



The February 2015 issue (distributed on 10 February 2015) looks at:

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(1) The big picture



A meeting of the NHSM follow-up group was held in Strasbourg on 28-29 January 2015. It took note of the proposal of the Secretary General to the CM to extend the NHSC. The CM will re-discuss this proposal at its 1219th meeting in February.

Following the adoption of [PACE Resolution 1967 \(2014\)](#) on “A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe”, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe launched the proposal to set up a No Hate Parliamentary Alliance, an alliance of parliamentarians who commit to taking open, firm and pro-active stands against racism, hatred and intolerance on whatever grounds and however they manifest themselves. Initially, the Alliance is open only to members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe who sign a Charter of commitments for membership in the Alliance. The main activities of the Alliance are conducted at national level: raise awareness against racism and intolerance amongst politicians and civil society; promote the respect of equality, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, as grounded in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols; exchange information on law and best practice in preventing and combating racism, hatred and

intolerance with parliamentarians from other countries; support and participate in the work of the national committees of the Council of Europe “No Hate Speech Movement.”

The [NHSM Petition](#) to make 22 July European Day for Victims of Hate Crime has now been signed by nearly 4000 persons. We encourage more signatures in order to support this Recommendation - the more people sign, the better the chances of succeeding in obtaining the declaration by the Committee of Ministers. *Have you invited your colleagues to sign it?*

Forthcoming European Action Days/Weeks are:

10 February – [Safer Internet Day](#)

21 March – Anti Racism and Discrimination

Country action:

On 8 January, PACE President Anne BRASSEUR took part in the New Year ceremony organised by the Guides and Scouts of Luxembourg. In her address she condemned strongly the terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo, which she said are also an attack on the values of tolerance and democracy defended by the Council of Europe. She underlined how the Scout movement and youth movements in general, help to promote these values. She also underlined that these values should not be taken for granted and need to be defended day by day.

A [reporting tool](#), developed for all the national coordinators and activists to give them the possibility to document their great work and inform the Strasbourg secretariat about it, was recently improved. National campaign coordinators and/or activists can now submit a report about their latest activity.

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

A campaign newsletter is produced monthly. 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.

Say it with a balloon: Real red heart-shaped No Hate Balloons are available. Ideal for public events (especially with children!) – order them now!. Other 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 the [site](#). You are also encouraged to “like” our campaign on [Facebook](#) (we now have nearly 19,000 “likes”) and to follow the campaign on Twitter [[#nohatespeech](#)] where our followers have once again increased to over 14,700.

Hate speech, as defined by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, covers all forms of expression which spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, antisemitism 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, christianophobia, islamophobia, misogyny, sexism and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity fall clearly within the scope of hate speech.

For up-to-date CoE action please check the [CoE website](#) and the [CoE Journal](#).

On 20 January, in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Paris in January, the Secretary General presented proposals for Immediate Action by the Council of Europe to combat radicalisation leading to terrorism (SG/Inf(2015)4). The Ministers Deputies at their [1217th meeting on 23 January](#), welcomed the proposals and agreed to resume consideration of these proposals at their 1219th meeting (11-12 February 2015). One of the proposals is to extend the “No Hate Speech Campaign” which was originally scheduled to end in March. The results of the Evaluation Conference will provide the basis for the Campaign’s future activities

which would be transformed into a movement and go from being a youth sector activity to one being implemented throughout the CoE. Another proposal was to organise a high-level conference in May on combating hate speech on the Internet. Internet companies will be invited to participate in the Conference to discuss their corporate social responsibilities to help State authorities to prevent hate speech, incitement to violence and acts of terrorism. The Ministers Deputies agreed that the next Ministerial Session in May should give due prominence to the question of the fight against extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism and invited the Secretary General to prepare a draft Declaration and draft Action Plan on this theme with a view to their adoption at the Ministerial Session.

On 21 January, the Ministers Deputies adopted [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2015\)3](#) on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights. The recommendation, which was the result of the [Enter! Project](#) (initiated by the CoE youth sector in 2009) focuses on the abolition of segregation and isolation that negatively affect young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and promotes the participation of these young people in all matters related to the planning and management of their living environment.

The 2nd European Youth Work Convention will be held in Belgium on 27-30 April within the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. Organised by the three Communities of Belgium as part of their [priorities](#), the Convention will seek a new balance between youth work as an instrument directed towards the youth employment market and the value of youth work for individual development and empowerment, citizenship education and group interaction. The convention will focus on the development and renewal of youth work.

[Anne Brasseur](#) was re-elected PACE President for a new mandate of one year.

During the [1st part-session of the PACE](#), the [Sub-Committee on Education, Youth and Sport](#) organised of views on “Young people as a key to conflict resolution and peace-building in Europe” on 28 January 2015. The exchange of views – an initiative of the Advisory Council on Youth – brought together for the first time some 50 participants including PACE members and members of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ). PACE President Anne Brasseur welcomed the participants. Keynote speakers included: Iryna BRUNOVA-KALISTESKA [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)]; Matej MANEVSKI [Center for Intercultural Dialogue Macedonia (CID)] and

Ragip ZIK [Columbia Global Centres]. The Sub-Committee agreed to prepare a report on “Young people as a key to conflict resolution and peace-building in Europe”.

During this January part-session, [PACE decided to ratify the credentials of the Russian delegation](#), citing the need to “foster dialogue”, but at the same time decided to suspend its voting rights and its right to be represented in the Assembly’s leading bodies “as a clear expression of condemnation of continuing grave violations of international law in respect of Ukraine” by Russia. The Assembly said it would return to this issue at its April 2015 part-session and would consider re-instating these two rights “if Russia has made marked and measurable progress towards implementing the demands of the Assembly”. In response, Russia said it would suspend its participation in the PACE until the end of the year.

The Congress is preparing a report on new forms of youth participation and how local and regional authorities can ensure a meaningful participation of young people. The CMJ, whose priorities for 2016-17 will also focus on participation at the local and regional level, hopes to cooperate on the Congress report and to implement further the [Revised European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life](#) and the [Charter of Self Government](#).

The 2nd meeting [Committee of Experts on the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#) (DECS-ENF) will be held on 12-13 May 2015. The 3rd meeting will most likely be organised together with the meeting of the National Co-ordinators on Children’s Rights and in co-operation with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF in Geneva in the autumn.

The first [Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy](#) focuses on the response to the challenges and opportunities faced in the implementation of key gender equality standards both within the CoE and in its member States. Some of the many highlights include the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence ([Istanbul Convention](#) - 1 August 2014), the publication of practical tools such as [compilations of good practices](#), [handbooks on the implementation of Council of Europe gender equality standards](#), the organisation of two important conferences for National Focal Points (NFP) – one on the [image of women and the media](#) and the second on [combating gender stereotypes in and through education](#). [[progress report](#)]. The Gender Equality Rapporteur for the Joint Council on Youth is Roh Petas.

(2) Youth Department update

The Bureaus of the CDEJ and the CCJ met in Strasbourg on 26-27 January 2015 to prepare for the meetings of the CoE statutory organs (CDEJ, CCJ and CMJ) which will be held in Budapest on 13-15 April 2015.

Preparations for the nomination of new members of the Advisory Council on Youth for the period 2016-2017 have started. The CoE will organise a call for candidatures at the end of February 2015. The YFJ will organise a call for candidatures in time for elections in April.

The drafting group working on a recommendation on young people's access to rights met in Strasbourg on 29-30 January 2015 and finalised a draft which will be taken up at the CMJ meeting in April. Members of the CDEJ, CCJ and CDDH participated in the meeting together with a representative from ERYICA.

Euro-Arab youth cooperation has received a new impetus with the adoption of a new strategy by the Joint Council on Youth. A Euro-Arab Youth Forum will be held in Strasbourg on 26-29 April which will focus on reinforced cooperation between youth organisations in states of the Arab League and the Council of Europe in intercultural dialogue and youth participation. This will be the first time that the Euro-Arab Youth Forum will be hosted by the Council of Europe and it should provide an opportunity to re-establish cooperation with the League of Arab States and connect the Forum with other relevant CoE initiatives in the South.

Within the [Council of Europe's Quality Label for youth centres](#) the 6th Platform will be hosted in May 2015 by EcoCenter "Radulovacki" in Serbia. The Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres is an opportunity for participating youth centres to benefit from the CoE's approach to youth work and youth policy.

The European Youth Foundation ([EYF](#)) continues to give priority to pilot activities on capacity building and conflict transformation developed by Ukrainian NGOs or European NGOs wishing to cooperate with Ukrainian NGOs. Other priorities for 2015 are: fighting extremism and hate speech online; participation and integration of migrants and young refugees in society.

On 18-20 February, the ([EYF](#)) is organising a seminar for 28 representatives of local or national youth NGOs at the EYC in

Strasbourg. With the help of two trainers, the EYF team will share information and receive feedback on the programme of pilot activities supported by the EYF. The programme will include non-formal methods, informal discussions, practical workshops and updates on the political context in which the EYF is working.

Activities held in January included:

- Preparatory meeting of the Study Session Charter for ALL: Putting Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education into practice - in cooperation with the International Falcon Movement-Socialist Educational International ([IFM-SEI](#)) (EYCS, 14 - 15 January)
- Working Group on the evaluation of study sessions (EYCB, 16 January)
- Study Session Employability United! in cooperation with the Youth Social Rights Network (EYCS, 19 - 24 January)

Forthcoming activities:

- Study Session: Intercultural Learning with Migrants & Minorities – exchange organisations exploring a new dimension - in cooperation with the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL) (EYCB, 9 - 14 February)
- Study Session: Peace Work Institute Reunion - in cooperation with the European Alliance of YMCAs (YMCA Europe) (EYCB, 9 - 13 February)
- Study Session: A Preventive Approach in Human Rights Education - in cooperation with the Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw (DBYN) (EYCS, 16 - 19 February)
- Study Session: “Digital Natives’ Advocating for Human Rights” - in cooperation with the European Coordination JECI-MIEC(International Young Catholic Students – International Movement of Catholic Students) (EYCB, 23 - 28 February)
- Study Session: Deport xenophobia from European classrooms! - in cooperation with the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) (EYCB, 23 - 28 February)

[EU-CoE youth partnership](#)

The Partnership Management Board met in Brussels on 22 January 2015, bringing together the Directors in charge of youth issues from the Council of Europe and the European Commission. They exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation between the two institutions. The

2015 work plan of the EU-CoE youth partnership was also discussed on that occasion.

Staff

We are happy to welcome our new trainee Alexander Velez, who is working with us two ½ days per week, in fulfilment of his course requirements at Syracuse University. Alexander will be working with the No Hate Speech Campaign – in particular regarding Hate Speech Watch.

(3) Council of Europe

In his report published in December, following his visit to [Hungary](#) last July, Commissioner for Human Rights Nils Muižnieks remarks that “Hungary should better ensure media freedom, combat widespread intolerance and discrimination, and improve the protection of the human rights of migrants”. The Commissioner also expressed his concern regarding [the arrest of journalists in Turkey](#) and his [encouragement](#) to the government in Kyiv, aid organisations and the international community to work together to address the humanitarian crisis created by the fighting in the east.

The Executive Committee of the [North South Centre](#) met in Strasbourg on 30 January 2015. Eliza Popper represented the CMJ at this meeting.

(4) Other news

The [Latvian presidency of the EU](#) includes among its priorities in the youth sector:

- Youth empowerment, namely democratic life participation and structured dialogue. The presidency will host a Conference on Youth Empowerment on 23-25 March.
- Conference within annual Creativity Week in Latvia on crossovers of cultural and creative industries to other sectors, 11-12 March.
- Development of a cross-sectorial approach, addressing the socio-economic challenges of young people. The presidency aims to adopt Council Conclusions on 18-19 May;
- Contribution of the youth sector, achieving Europe 2020 objectives. The presidency aims to adopt Council Conclusions on 18-19 May;

The deadline for applications for the [8th European Charlemagne Youth Prize](#) of the European Parliament has been extended to 23 February. The prize recognises projects carried out by young people promoting understanding and development of a common European identity, and offering practical examples of Europeans living together as one community. Deadline - 2 February 2015. The three winning projects will be announced on 23 April 2015.

Following the European Youth Event (EYE) held in 2014 in Strasbourg bringing together some 6,000 young Europeans, the European Parliament recently hosted [the EYE hearings](#) where former EYE participants presented the ideas from the event to seven parliamentary committees and received feedback from European policy makers.

Members of the new Board of the [European Youth Forum](#) (YFJ) travelled to Strasbourg to meet with AC Bureau members and the CoE youth sector secretariat on 28 January. It was an opportunity to discuss relations between the YFJ, the AC Bureau and the CoE Secretariat and agree on areas needing improvement, such as the system of electing/nominating members of the Advisory Council for the next mandates, more youth participation in the INGO Conference, encouraging National Youth Councils in CoE member states, etc.

The UN is working with governments, civil society, young people and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and carry on with a post-2015 agenda that is expected to be adopted by UN Member States at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015.

Following the UN's Economic and Social Council meeting on "Uniting for youth beyond 2015", the [Head of the ILO office for the United Nations, Jane Stewart, explained](#) why youth employment should be at the top of the new development framework being discussed by governments in New York.

The 10th Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations and the 3rd Meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform took place on 25 January - 1 February 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together some 60 young people from Africa and Europe, in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission – [EuropeAid Co-operation Office](#) and the [North-South Centre of the Council of Europe](#). AC member Youssef Himmat and CDEJ member Jorge Orlando Queiros participated in the event.

(5) Publications

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

NEW!

[Young people's access to rights through youth information and counselling](#). This publication is the result of the [partnership between the Council of Europe and ERYICA](#). It is a toolkit on access of young people to their rights and is intended to assist youth information experts working directly with young people, but it can also be used in other non-formal activities. The toolkit offers many sources of information and inspiration on how to inform young people about their rights, in an attractive way. This publication offers you a summary of the most relevant and useful material available in the online world. The toolkit's purpose is not only to inform as it is important to translate information into practical experience. Therefore, at the end of the publication one can find suggestions of practical activities and examples of good practice that can help young people to better understand human rights and ways to access them.

Reminder:

[List of Youth Department publications](#)

The [Advisory Council leaflet](#) has been updated in English. The French, German and Russian editions will be available soon.

The French version of the Manual for facilitators in non-formal education "[Manuel de l'animateur en éducation non-formelle](#)" is now available.

[Youth policy reviews](#) are available on line. The youth policy review on Greece should appear soon.

- The revised European Youth Foundation leaflet is available in 5 languages: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Russian](#) and [Turkish](#). Online versions now offer the following [languages versions](#) : Slovenian, Romanian, Finnish, Spanish and Serbian (NB. more to come!)

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

- T-Kit No.11 – [Mosaic: Training kit for the Euro-Mediterranean youth work](#) - available in French: “Mosaïques – kit de formation pour le travail euro-méditerranéen de jeunesse”.
- T-Kit No. 12 – [Youth transforming conflicts](#)
- The leaflet on the Youth Department is available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Russian](#) and [Turkish](#).
- The former version of the Advisory Council on Youth leaflet is still available in [French](#) and [Russian](#).
- The Right to be Young – report of the [Roma Youth Conference](#) is available from the Youth Department: youth@coe.int
- 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](#).
<https://book.coe.int/eur/en/>
- [Youth knowledge book 17: “Learning mobility and non-formal learning in European contexts”](#), 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

[Recent and upcoming EU-CoE youth partnership publications:](#)

- Perspectives on youth, volume 1 – “[2020 - What do you see?](#)”. The [French](#) and [German](#) versions are also available.
- Perspectives on youth, volume 2 – “[Connections and disconnections](#)” available now in English.
- Youth knowledge book 18 – “[History of youth work](#)” volume 4.
- [Getting there...](#) – a publication on the recognition of youth work and non-formal learning.
- [Coyote #20](#) – “What’s Xtreme about youth?!” – electronic and printed versions available.
- [Coyote # 21](#) – “Know What?” – electronic version available.
- [Coyote #22](#) – “Discriminating(,)me?!” – electronic pdf version available. The epub version for tablets will soon be available.

Past issues of *Think Youth!* are available on the [website of the Youth Department](#).

Facebook pages:

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

[EU-CoE youth partnership](#)

[European Youth Foundation](#)

[No Hate Speech Movement](#)

Best regards,

Anna Trigona

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Abbreviations:

CCJ: Advisory Council on Youth

CDDH: Steering Committee for Human Rights

CDEJ: European Steering Committee on Youth

CDMSI: Steering Committee on Media and Information Society

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
EURODIG: European Dialogue on Internet Governance
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

For comments and suggestions, change of address or if you no longer wish to subscribe to this service, please contact: anna.trigona@coe.int