



The September issue looks at:

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### **(1) The big picture**

Albania, currently [chairing](#) the Committee of Ministers, will host the 2012 Council of Europe “[Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue](#)” in Durrës on 3-4 September. The main theme is “Taking responsibility for tomorrow’s Europe: the role of young people in the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue”. Members of the CCJ will participate in this event.

The PACE Sub-Committee on Education, Youth and Sport in its [Analysis](#) of the Committee of Ministers’ reply to Recommendation 1978 (2011) “Towards a European framework convention on youth rights” recommended the proposal to launch a study which would “lay emphasis on the systematic encouragement of policies to improve the access of young people to their rights. The subject will be taken up at the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for youth – see (3) below.

The Congress will debate regional legislation and action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as on youth and democracy at its [23<sup>rd</sup> Session](#) to be held in October.

### **(2) 40th anniversary of the Council of Europe youth sector**

The [40th anniversary](#) of the Strasbourg European Youth Centre (EYCS) and the European Youth Foundation was celebrated during

the PACE June session. An exhibition helped raise the visibility of the CoE's work with and for young people. A high level press conference on 27 June included Assembly President Jean-Claude Mignon, the rapporteur of the Assembly's report *The Young Generation Sacrificed* Luca Volontè and the Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth Maria Paschou. The press conference was followed by a specially-dedicated sub-committee meeting with an exchange of views with young people regarding solutions to the problems facing them today and Ulrich Bunjes was interviewed on [Tackling Europe's Youth Crisis](#). A compendium of texts on key themes – human rights education, intercultural dialogue, non-formal education, youth information, youth participation and youth policy – will be available later this month.

Forthcoming milestones of the 40th anniversary are:

- Open Doors Day at the ECYS on 16 September 2012 for the “European Heritage Days”;
- The 9th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth to be held in St. Petersburg on 23-25 September and the preceding Youth Event (22-23 September);
- The second “Youth Assembly” co-organised with PACE on 5-7 October 2012 in Strasbourg (“*Youth and Democracy: the young generation sacrificed?*”).

### **(3) 9<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth**

The Committee of Ministers will continue its exchange of views on the draft “Final Declaration of the Conference” on 13 September 2012. Its comments will be submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Senior Officials preparing the Conference which will be held in St. Petersburg on 23 September.

The **Ministerial Conference** will be held in St. Petersburg on 24-25 September. The theme of the Conference is “Young people’s access to rights: development of innovative youth policies” and it should offer an opportunity to discuss related topics such as: the future of democracy and participation; the challenges of living together in diverse societies; and the social inclusion of young people. The

Conference will also provide a forum for the exchange of best youth policy practice across Europe and beyond.

The **Youth Event**, co-funded by the [EYF](#) and organised jointly by the [CCJ](#), the [YFJ](#) and the [NYCR](#) will be held in St Petersburg on 22-23 September (prior to the Ministerial Conference). It will provide an opportunity for youth representatives to discuss and formulate opinions about young people's access to rights - to be submitted to the Ministerial Conference and subsequently to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Some 60 youth representatives have already registered and another 60 are expected to do so. The [draft Programme](#), [provisional list of participants](#) and [other documents](#) are available on the CoE Youth website.

#### **(4) Youth Department update**

As from 1 September Ulrich Bunjes who was Head of the Youth Department, has been appointed Special Advisor on Political Affairs to the Director General of Democratic Citizenship and Participation (DG II). Tina Mulcahy, Executive Director of the European Youth Centre, has been appointed Head ad interim of the Youth Department. The CoE's statutory organs concerned with youth will soon be officially informed about these appointments.

The Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs has made a voluntary contribution of 100,000€ for the implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan which was greatly appreciated. Another Flemish contribution to the Enter! Project (2009-2011) has ensured the recent publication of "Enter Dignityland!" - a game for learning about social rights with young people through human rights education [see below under (7) on how to order].

Following a first visit to Kyiv, members of the expert team on the youth policy review in Ukraine will carry out their second visit on 9 – 15 September. This visit will take them to Odessa and Simferopol. The results of both visits will be presented during a national hearing towards the end of the year. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> youth policy review being carried out by the CoE. [[link](#) to previous reviews]

The CDEJ held its annual Summer University in Tbilisi, Georgia on 28-30 August thanks to the kind invitation of the Georgian authorities. Some 30 participants attended.

The [Symposium](#) “Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms”, organised by the [CoE/EU partnership](#) and the League of Arab States was held in Tunis on 27 – 28 August. It brought together some 150 policy makers, youth leaders and representatives, researchers, youth workers and other experts in youth policy from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region and from the networks and projects of the co-organisers.

Other recent programme events included:

- “Human Rights in Education” – a training course in cooperation with the [Centre for Intercultural Dialogue](#) (Struga, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, 1-6 July);
- International Youth Camp Dialogue, organised in cooperation with the [National Youth Council of Russia](#) (Kaluga, the Russian Federation, 11-15 July);
- Study session of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation ([IGLYO](#)): “Gender Equality through human rights education and youth leadership” (EYCB, 21-28 July 2012);

#### [Upcoming deadlines:](#)

7 September: Bidders may submit proposals for a strategy of a European on-line youth campaign against hate speech to be implemented across the 47 member states of the CoE in 2013.

7 September: Applicants may apply for a training course "Training Roma youth leaders and activists for promoting human rights and taking action against discrimination" which will be held in Budapest on 21-29 October.

15 September: Survey on the impact of the Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education launched among non-governmental partners.

15 September: Applications for a preparatory seminar for the European on-line campaign against hate speech, which will be held in the EYCS on 10-12 October. The seminar is first and foremost addressed to governmental and non-governmental partners of the

youth sector of the Council of Europe that will be involved in the on-line campaign in 2013.

Forthcoming events:

- Training Seminar of Youth Peace Ambassadors (EYCB, 3-9 September)
- Training Course – Turkey (EYCS, 9-16 September)
- Preparatory seminar of Enter! a long term training addressing exclusion and marginalisation of young people, in cooperation with the Congress (EYCS, 17-21 September)
- Training Course for Trainers in Human Rights Education (TOTHRE) Evaluation Meeting (EYCS, 26-29 September)
- Seminar for Russian and CIS young parliamentarians, (Strasbourg, 30 September - 6 October 2012)

The [CoE/EU partnership](#) has scheduled the following events in September:

- European Steering Group on Learning Mobility in the youth field (Berlin, 11-12 September)
- Partnership Advisory Group (Brussels, 17 September)
- Annual meeting of EKCYP correspondents (Brussels, 18-19 September)

As of September two new colleagues will start working for the EU-CoE youth partnership: Mojca Kodela, in the CoE office in Brussels and Lali Seraya-Bouché in Strasbourg.

Claire George starts her traineeship in the Youth Department on 1 September until end January 2013.

We wish them a warm welcome.

## **(5) Other Council of Europe news**

The 4th African University on Youth and Development and the 8th Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations were held on 13 - 20 July in Mindelo – Cape Verde. The [NSC](#), the Portuguese National Youth Council ([CNJ](#)) and the Cape Verdean Youth Federation ([FCJ](#)) organised this 4th edition of the AUVD which included the 8th Africa Europe Training Course for Youth

Organisations. The AUYD gathered around 100 participants from 35 countries. Contact: [nsc.africaeurope-youthsummit@coe.int](mailto:nsc.africaeurope-youthsummit@coe.int)

The 13th University on Youth and Development - Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers will be held on 16 - 23 September in Molina, Spain. Organised by the North-South Centre [NSC](#) together with [INJUVE](#), [YFJ](#), the Spanish Youth Council ([CJE](#)), the Latin American Youth Forum ([FLAJ](#)) and other international youth organisations, it will include the [Global Education \(GE\) and Youth Training of Trainers](#). The joint programme will focus on the theme of “Youth Rights”.

The [Pompidou Group](#) Jury for the “European Drug Prevention Prize” met in Strasbourg on 17-18 July, to evaluate the 83 applications and select the three winning-projects which will be rewarded for their innovative work in drug prevention with active involvement of young people. The award ceremony will take place during the [Pompidou Group](#)’s Mid-term high-level conference on 14 November 2012.

## **(6) Other news**

On 22 August the ILO looked at [internships for young people](#). It asked whether internships were a head start or a labour trap and considered their benefits and drawbacks. The ILO regional office for Asia and the Pacific has reported on the [Swiss apprenticeship model](#) as an alternative to youth unemployment.

The European Commission has contracted a [study](#) about "Working with young people - the value of youth work in the EU". The results, which should be available in September 2013, should examine the contribution of youth work and youth work policy. The Commission had also proposed to create an [integrated programme](#) of €15.2 billion for education, training and youth ('Education Europe'), with a clear focus on developing skills and mobility. [Youth on the Move](#) and the [Youth Opportunities Initiative](#) are European Commission initiatives to help young people find a job in another EU country.

[OECD Director of Education](#) stated recently that “the crisis in youth unemployment around the world is not just one of the aftershocks of the global economic downturn, but may also have roots in education

systems that are not adequately preparing students for 21st-century economies”. Last May the OECD presented a paper on the [Challenge of promoting youth employment in the G20 countries](#).

Speaking at Seoul National University on 13 August, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon [reiterated](#) that “the empowerment of young women is key for advancing development around the world”. On 18 June during the Rio+20 Conference, the UN Women Executive Director had [stated](#) that “Sustainable development will not be achieved without empowering women” and insisted that this should be highlighted in the outcome document of the Conference. Hoping for a better outcome in the forthcoming Conference in Doha in November, young people are being offered fellowships to contribute actively to “the [“Adopt a Negotiator”](#)”.

## **(7) Publications**

The Council of Europe Youth Department publications may be [consulted online](#). The CoE-EU partnership magazine Coyote, issue no. 18 (June 2012) on recognition of youth work and non-formal learning, is now available [on line](#) and may also be ordered [here](#).

“Enter Dignityland!” - a game for learning about social rights with young people through human rights education, has just been printed. Players act as members of parliament who have to decide on social policies. Developed on the basis of an original game of the Community Volunteers Foundation (Turkey), the game is one of the outcomes of the first Enter! project (and was produced thanks to a voluntary contribution from Flanders for the Enter! Project (2009-2011). To order please contact: [youth@coe.int](mailto:youth@coe.int)

### **Facebook pages:**

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

***Think Youth! was the brainchild of Ulrich Bunjes. We thank him for this initiative which has proved very popular and wish him every success in his new ventures.***

*Anna Trigona*

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**Abbreviations:**

CCJ: Advisory Council on Youth

CDEJ: European Steering Committee on Youth

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

DG: Directorate General

EYCB: European Youth Centre Budapest

EYCS: European Youth Centre Strasbourg

EYF: European Youth Foundation

ILO: International Labour Organisation

NSC: North South Centre, Council of Europe

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

TOTHRE: Training Course for Trainers in Human Rights Education

YFJ: European Youth Forum

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