the European Union rise to the occasion".

The [European Drug Prevention Prize 2014](#) was launched in January in Athens during the 73rd Permanent Correspondents Meeting of the Pompidou Group. Deadline for applications – 20 March 2014.

(4) Other news

On 28 February, the European Council adopted [conclusions](#) on efficient and innovative education and training to invest in skills. The conclusions call for action to improve skills performance across the EU and to help protect investment in education and training as areas which can both foster and support growth. The Council also held a policy debate on skills and employability in the light of the results of recent OCDE surveys (PIAAC and PISA). Minister ARVA/ITOPOULOS said that "member states should continue to invest in high quality education. They also need to accelerate the reform agenda in education and training to urgently address the challenge of skills mismatch which is one of the causes of young people unemployment".

The [European Youth Event](#), organised by the European Parliament, will take place in Strasbourg on 9-11 May and will also include a debate on the pros and cons of a job guarantee scheme for unemployed young people. Ministers from Portugal and Austria will participate. The EU launched a [youth guarantee scheme](#) to help the more than five million young Europeans who are out of work. On 26 February, MEPs had questioned Commission and Council representatives on the scheme's implementation by EU countries, some of which suffer from extremely high levels of youth unemployment. Two workshops on the [NHSM](#) and a living library will be organised by the CoE Youth Department during the event (see more in box above).

The [EU Integration Forum 2013](#) in Prague by the Robert Bosch Stiftung produced a [report](#) on the Forum's theme – the EU's role in a rapidly changing world order. The Forum will continue to be organised in 2014 (Barcelona, 29-30 September) and will discuss issues of youth unemployment in the EU. Applications will be accepted from March onwards.

The [Africa-EU Youth Leaders' Summit](#) will be held in Brussels on 30 March – 2 April. 7 Advisory Council members have been invited to the event.

European Parliamentary elections will be held on 22-25 May. The [League of Young Voters](#) continues its attempts to increase young people's concerns and expectations in the run-up to European elections.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched its flagship UN World Youth Report (WYR) "[Youth and Migration](#)" on 14 February. The Report examines the concerns, challenges and opportunities of young migrants based on their own experience and in their own voices.

On 18 February, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, together with other UN entities, international NGOs, and youth groups and stakeholders, launched a crowdsourcing initiative for youth priorities in the post-2015 development agenda. The [crowdsourcing](#) is part of the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was announced on 31 January by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

(5) Publications

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

NEW!

- A [Survey on young people's awareness of their access to rights](#) has been prepared by trainee Chaim Waibel. It complements the publication inspired by the Advisory Council on Youth: "[Young Persons and the case-law of the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter](#)". [*Former AC member, Thomas Leys (IFLRY), has published an article "[Where is our European Bill of Rights](#)" in a new publication "[Redrafting Europe - The Young Liberals' White Paper on the Reform of the European Union](#)".*].

- Also available is the **French** version of the [Compendium](#) of Council of Europe approaches to key youth policy and youth work issues.

- The [European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers](#) is now published in [Turkish](#).

- The Youth Policy Review in Belgium is now available in [French](#). Other [Youth policy reviews](#) are available on line.

EU-CoE Youth Partnership publications:

- The Coyote magazine – issue 20, entitled “[What’s Xtreme about youth?!](#)” is available on the EU/CoE youth partnership [website](#).

Reminder

- The leaflet on the Youth Department is available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Russian](#) and [Turkish](#).

- The revised European Youth Foundation leaflet is available in 5 languages: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Russian](#) and [Turkish](#)

- The [Youth Policy in Ukraine](#) is available in English.

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

- “[Have your say](#)” – A manual on the Revised European charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life.

EU-CoE Youth Partnership publications:

- T-Kit No.11 – Mosaic: The training kit for the Euro-Mediterranean youth work is available in French: “Mosaïques”.

- T-Kit No. 12 – Youth transforming conflicts.

- [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.

- “[Visegrad Youth – Comparative review of the situation of young people in the V4 countries](#)”, a contribution to knowledge based youth policy development.

Expected shortly:

- The History of Youth Work. Volume 4 – Relevance for today’s youth work policy, Youth Knowledge Series, Vol.18

- Perspectives on Youth, Vol. 1: “2020 – What do you see? – European Youth Partnership Series

“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 the **restricted site of the youth department** or 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

CDDH: Steering Committee for Human Rights

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

ncc: National campaign coordinator

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

For comments and suggestions, change of address or if you no longer wish to subscribe to this service, please contact:

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