



The April 2015 issue (disseminated on 8 April) looks at:

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(1) The big picture



The [No Hate Speech Movement](#) which was to end in March 2015 has been extended following a decision taken by the Ministers' Deputies at their 1219th meeting (11-12 February 2015). The Secretary General is now developing an Action Plan with a view to its adoption on 19 May at the 125th Ministerial Session in Brussels.

The Action Plan foresees:

1) The option of not only extending but enhancing the “No Hate Speech Campaign” by widening its scope to all citizens, adding an “off-line” dimension and involving different CoE entities and bodies. [ECRI](#) will prepare its General Policy Recommendation on Combating Hate Speech, which will provide guidelines for States when drawing up national strategies and policies, as well as a basis for a revitalised campaign. Follow-up to the youth campaign and the role of the Youth Department in the implementation will be defined at the Joint Council meeting in April together with the results of the Campaign Evaluation and the Campaign Evaluation Conference in May.

2) The CoE website containing information standards and tools to fight radicalisation and terrorism will be updated and given more visibility.

3) A High-level Conference on 8 May in Brussels in co-operation with the Belgian Chairmanship entitled “Tolerance trumps hate” will aim to identify concrete steps to fight against hate speech online as well as its prevention, building upon the experience and best practices gained from the “No Hate Speech Campaign”. 50 young participants will ensure the link to the experience of the NHSM campaign. A call for youth participants was launched beginning of March. The Youth Ministries of the three communities in Belgium will organise and finance a one day youth event preceding the Conference on 7 May. The results of the Conference will also be reflected at the Ministerial Session.

Pending the adoption of the Action Plan, the Youth Department will continue its support to national campaign committees and to the youth activists through the maintenance of the platform, training tools and materials, visibility materials and coordination at least until the end of 2015. The Youth Department will also support the development of autonomous networks amongst the NCCs and young activists.

A draft report drawn up by external evaluators of the campaign will be examined on 17 April by members of the follow-up group before being finalised and presented at the Evaluation and Follow-up conference at the end of May. The evaluation report should also provide recommendations for follow-up.

NHSM campaigners and activists had invited European institutions and the member states of the CoE to declare 22 July European Day for Victims of Hate Crime (some 4000 persons had signed the [NHSM Petition](#)) as was the case with PACE Recommendation ([Rec\(2052\)2014](#)) to member states.

This question is still on the table of the Committee of Ministers and a decision is expected in April. The question has also been tabled with the European Parliament.

A [survey](#) about young people’s perceptions and attitudes about hate speech online was opened in February in 29 language versions. Some 5000 people have taken part in the survey.

[PACE](#)

The [No Hate Parliamentary Alliance](#), launched on 29 January by PACE President, follows on from [Assembly Resolution 1967\(2014\)](#) on “A

strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe”. The No Hate Parliamentary Alliance held its second meeting in Paris on 19 March at which Bridget O’Loughlin, NHSM coordinator was present. Three national campaign coordinators made presentations about their work.

[CONGRESS](#)

At its 28th session in Strasbourg on 24-26 March, the Congress adopted [Recommendation 371 \(2015\)](#) and [Resolution 381\(2015\)](#) on Combating radicalisation at grassroots level: the role of local and regional authorities. These instruments focus on the role of local and regional authorities in combating and preventing radicalisation.

[WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY 2015](#)

The provisional theme of the WFD is “Freedom versus control” and the objective will be to discuss how democracy can be protected without being weakened. The role of digital communication will be one of thematic priorities and the CoE youth sector will play an important role in bringing in the experience of the NSHM campaign and youth organisations in general and in ensuring young people’s participation in the forum.

[Facebook has announced](#) that it will remove content, disable accounts and work with law enforcement when it believes that there is a genuine risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety. Facebook has undertaken to remove hate speech, which includes content that directly attacks people based on their: Race, Ethnicity, National origin, Religious affiliation, Sexual orientation, Sex, gender, or gender identity, Serious disabilities or diseases. Organisations and people dedicated to promoting hatred against these protected groups are not allowed a presence on Facebook. Facebook relies on the community to report any such content to it.

National campaign coordinators/activists are urged to use the [reporting tool](#) to document their work and keep the secretariat in Strasbourg informed. 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.

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](#).

Please check out the NHSM [site](#), [Facebook](#) (we now have over 19,000 “likes”) and Twitter [[#nohatespeech](#)].

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](#).

[Belgian Chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers.

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 focus on the development and renewal of youth work.

This will be followed by a Conference on 8 May (mentioned in the box above entitled “Tolerance Trumps Hate” with the participation of Internet companies, other international organisations, civil society, young NHSM activists. The aim of the Conference will be to identify concrete steps to fight against hate speech online as well as for its prevention, building upon the experience and best practices gained from the “[No Hate Speech Campaign](#)”. To help strike the right balance between freedom of expression and the fight against hate speech, the Conference will look into the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on freedom of

expression and its limits as set out in Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems will also be discussed, as a tool to fight hate speech online. The Conference will explore how best to make sustainable the Council of Europe's action to fight hate speech. This Conference will be complementary to the Council of Europe Conference to be held in Strasbourg on 13-14 October 2015 on "Freedom of Expression is STILL the issue". Organised as a follow-up to the Thematic Debate on "[Ensuring freedom of expression on the Internet](#)", this Conference will focus on 3 key elements: freedom of expression as a fundamental value of democracy; challenges to freedom of expression posed by the Internet and possible answers; the role of the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of Strasbourg Court in the European legal landscape. Debates will focus on: the rules of the democratic game when there is conflict between fundamental rights; the context of increased social sensitivities; how to integrate Internet into the existing sphere of protection for freedom of expression. The Conference should mark an important milestone in the roadmap towards establishing a coherent regime to protect all public spaces for democratic debate.

On 6 March the Standing Committee, acting on behalf of the PACE Assembly adopted [Recommendation 2066 \(2015\)](#) on Youth mobility (see [Doc. 13715](#), report of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media) Rapporteur: Mr Christian Barilaro [called on member states](#) to increase funding for students to encourage their mobility. In this connection, [Resolution 2044 \(2015\)](#) recommends that the Committee of Ministers revise the European Agreement on Continued Payment of Scholarships to Students Studying Abroad, with a view to introducing new measures for financial support. The Assembly also called on the European Union to consider modalities for the possible participation in the programme of students from European countries currently not covered by Erasmus+, in particular from Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland

[Also on 6 March](#), the PACE Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights debated the report '[European institutions and human rights in Europe](#)' by Michael McNamara. The report criticizes the effect of austerity on people's economic and social rights.

The [28th session of the Congress](#) (Strasbourg 24-26 March) again included young representatives in its delegations in line with its

[Resolution 346/2012](#).and promoted the inclusion of young people in each national delegation. Christian Scharling represented the Advisory Council on Youth. Mention was also made of the creation of a Youth Committee as a privileged place to enter a dialogue and discuss specific youth-related topics.

On the occasion of **International Roma day** (8 April), several events are taking place within the framework of the [Dosta! campaign](#) and others. The Advisory Council on Youth issued a [statement](#) celebrating International Roma Day and calling on European regional and local authorities and youth structures to support the efforts of young Roma to improve European youth and Roma policies and to provide the means and tools for the participation of young Roma as full citizens.

The Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland and George Soros, Chairman of the Open Society Foundation announced that they are to help set up a [new European Roma Institute](#) which “*could explore ways in which Roma life has shaped, and been shaped, by other cultures and forces, underlining similarities as well as difference. Perhaps most important, it would provide a landmark for Roma children to look upon and feel a sense of belonging and pride.*”

(2) Youth Department update

REMINDER – DEADLINE 30 April 2015

Call for youth representatives to sit on the Council of Europe’s Advisory Council on Youth (2016-2017)

The Council of Europe has published a [call](#) for 10 representatives of youth organisations or networks (not members of the [European Youth Forum](#)) to sit on the Advisory Council on Youth. The European Youth Forum’s [call](#) for candidates is now closed and elections will be held in April to elect 20 representatives to propose to the Committee of Ministers.

The CoE statutory organs dealing with youth questions (CDEJ, CCJ and CMJ) will meet in Budapest on 13-15 April 2015.

The Serbian youth policy review will be presented to the CMJ at its meeting in Budapest in April 2015 in the presence of a delegation from the Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport: Minister Vanja Udovicic, State Secretary Nenad Borovcanin, Assistant Minister Snezana Klasnja and advisory Djuro Blanusa. The new Serbian National Youth Strategy will be taking account of the findings of the CoE review.

The provisional version of the Youth Policy in Greece, which was presented to the CMJ at its meeting in Strasbourg in November 2014, will also be distributed during the April meeting pending the publication of the final version in May. Member states wishing to benefit from the CoE youth policy reviews over the next few years are invited to come forward.

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum will now be held on 2- 5 September in Strasbourg. The Forum 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.

Within the [Council of Europe's Quality Label for youth centres](#) the 6th European Platform Meeting for Youth Centres will be hosted on 12-15 May 2015 by Ecocenter "Radulovacki" in Sremski Karlovci, Serbia. The European Platform of Youth Centres is organised annually and is a platform for exchange and knowledge sharing amongst centres recognised with the Quality Label and those aspiring to its acquisition.

The European Youth Foundation ([EYF](#)) invites applications for activities in 2016. The [priorities](#) for 2016-2017, as defined by the CMJ, should be referred to for international activities and work plans. **Deadlines for submitting applications: 1 October 2015.**

A [video of the "EYF \(Re\)generation" seminar](#) (Strasbourg 18-20 February) is now available. This is the third consecutive year that the Foundation team, along with the support of a youth trainer and a coordinator, organised such an event. Previous years' experience had shown a need for more specific and focused seminars, which was mainly why the "EYF (Re)generation" seminar was focused on the grassroots level.

Activities held in March included:

- Study Session Advocacy – building capacity to advocate for and with homeless youth and make better policy - in cooperation with the Youth Homelessness Network ([FEANTSA](#)) (EYCS, 9 - 13 March)

- Study Visit of the European institutions in Cooperation with the [Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit](#) (EYCS, 29 - 31 March)
- An evaluation and preparatory meeting on cooperation between the CoE and Ukraine in the field of youth policy will be held with the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Kyiv on 4 March. Juozas Meldziukas (CDEJ) and Emanuel Alfranseder (CCJ) will be attending.

The following preparatory meetings were also held in March:

23-24 March: Training of Trainers for Youth in the Council of Europe (TRAYCE)

26-27 March: Study Session Bordering on the Possible – Migration, Policy-making and Youth - in cooperation with the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe AISB (CDN)

28-29 March: Youth Dialogue Camp (Kaluga)

Forthcoming activities:

- Bookmarks Regional training course on combating hate speech through human rights education for CIS countries (Kazan, Russian Federation, 6 - 11 April)
- Study Session Re(Act) for equal opportunities online and offline - in cooperation with the UNITED for Intercultural Action, European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees (EYCS, 7 - 12 April)
- Training workshop on combating antigypsyism through education (EYCS, 20 - 23 April)
- Study Session “Mind your Language” - in cooperation with the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPA Network) (EYCB, 20 - 25 April)
- Seminar on Remembrance and Human Rights, dedicated to the Anniversary of the end of World War II (EYCS, 20 - 23 April)
- Study session *Lutter efficacement ensemble contre l'islamophobie et la haine antimusulmane : Mesurer c'est savoir et agir* MSA « Monitoring et échange de bonnes pratiques » in cooperation with the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) (EYCB, 4 - 8 May)
- 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, 11 - 16 May)

Calls:

Deadline 27 April: Enter! Youth Meeting 2015 European Youth Centre, Strasbourg - 5-9 July 2015 [<http://youthapplications.coe.int>]

EU-CoE youth partnership

The mapping of barriers to social inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations will be disseminated soon and presented officially during the European Youth Week in Brussels. Other follow-up activities are being prepared, including the “Ideas Lab” to be held mid-April in Strasbourg, where young people will formulate a concrete proposal on what youth policy may do to help them overcome some of those barriers.

The EU-CoE youth partnership contributes to the 2nd European Youth Work Convention, taking place on 27-30 April 2015 in Brussels, in the framework of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Many researchers, youth work experts and the Coyote magazine editorial team will participate actively in the Convention. Results of many earlier partnership projects related to youth work will be presented in its framework.

Staff

A warm welcome to 4 trainees who joined the Youth Department: Uliana Ivanova who is providing assistance to the Seminar on Remembrance; Kinga Madocsai who is supporting the work of the EYCB educational advisors and the tasks related to the EYCB 20th anniversary; Romyana Panayotova working with the EU-CoE Youth Partnership and Sara Spada working in the Education and Training Division in particular on the Enter! Project.

(3) Council of Europe

On 23 March 2015 Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, [expressed his concern](#) about new anti-terrorism measures.

[The North South Centre](#) deadline for [nominations](#) for the North-South Prize for 2015 is 10 July 2015. The North-South Prize has been awarded every year since 1995 to two candidates who have stood out for their exceptional commitment to promoting North-South solidarity.

(4) Other news

Within the framework of the [Latvian presidency of the Council of the EU](#), the [EU Youth Conference](#) on “Empowering young people for political

participation in democratic life in Europe” (Riga, 23-26 March) drew up [joint recommendations](#) taking into account suggestions by more than 40 000 young Europeans who took part in the Structured Dialogue (broad consultation process) carried out four months prior to the Conference. The issue of youth political participation will be brought forward for a high-level policy debate of the EU Youth Ministers at the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 18-19 May 2015.

The [European Youth Forum YO!Fest](#) will take place on 6 May in front of the European Parliament in Brussels in the context of the European Youth Week and the European Year for Development. The theme will be “Grow together!” and the focus will be on sustainable growth and development at different levels.

The [World Social Forum 2015](#) was held in Tunis on 24-27 March. AC member Alice Hamdi will participate in the Forum.

On 27 March 2015 Human Rights Watch published an [article](#) on the repercussions of the recently adopted Russian law requiring nongovernmental organisations to register as “foreign agents” with the Ministry of Justice if they engage in “political activity” and receive foreign funding.

Youthnet Hellas launched a call for trainees for the [You.Re.Ca. project](#) (Training for Developing Youth Reporting Capacities) aiming to train youth leaders worldwide on the process of creating a Youth Report at their countries. The You.Re.Ca. project is one of the 15 projects worldwide that received the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum Label. Deadline = 17 April.

(5) Publications

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

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.10 Educational Evaluation in Youth Work - [now available in Czech](#)
- 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

- [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](#).

[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 and [epub version for tablets](#).

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