



The June 2015 issue, disseminated on 8 June, looks at:

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(1) The big picture



At its 125th Ministerial Session in Brussels on 19 May the Committee of Ministers adopted the Secretary General's [Action Plan](#): “The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism”. The Plan foresees that:

“The “[No Hate Speech Campaign](#)” will be enhanced and extended for three more years (2015-17).

Future activities and developments in the fight against online Hate Speech will in part be based on new approaches, such as a “zero tolerance” approach involving all citizens, but especially young people, and a universal “call to act”.

The extended No Hate Speech Campaign will focus on continued support to existing and new National Campaign Committees, including providing institutional support and practical tools to national authorities wishing to train educators, youth and social workers and law enforcement staff, and in the production and wide dissemination of distribution items to children, young people, parents and other adults through schools, universities, youth clubs and youth organisations.

There is potential to build on and increase the impact of the campaign by extending it to Hate Speech off-line”.

The Ministerial Session also agreed to give due attention “to the effective follow-up of recommendations adopted at the Conference “Tolerance trumps hate” which was held in Brussels on 8 May, with a view to developing recommendations for fighting radicalisation and extremism”.

An [Evaluation and Follow-up Conference of the No Hate Speech Campaign](#) was held at the EYCS, on 27-30 May. [[Photo Gallery](#)]

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](#).

[Belgium](#) which Chaired the Committee of Ministers from November 2014 to May 2015 organised several youth-focused events during its Chairmanship, including: - the [2nd European Youth Work Convention](#) (Brussels, 27-30 April 2015) which resulted in a **[Declaration](#)**; and a Conference entitled “[Tolerance Trumps Hate](#)” (Brussels, 8 May) which aimed at identifying steps to fight against hate speech online, building upon the experience and best practices gained from the “[No Hate Speech Campaign](#)”. [[video](#)]

At its 125th session the [Committee of Ministers](#) on 19 May 2015 in Brussels, bringing together Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 47 CoE member states, outgoing Belgian Chair Didier Reynders presented a [stocktaking](#) of Belgium’s chairmanship: “It should be noted that the “No Hate Speech” campaign organised by the Council of Europe youth sector in collaboration with “Norway Grants” and the three

Communities of Belgium, the success of which has been undeniable, will be continued.”

Also at the 125th Session Igor Crnadak, Minister for Foreign Affairs of [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), which took over the CM Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, presented the [priorities](#) of his country's chairmanship. On 21 May, [Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland](#) and Foreign Minister Igor Crnadak, [Chairman of the Committee of Ministers](#), launched the Council of Europe [Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2017](#) which includes a chapter on Youth: *“To strengthen the role of youth in promoting a culture of human rights as a ground to address discrimination and segregation”*.

One of the main objectives of the Secretary General's [Action Plan](#): “The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism” adopted at the 125th CM Session, is “to prevent and fight violent radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools and prisons, and on the Internet”. The Secretary General will submit to the Committee of Ministers an interim report on the progress and results of the Action Plan by mid-2016 and a final report by end 2017. The Action Plan also details that:

In the run-up to the [International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia](#) (IDAHOT) on 17 May, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland [stressed the urgent need](#) to end violence and hate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. He said *“we have made significant progress over the past decades. We cannot afford to backtrack. We must make every effort to respond to violence and discrimination against LGBT people. We must put solid legal and policy frameworks in place, provide training and ensure that victims are aware of their rights. These are not special rights, but universal rights guaranteed to all under the European Convention of Human Rights.”*

On 30 April the Committee of Ministers adopted a [Reply](#) to PACE Recommendation [2054 \(2014\)](#) on “Good governance and enhanced quality in education” and on 15 May it adopted a [Reply](#) to PACE Recommendation [2056 \(2014\)](#) on “The Alternatives to immigration detention of children”.

As a concrete follow-up to the Committee of Ministers' Thematic Debate on “Ensuring freedom of expression on the Internet,” a conference on [“Freedom of Expression is STILL the issue”](#) will be organised in Strasbourg on 13-14 October 2015. Due attention will be given to the effective follow-up of recommendations adopted at the conference.

[PACE](#)

The [No Hate Parliamentary Alliance](#) (launched on 29 January) which follows on from [Assembly Resolution 1967\(2014\)](#) on “A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe”, was encouraged on 19 May by the Committee of Ministers to exchange information on good legislation, policy and practice and promote legislative initiatives.

On the eve of the International Day against Homophobia (17 May), Jonas Gunnarsson, PACE General Rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people stated that “*Young LGBT people must never be made to feel afraid to express their sexual orientation and gender identity. [...] Sexual orientation and gender identity are matters that are indissociably linked with personal identity, and no one should ever be pressured to conform to other individuals’ or society’s expectations in this field.*” [[PACE Resolution on Discrimination against transgender people in Europe](#)]

During the PACE June session, AC Bureau member Youssef Himmat will address the [INGO Conference](#).

(2) Youth Department update

Mr Jean-Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, has resigned from his post as from 30 May 2015. Mr Sjur Bergan, Head of the Education Department, has been asked to stand in as Director *ad interim* pending the publication and filling of the post.

The CoE organised a call for 10 representatives of NGYOs and/or networks **not** members of the [European Youth Forum](#) (YFJ) to be selected in June by the CoE Secretary General to sit on the **Advisory Council on Youth** in 2016-2017. The selection of these 10 representatives together with the nominations of 20 representatives elected by the YFJ (13 NGOs and 7 NYCs) will be put forward in the autumn to the Committee of Ministers of the CoE for approval.

Following the first CoE youth policy review carried out in Finland 18 years ago, a CoE international review team visited Helsinki in April on

an advisory mission to contribute to the proposed revisions of the 2006 Youth Act. The team was made up of Jan Vanhee (CDEJ) - leading the team; Gian Piero Carlo Milani (AC); André-Jacques Dodin (Secretariat); and co-ordinated by Prof. Howard Williamson (researcher/rapporteur). The results of the advisory mission are available on the [website](#) of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy.

The youth policy reviews on Greece and Serbia should be available soon. *Other member states wishing to benefit from the CoE [youth policy reviews](#) or advisory missions over the next few years are invited to come forward.*

Within the [Council of Europe's Quality Label for youth centres](#) the 6th European Platform Meeting for Youth Centres was hosted on 12-15 May 2015 by Ecocenter "Radulovacki" in Sremski Karlovci, Serbia. In the presence of the Serbian Deputy Minister for Youth and Sport, Snežana Klačnja and 150 local, national and international guests Ecocenter "Radulovacki" received on 14 May the CoE Quality Label for Youth Centres from Antje Rothemund, Head of the CoE Youth Department.

A programming conference to prepare for the meeting of the [Programming Committee](#) in June was held on 11-12 May and included members of the CDEJ and CCJ who together with the Secretariat drafted a first proposal for the 2016 Programme of Activities. The Programming Committee met in Budapest on 4-5 June.

R E M I N D E R - 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.**

The 5th Euro-Arab Youth Forum, hosted by the Youth Department and co-organised with the League of Arab States in partnership with the European Youth Forum, will be held on 2- 5 September in Strasbourg. The Forum will focus on fostering mutual cooperation and dialogue among young Arab and European leaders, representatives of associations and decision-makers, on the meanings and practices of citizenship by young people and the challenges they face in their paths to autonomy.

Activities held in May included:

- 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)

The Seminar on [Remembrance and Human Rights](#), dedicated to the Anniversary of the end of World War II (EYCS, 19 - 22 May) was co-organised by The Youth Department of the Council of Europe The Ministry of Education and Science, the Federal Agency on Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation and the National Youth Council of Russia. When addressing the Seminar, AC member Dimitris Makrystathis put an emphasis on the role played by youth during WWII and appealed to youth today to “take advantage of your youth and challenge the current stability or regression wherever you face it. Take initiatives and change your communities at local and national level. Strive and fight all together for a more united Europe; a fairer Europe with respect to democracy, human rights and minorities; a Europe based on common understanding and tolerance; a Europe for all Europeans.” [Photo gallery: [1](#) and [2](#); [Podcast](#)].

Forthcoming activities:

- *Promote and protect human rights in your environment* - National training course on Human rights education using Compass (Stasiūnai village, Lithuania, 4 - 7 June)
- Study Session *Bordering on the Possible – Migration, Policy-making and Youth* - in cooperation with the Cooperation and Development Network Eastern Europe AISB (CDN) (EYCB, 8 - 13 June)
- Study Session *You(th) in Decision Making: Re-inventing/enforcing the Co-management procedure* - in cooperation with the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) (EYCB, 8-12 June)
- Training of Trainers for Youth in the Council of Europe (TRAYCE) (EYCS, 15 - 23 June)
- Study Session *Roma Mobility - Building Bridges!* - in cooperation with the Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP) (EYCB, 22 - 26 June)
- Enter! youth meeting: youth workers, local/regional authorities and young people, on solutions

to fighting exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people and facilitating the integration of young people at risk (EYCS, 30 June - 3 July)

- EEA Norway grants programme for children and youth at risk in Bulgaria: study visit by the youth centres (EYCS, 2 - 4 June)

EU-CoE youth partnership

The mapping of barriers to social inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations was presented officially during [the European Youth Week](#) in Brussels.

A [Symposium on Youth Participation in a Digitalised World](#) will be held at the EYC-Budapest on 14-16 September.

(3) Council of Europe

The [Congress](#) is proposing to set up a mechanism for promoting youth participation in its work. A first meeting of the *ad hoc* reflection group on the participation of young people in the Congress' work took place in Paris on 21 May 2015 with the participation of Liam Preston and Christian Scharling (AC members), Marcio Barcelos (representing the European Youth Forum). Proposals stemming from this reflection group will be taken up at the group's next meeting on 30 June in Strasbourg.

A number of young people will be invited to take an active part in the 29th session of the Congress (Strasbourg, 19-22 October). The aim is to create a space for dialogue between the selected youth delegates and local and regional elected representatives and enable young people to express their views on the issues being debated. Deadline for [applications](#): Friday 19 June.

On 12 May, Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, released a [research paper on human rights and intersex people](#) indicating that "*Europeans remain largely unaware of the painful personal histories of intersex people and the human rights violations they face*". "*It is time to address this unacceptable situation.*" On 18 May he [recommended](#) that in Norway, which "*has a strong human rights architecture, more attention should be given to the empowerment of people with disabilities and the full inclusion of Roma*".

The [Pompidou Group](#) will be organising on 8-10 June in Oslo a 1st meeting of the Expert Group on “Possible adverse effects and associated cost of drug control policies.

The [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) will be participating in [EYCA](#)'s 2015 General Assembly to be held on 12-13 June in Gothenburg (Göteborg), Sweden.

[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. The [3rd Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship](#) and 2nd Structured Participation in Democratic Process Training Course was held in Hammamet, Tunisia on 1-8 June. The AC was represented by Eliza Popper. [\[video\]](#)

The [World Forum for Democracy](#) (WFD) to be held in Strasbourg on 18-20 November 2015 will focus on “Freedom versus control: For a democratic response”. The WFD will engage decision-makers, opinion leaders and social innovators in a debate about the approaches to be adopted at the international, national, regional and local levels in order to ensure the protection of freedom in democracy facing violence and extremism.

(4) Other news

On 17 May, International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), [LGBTQI](#) (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) young people, and allies, came together from across the globe to join voices to demand their rights.

The [European Youth Forum \(YFJ\) YO!Fest](#) took place on 6 May in Brussels in the context of the European Youth Week and the European Year for Development. The theme, “Grow together!” focused on sustainable growth and development at different levels. On 12 May the YFJ expressed its concern about “the recent violence in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and that in this crisis the human rights of people are being violated, especially affecting young people.”

The [Latvian presidency of the Council of the EU](#) will end in June 2015. Luxembourg will take over in July and pending the construction of its

website the [Trio Presidency programme](#), drawn up by Italy, Latvia and Luxembourg covering the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2015 may be consulted.

On 19 May the European Council [increased advance payments](#) for the youth employment initiative (YEI) by almost €1 billion in 2015. Instead of about €67 million, member states will receive around €1 billion as advance payments this year. The regulation adopted by the Council removes the main bottleneck in the implementation of YEI by releasing the financial burden on the member states' budgets and allowing them to roll out quickly measures against youth unemployment. The adoption of the regulation follows the agreement reached in the Council on [21 April](#) and the approval of the European Parliament on 29 April.

The 7th Annual Sexual Health and Young People Symposium: Empowering Young People to Make Informed Choices, organised by [Public Policy Exchange](#), will be held in London on 16 June.

“Only one quarter of workers worldwide is estimated to have a stable employment relationship”, according to a new [report](#) by the International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)).

(5) Publications

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

NEW!

- A new report by SG Thorbjørn Jagland on the “State of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe” is [now available](#). The report assesses the capacities of the CoE member states to guarantee and enhance democratic security within their borders and, collectively, across the continent. The report also draws on the CoE’s capacity to monitor and evaluate performance in terms of democracy, human rights and rule of law and to identify remedies for shortcomings and provide assistance in their implementation.

- [Compendium of national youth information and counselling structures](#) - A survey carried out by ERYICA which suggests that the vast majority of the many young people who use Youth Information and Counselling (YIC) services in Europe are grateful for their existence. This

unique compendium – prepared by ERYICA and the CoE – traces the history of YIC services across the continent, describes in detail the vital role YIC services play and offers guidance and advice for those countries wishing to expand, improve or establish their own structures. In an age when mass online communication can often be overwhelming and confusing, the compendium provides a valuable single reference for those interested in and working hard for a bright future for Europe's younger citizens.

- New film on "[What is youth work today](#)"

Reminder:

[List of Youth Department publications](#)

- The "Youth Information Starter Kit" is now available in [Italian](#). The Kit gives a first insight as to what Youth Information is, the underlying working principles and missions, how to start creating Youth Information Services and some practical information on what the different European structures have to offer to those who want to step into the world of Youth Information. Other linguistic versions: [English](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Turkish](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#), [Macedonian](#). *Polish version (planned in 2015)*

- The following publication was produced in partnership with ERYICA: [Young people's access to rights through youth information and counselling](#). This publication is a toolkit 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. At the end of the publication one can find suggestions of practical activities and examples of good practice that can help young people better understand human rights and ways to access them. Also available in [Russian](#). *French version available in May or June.*

- [Mirrors](#) – A Manual on combating antigypsyism through human rights education

- [Islamophobia and its consequences on young people / L'islamophobie et ses conséquences pour les jeunes](#) have been reprinted.

- 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](#)

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

ECHR: European Court of Human Rights

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

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