



The May issue (distributed 7 May) looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) has agreed to extend the No Hate Speech Campaign to 31 March 2015.

A **SEA OF WORDS** is a [short story contest](#) with the goal of raising awareness about racist and discriminatory speech organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMED) together with the Anna Lindh Foundation and within the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement.

The European Action Day on 17 May will be International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia,

Forthcoming European Action Days are:

- 20 June: International Refugee Day;
- 22 July: European Day for Victims of Hate Crime.

The [European Youth Event](#) (Strasbourg, 9-11 May) will include a living library and two workshops on the No Hate Speech Movement organised by the CoE Youth Department as well as a panel debate to discuss '*Human Rights on the Internet – No Hate Please!*'. [[Programme](#)]

The Council of Europe will be leading a workshop on hate speech at the [Eurodig](#) meeting on 12-13 June. Interest in participation and ideas are welcome!

Country action:

- On 8 April the Spanish national campaign organised several events including a river ceremony dispersing rose petals in the water and candles lit on a bridge. Representatives from the ministries, NGO's working with Roma people and representatives from the Roma Cultural Institute were present.
- On 25 April the French-speaking Belgian National Committee organised, in the Parliament of the Federation Wallonia- Brussels, a meeting around best practices in the fight against hate speech; a presentation of tools for the campaign was also made.
- On 28-29 April, a regional coordination meeting was organised in Montenegro, by the Montenegrin NCC, with the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".
- The Slovenian national campaign has launched a map where people can send pictures of graffiti that express hate speech. The project is called [Dekontraminacija](#). The objective is to clean up or change the content from hateful to friendly.
- In Spain, a play, Carne de canon, was set up to raise awareness about hate speech. The Spanish NCC was one of the partners behind this project. The NHSM was also promoted during the Youth Expo 2014 at the New International Music Auditorium in Torre Vieja.
- The Serbian national campaign took part in a football match between two national rival teams which benefited from significant media coverage. Football players and referees wore t-shirts printed with the "No Hate Speech" logo.

A meeting for NCCs will be held in Brussels on 12-13 May at the kind invitation of the Bureau International de la Jeunesse, of the French speaking community of Belgium.

The state of play of the national campaign committees can be found and checked on the [website](#).

A campaign newsletter is produced twice a month. Please send your contributions to: youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. You can also subscribe to the newsletter by joining the movement or clicking "sign up to our newsletter" in www.nohatespeechmovement.org.

Campaign material – videos, templates for posters and the brochure presentation can be downloaded from www.coe.int/youthcampaign. Also: [Detailed brochure](#); [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.

On 1 April, the Council of Europe and the government of Morocco [signed an agreement](#) formally creating a Council of Europe office in Rabat. The text was signed in Brussels by CoE Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland and Mbarka Bouaida, Morocco's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Austria is hosting the [CM Ministerial Session](#) on 5-6 May in Vienna. As part of its chairmanship, the Partial Agreement on Youth mobility through the Youth Card will also be organising a European Seminar on Inclusive Mobility for Young People in Europe on 5-7 May in Vienna.

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, Chair of the Committee of Ministers and CoE Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland on 30 April were in Kyiv for talks about the situation in Ukraine, and in particular eastern Ukraine. Meetings were scheduled with Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and Foreign Minister Deshchytsia, among others. **For up-to-date CoE action regarding events in Ukraine please check the [CoE website](#) and the [CoE Journal](#).**

During its CM chairmanship which will start this month, [Azerbaijan](#) will host *The Forum of the No Hate Speech Movement* (Gabala, 2-5 October) and a *Meeting of Youth Foundations in Europe* (to be confirmed) in September 2014. Within the Chairmanship, the *First Global Forum on Youth Policies* to review the significance and importance of the UN plan of action on youth will be held in Baku on 28-30 October 2014. Co-organised by the UN special envoy on youth, Unesco, UNDP and the CoE

Youth Department, the Forum will include some 400 participants: country representatives, youth representatives and experts.

Azerbaijan, Belgium and Bosnia and Herzegovina are currently working on common priorities for the three consecutive chairmanships (May 2014 – November 2015).

The CM adopted [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2014\)6](#) on a Guide to human rights for Internet users on 16 April. The Guide is a unique document in its format and structure. It is written in a simple way so that both young and old can understand clearly what their rights are.

On 7 April, CoE Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni and Chiara Gariazzo, Director of Youth and Sport of the Directorate General of Education and Culture of the European Commission, [signed a Framework Partnership Agreement](#) in the field of youth for 2014-2016. This Council of Europe – European Union partnership for 2014-2016 focuses on three specific themes: participation/citizenship; social inclusion - with a focus on outreach, access to social rights and fighting new forms of xenophobia and discrimination; and recognition and quality of youth work. The European Commission and the Council of Europe had also signed on 1 April a “[Statement of Intent](#)” putting in place a new framework for cooperation in the EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood Regions for the period 2014-2020.

On 9 April PACE adopted [Resolution 1988\(2014\) on Recent developments in Ukraine](#). On 10 April PACE, declaring that Russia’s annexation of Crimea was “in clear contradiction with the [Statute of the Council of Europe](#)” and the [commitments](#) Russia made when it joined the organisation in 1996, decided to [suspend the voting rights](#) of the [Russian delegation](#), as well as its right to be represented in the Assembly’s leading bodies, and its right to participate in election observation missions, effective until the end of the 2014 session (26 January 2015).

On 16 April Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland announced a new [report](#) on the first consolidated analysis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, based on the findings of the CoE’s monitoring bodies. Mr Jagland made an [appeal](#) to member states to “*stop the erosion of fundamental rights and adopt further reforms of Europe’s unique Convention system. Europe needs a new pan-European security agenda which must include the protection of the rule of law and*

democratic principles. Together, we need to put Europe back on the path of unity and co-operation, based on common values, standards and legal obligations.”

In accordance with the rules for [participatory status for international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe](#), a number of INGOs were informed that their names would be removed from the list of INGOs enjoying participatory status due to their failure to comply with the obligations as set out in Resolution (2003) 8. These included youth INGOs such as: Youth Action for Peace (AJP); YCWAs; International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS); World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace (EIP); DEMYC; European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools (ECNAIS); European Democrat Students Federation of Christian-Democratic, Conservative and Liberal Students (EDS); Experiment in International Living; International Young Nature Friends (IJAN); International Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research (SIETAR); European Music School Union (EMU).

The 17th Meeting of the [Network of contact parliamentarians](#) to stop sexual violence against children and joint meeting with the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons was held on 8 April in Strasbourg. In her [address](#) the Deputy Secretary General Gabriella Battaini welcomed PACE’s motion for a recommendation on "Combating sexual violence against children: towards a successful conclusion of the One in Five Campaign" and gave her support to the extension of the Campaign until the end of 2015 and the establishment of a European Day to fight sexual violence against children.

The 10th Edition of the Strasbourg Dialogues concerning the counterfeiting of medicines was held as part of the 50th anniversary of the [European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Health Care](#) on 8 April.

The CoE [Journal](#) provides brief news of the organisation’s activities on a weekly basis.

Mr Jean-Christophe Bas will take up his duties as Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation on 16 June 2014. Mr Ulrich Bunjes has been appointed to ensure the interim.

(2) Youth Department update

Following the CMJ's decision to address the situation in Ukraine by defining [a priority for 2014](#) for pilot activities financed by the European Youth Foundation in Ukraine, the EYF [launched a special call](#) for pilot activities (developed at local, regional or national level) on capacity building and conflict transformation for Ukrainian NGOs, or European NGOs wishing to cooperate with Ukrainian NGOs on these two issues. Voluntary contributions from member states have also been requested to help finance the integration of the activities in the cooperation agreement with Ukraine: a Youth Peace Camp with young people from various communities affected by the conflicts; a study visit to Ukraine after the elections; training activities on conflict transformation; a Youth Peace Ambassadors' project involving participants from Ukraine, Russian Federation and including other conflict countries. The EYF has published some guidelines on [YouTube](#).

At the request of the Serbian authorities, a first visit was organised for the International Review Team on 6 to 12 April. The IRT was chaired by Eva Masarova (CDEJ member – Slovakia). The visit was coordinated by Prof. Howard Williamson. Dunja Potocnik is rapporteur of this review. Other members of the team included Magda Nico (researcher), Srdjan Subotic (member of the Advisory Council), Davide Capecchi (Director of ERYICA) and a member of the secretariat. The second visit to the country has been rescheduled and will now take place on 7 – 13 September.

A call for tender has gone out for the coordination of the CoE international reviews of national youth policies for 2014-2016. [Deadline for submission of bids](#) – 15 May 2014.

The new candidates for the Council of Europe [Quality Label](#) for youth centres include Portugal and Belgium (Flanders). The 6th Platform will be hosted next year by Ecocenter “Radulovacki” in Serbia. An interim visit is scheduled to take place to the EuroMed Youth Centre in Adrasan (Turkey) to verify application of recommendations by the expert team. Regarding an application from the Russian Federation (“International Children’s Centre”), a preliminary visit by the expert team will take place in order to evaluate the centre’s eligibility.

Activities held in April included:

- EYC Seminar with members of youth parliaments and NGOs on young people's autonomy and transition to working life (EYCS, 6-12 April)
- National Training Course – Human Rights Education (HRE): Human Rights vs Hate Rhetoric - to promote at national level the Recommendation on HRE/EDC and Compass (Armenia, 4-8 April)
- Preparatory meeting of the Seminar on antigypsyism (EYCB, 6-8 April)
- Training course for trainers in human rights education with young people (EYCB, 7-17 April)
- No Hate Speech Movement Follow-Up Group meeting (EYCS, 15-16 April)
- Preparatory meeting of the Roma Youth meeting in France (EYCS, 17 April)
- Promote and protect human rights in your environment - National Training Course in human rights education, to promote at national level the Recommendation on HRE/EDC and Compass (Lithuania, 22-27 April)
- Focus group for the revision of the Portfolio (CoE-Agora, 24-25 April)
- Training course for trainers on democratic citizenship through youth policy and youth work in Turkey (Kocaeli, Turkey, 24-28 April).
- The seminar “Remembrance and learning from World War II”, took place at then EYCS on 1-5 May 2014. The seminar brought 50 youth leaders who shared their understanding about the impact of World War II in shaping the European continent, its values and, in particular, the role of the Council of Europe in promoting peace-building and the role of human rights education in preventing conflicts.

Forthcoming activities include:

- Study session Rural Youth Europe ([RYE](#)) and European Confederation of Youth Clubs ([ECYC](#)) - Rebuilding the European story (EYCB, 6-10 May)
- Living library and No Hate Speech Movement workshop in the context of EYE May 2014 - European Parliament/European Youth Forum event (Strasbourg, 9-10 May)
- International Network for young refugees ([VYRE](#)) - Read my story-hear my voice: refugees' contribution to democratic citizenship (EYCS, 12-17 May)
- Evaluation of study sessions (EYCB, 12 May 2014)
- Training in Human rights - 21st century challenges - National Training Course in human rights education, to promote at national level the Recommendation on HRE/EDC and Compass (Slovakia, 13-16 May)
- Seminar on challenges faced by young people on their sexual orientation and gender identity and educational responses to those. In

cooperation with the LGBT Unit and in connection with a European Action Day on [IDAHO](#) (EYCB, 14-18 May)

- Seminar on action against hate speech and discrimination based on religion; in cooperation with the OSCE/ODIHR (EYCS, 21-23 May)

- Let's make it fair! - National Training Course in Human Rights Education - to promote at national level the Recommendation on HRE/EDC and Compass (Croatia, 21-25 May)

- 50-50 Joint training seminar for youth leaders and officers in charge of youth policy on youth participation and democratic citizenship in the Russian Federation (EYCB, 25 May – 1 June)

- Consultative meeting on quality standards and tools in non-formal education in preparation of the training course for trainers (EYCB, 26-29 May)

An International Youth Camp Dialogue 2014 will be held in “Ethnomir”, Kaluga Region, Russian Federation (22-27 June 2014). A call for participants from member states (other than the Russian Federation) has been issued. Interested Russian candidates should consult the website of the National Youth Council of Russia (www.youthrussia.ru) or address their request to: NYCR@yandex.ru. [[Application form](#)]

The EYF has reintroduced its visits to supported projects. The [first visit in 2014](#) was to the Mine Vaganti NGO activity “Gender Human Rights in Sardinia” which focused on real-life everyday situations, including challenges for young women in Sardinia.

[EU-CoE youth partnership](#)

As mentioned above, the EU and CoE signed a [Framework Partnership Agreement](#) for 2014-2016. This agreement renews the partnership which started in 1998 in order to create synergies between the two partner institutions in the youth field.

Forthcoming partnership activities include:

- Steering group of the European Platform on Learning Mobility (Bonn, 21-22 May) and meeting of experts on the subject (Bonn, 19-21 May).

Staff

- Welcome to our new interns: Lauren Holdup in the Youth Department; Elina Tabakchi in the Education Unit; and Johanna Luther in the NHSM secretariat.

- Welcome also to Zora Csalagovits who started a two-month contract at the EYCB to support the implementation of the project “Protecting child rights of religious minority groups in Armenia” and to Maria Altieri who replaces Lohini Francispillai in the European Youth Foundation.

(3) Council of Europe

The [Congress](#) is devoting its two sessions in 2014 to the theme of youth. During its March session, targeted debates were held on issues relating to youth and democracy (see *ThinkYouth! No. 25*). For its October session, and in cooperation with the EYF and the Youth Department, one young person per national delegation will be invited to participate in the work and debates of the Congress. A call open to all young persons will be posted on the Congress and Youth Department websites. Deadline: **26 May 2014**. On 12 June, a Conference will be held in Strasbourg on the theme: “*It’s not just about consultation: How can local and regional authorities promote youth participation that leads to real change in society? Promoting active citizenship and engagement of young people through representative institutions and other means.*” Anyone wishing to participate, at their own cost, must register **before 6 June 2014** at congress.current-affairs@coe.int. Members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) have been invited to contribute to and participate in this Conference.

Following the decision by the CMJ at its meeting in Budapest in March, an enlarged working group has been invited to Strasbourg on 26-27 May to discuss the preparation of a Recommendation on “young people’s access to fundamental rights” as recommended by the CM in its [reply](#) to Parliamentary Assembly [Recommendation 2015 \(2013\)](#). The enlarged meeting will include members of the CDEJ and CCJ as well as secretariat members of other statutory organs of the CoE which will be involved in the preparation of the Recommendation.

In his [Human Rights Comment](#) published on 29 April, the CoE Human Rights Commissioner mentioned the multiple ways children’s rights are threatened today in the digital world: “*Growing access to the Internet has brought about almost unlimited possibilities for children to access content and exercise their rights, including the right to receive and impart information. However, these benefits go hand in hand with growing risks for children of violations of their rights.*”

(4) Other news

On 10 March the Council of the European Union adopted a [recommendation](#) on a Quality Framework for Traineeships. On 28 April the EU's new funding programme for education, training, youth and sport ([Erasmus +](#)) was launched in London.

The first ever [European Presidential Debate](#), organised by Maastricht University, Connect Limburg and the [European Youth Forum](#), was held on 28 April. The [League of Young Voters](#) put forward three themes: the European economy – crisis and growth; the future of Europe and the rise of Euroscepticism; and Europe's foreign policy role. Other issues debated included unemployment, education and young people's engagement in politics. More than a thousand young Europeans attended these debates or followed them via social media platforms. A second televised debate will take place on 15 May.

According to a [European Parliament survey](#) 70% of young people see EU membership as an asset in a globalised world. The 24th National Selection Conference of European Youth Parliament (EYP) to be held in Potsdam on 21-28 May, will deal with the administration of the European Union and in particular the democratic deficit of the European Union. European Parliamentary elections will be held on 22-25 May.

The Turkish Telecommunications Authority (TIB) had 30 days to implement the [Ankara administrative court order on 25 March](#) to lift the ban on access to Twitter, basing itself, *inter alia*, on Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. A related case is also pending before the Turkish Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Thirty young professionals from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria working for public and private enterprises in CoE and EU projects attended the [Training Academy on Democratic Governance](#) for young professionals from the South Mediterranean region held in Venice on 5 April to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The [Africa-EU Youth Leaders' Summit](#) was held on 30 March 2014, bringing together more than 60 EU and African leaders, and a total of 90 delegations, to discuss the future of EU-Africa relations and reinforce links between the two continents. 7 AC members were invited to participate in the Summit.

On 11 April 2014 Eurostat announced that the percentage of [young adults having completed tertiary education](#) is now 37% and the share of early leavers from education and training is down to 12%. Other interesting statistics include: [In the EU28, 10 million part-timers are underemployed](#); and [Euro area unemployment rate at 11.9%](#).

The [World Conference on Youth 2014](#) is being held in Sri Lanka on 6-10 May. The theme of the Conference is “Mainstreaming youth in the post-2015 development agenda”.

The [OECD Forum](#) being held on 5-6 May 2014 will help reflect further on what governments, international organisations and the various OECD stakeholders must do to help develop more resilient economies and societies bearing in mind that young people and the low-skilled have been hit the hardest and that youth unemployment remains dramatically high in many countries eroding people’s trust not just in their governments but in the system as a whole. In March 2014 the OECD had launched a Youth Action Plan detailing actions that countries could take to improve youth labour market outcomes.

[Global Action Week on Education for All](#) is being organised on 4-10 May 2014 by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and supported by UNESCO. The campaign will focus on the theme of “Education and Disability” under the slogan “Equal Right, Equal Opportunity”. This event will highlight the profound challenges faced by persons with disabilities in realizing their right to education.

The [ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Report](#) gathers data from 176 member states, alongside inputs from civil society and comprehensive academic research. The Global Report addresses inequalities – the cost of inequality for dignity and for sustainable development, and how investments in gender equality and rights, in youth, health and education and securing the human rights of all are essential to deliver sustainable global development goals.

(5) Publications

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

NEW!

[EU-CoE Youth Partnership publications](#):

- Perspectives on youth, issue 1 - "[2020 - What do you see?](#)" The French and German versions will soon be available.
- Youth knowledge book 18 - "[History of youth work](#)" volume 4.
- Coyote #20: "[What's Xtreme about youth?!](#)" – print version
- [Getting there...](#) - publication on recognition of youth work and non-formal learning

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. Past [youth policy reviews](#) are also available on line
- 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.
- A [Survey on young people's awareness of their access to rights](#) - 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](#)"*].
- [Compendium](#) of Council of Europe approaches to key youth policy and youth work issues (French).
- The [European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers](#) is available in [Turkish](#).
- The Youth Policy Review in Belgium is available in English and [French](#). Other [Youth policy reviews](#) are available on line. <https://book.coe.int/eur/en/>
- T-Kit No.11 – Mosaic: Training kit for the Euro-Mediterranean youth work - 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).
- "[Visegrad Youth – Comparative review of the situation of young people in the V4 countries](#)", a contribution to knowledge based youth policy development

“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](#)

[European Youth Foundation](#)

NEW !

Best regards,

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[*www.coe.int/youth*](http://www.coe.int/youth)

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
ODIHR: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE: Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
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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