



The October issue looks at:

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

The 2012 Council of Europe “[Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue](#)” was hosted by Albania (current CM Chair) in Durrës on 3-4 September. The main theme was “Taking responsibility for tomorrow’s Europe: the role of young people in the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue” and among the suggestions for follow-up was that dialogue with youth representatives should be built upon. The Rapporteur Group (GR-C) of the Committee of Ministers will discuss follow-up at its next meeting in October.

Mr Luca Volonté, [PACE](#) Rapporteur on “The young generation sacrificed: social, economic and political implications of the financial crisis” [presented](#) PACE Resolution 1885 (2012) and Recommendation 2002 (2012)<sup>1</sup> during the Youth Event on “Young people’s access to rights: development of innovative youth policies” on 22-23 September 2012 in St. Petersburg (see (3) below). He will report back to the PACE Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development on 4 October during the PACE part-session.

The [World Forum for Democracy](#) will open in Strasbourg 7 October and will bring together eminent personalities such as the UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-Moon. This will be preceded by a “Youth Assembly” co-organised with PACE on 5-7 October 2012 in Strasbourg which will bring together some 200 youth representatives to discuss “*Youth and Democracy: the young generation sacrificed?*”.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the [Congress](#) to be held on 16-18 October, will debate regional legislation and action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as youth and democracy.

A [preparatory seminar for the Online Campaign against Hate Speech](#) will be held at the EYCS on 10-12 October. The seminar's primary function is to involve and inform the partners and future actors of the campaign and to recommend guidelines and practical proposals for the campaign; some will be addressed to the Council of Europe (for decision by the Joint Council on Youth), others will be addressed to the actors in the future campaign.

A [survey](#) on young people's attitudes and experience of online hate speech was launched by the Youth Department of the CoE in the framework of the project "Young people combating hate speech online". The survey targets young people in Europe and beyond and is intended to provide empirical data to support further research (very much missing on the topic) and help better shape the online campaign against hate speech. The survey will probably be extended beyond the initial 4 October deadline. Have *you* filled it?

## **(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 continued to be celebrated.

- The Open Doors Day at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg took place on 16 September 2012 in the context of the "European Heritage Days". Almost 600 members of the public visited the centre and took part in a successful living library along with other activities aiming to raise awareness about the Council of Europe and its youth sector with the public.

- An exhibition on the work of the CoE youth sector was displayed during the 9th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth (St Petersburg, 24-25 September) and a [compendium](#) of texts on key themes was made available to participants.

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

- The **Ministerial Conference** which was held in St. Petersburg on 24-25 September had as its theme "Young people's access to rights: development of innovative youth policies". It brought together 44 delegations of the 50 states party to the Council of Europe's [European Cultural Convention](#)). The Presidents of the Council of Europe's [PACE](#),

Jean-Claude Mignon and [Congress](#), Keith Whitmore also attended, together with representatives from the OECD, UNICEF, UNHCR and the League of Arab States. Ad Melkert, former United Nations' Under-Secretary General and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands, was keynote speaker [[speech](#)]. Because of lack of consensus no final declaration was adopted.

The **Youth Event**, co-funded by the [EYF](#) and organised jointly by the [CCJ](#), the [YFJ](#) and the [NYCR](#) also held in St Petersburg prior to the Ministerial Conference brought together some 150 youth representatives. After regretting that there was no common Declaration, their [conclusions](#) were presented to the Ministerial Conference and disseminated to youth organisations. [Other documents](#) are available on the CoE Youth website.

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

Tina Mulcahy, Executive Director of the European Youth Centre has taken up her additional tasks as Head *ad interim* of the Youth Department on 1 September. She replaces Ulrich Bunjes who was appointed Special Advisor on Political Affairs to the Director General of Democratic Citizenship and Participation (DG II).

Following a first visit to Kyiv and northern Ukraine, members of the expert team on the youth policy review in Ukraine carried out their second visit on 9 – 15 September to Odessa and Simferopol. The results of both visits will be presented during a national hearing at the beginning of 2013. This is the 19<sup>th</sup> youth policy review being carried out by the CoE. The 20<sup>th</sup> youth policy review will be carried out in Greece in 2013 [[link to previous reviews](#)]

Events held in September included:

- Training Seminar of Youth Peace Ambassadors (EYCB, 3-9 September)
- Training Course – Turkey (EYCS, 9-16 September)
- Preparatory seminar of Enter! 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 (TOTHERE) Evaluation Meeting (EYCS, 26-29 September)
- National and Regional Training Course on Human Rights Education (Tbilisi, Georgia, 27 – 30 September)
- Training Course on Youth Policy Development (Vinnitsa, Ukraine, 24 – 30 September 2012)

Current and forthcoming events include:

- Seminar for Russian and CIS young parliamentarians (Strasbourg, 30 September – 6 October)
- Training course for Roma Youth leaders on Human Rights & Intercultural Dialogue (EYCB, 20-29 October)
- National and Regional Training Course on Human Rights Education (Italy, 25 – 28 October)

Also being held in the European Youth Centres in October:

- “Phiren Amenca “Volunteer Fall Seminar 2012” (EYCB, 14-20 October) organised by [Phiren Amenca International Network](#);
- “Youth Advocacy for Peace”(EYCB, 14-20 October) organised by [United Network of Young Peacebuilders](#) (UNOY Peacebuilders)
- “Supporting the involvement of young disabled people in human rights advocacy at the national and European level - Training for Trainers” (EYCS, 21-28 October) organised by the [European Network on Independent Living](#) (ENIL).

Upcoming deadlines:

- 5 October - Study Session “Gender: Revised?!” (EYCB, 11-18 November)
- 10 October – Training course for trainers and multipliers on human rights education in Ukraine (Sumy, Ukraine, 5-11 November)

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).

A second evaluation visit to a youth centre applying for the [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres](#) will take place in Brezice, Slovenia on 10-13 October. A first evaluation visit by the expert team took place in January 2012 to the Euromed Youth Centre in Adrasan, Turkey.

Benedicte Stevenin has joined the Youth Department providing support until December 2012 to the Head *a.i.* of the Youth Department and the Advisory Council on Youth. We wish her a warm welcome.

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

The [Pompidou Group](#) Jury will award the “European Drug Prevention Prize” to three winning projects on 14 November, during the Pompidou Group’s Mid-term high-level conference.

In response to the CM recommendation [CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, a follow-up group met in Strasbourg on 2-3 October to finalise the necessary assessment tools for governments and other parties.

## **(6) Other news**

Speaking at the [Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference](#) (Washington, 10-12 September) ILO’s Executive Director for Employment José Manuel Salazar Xirinachs stressed the need for an urgent investment in opportunities for young people to tackle the challenge of growing youth unemployment. Following the publication of [ILO’s September 2012 Global Employment Outlook](#), which showed that 12.6 % of young people, or some 75 million youth, are out of work, he [told](#) the delegates that these figures should not be taken as a “prophecy of inevitable doom” and that “on the contrary [...] we must urgently invest in youth opportunities, because we also know that policies and interventions matter and can make a great difference”.

The [EU Youth Report](#), published on 10 September and scheduled to be adopted as a Joint Council-Commission Report in November, calls for youth employment, social inclusion, health and the well-being of young people to be top priorities in Europe’s youth policy. The report, which is produced every three years by the Commission, reveals that youth unemployment in the EU among 15-24-year-olds has increased by 50% since the onset of the crisis. There are, however signs of hope on the horizon: the report has found that nearly all member states are implementing the EU Youth Strategy, which aims to create more and better opportunities for young people and to promote active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity.

The [EU Commission](#) has made €4million available for projects to develop Youth Guarantee schemes in member states where youth unemployment is above 22.7% and is currently inviting proposals. The Commission seeks to ensure that all young people are in jobs, further education or activation measures within four months of leaving school. The call for proposals is aimed at supporting partnerships for activation measures targeting young people (15-24) through projects in the context

of Youth Guarantee schemes at national, regional or local level. Proposals must be submitted no later than 22 October.

At the [EU Sport Forum](#) held in Cyprus on 19-20 September, the European Commission proposed a sport chapter as part of [Erasmus for All](#), the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport which is due to start in 2014. The proposed budget for sport is €34 million a year on average between 2014 and 2020. Erasmus for All is based on the premise that investing in education and training is the key to unlocking people's potential and boosting their job prospects.

## **(7) Publications**

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

A compendium of six booklets has been produced to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Strasbourg European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation. Each booklet deals with one of the defining features of the CoE's work with and for young people: human rights education, intercultural learning, non-formal education, youth information, youth participation and youth policy. The booklets can be consulted on the [Youth website](#). A French version will be available shortly.

### **Facebook pages:**

[Advisory Council on Youth](#)

[Council of Europe - Youth](#)

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

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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

GR-C: Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment

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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