



The November issue looks at:

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

The [World Forum for Democracy](#) opened in Strasbourg on 7 October preceded by a “Youth Assembly” co-organised with PACE on 5-7 October 2012 bringing together some 170 youth representatives who discussed “*Youth and Democracy: the young generation sacrificed*”. [[WFD video](#)]

The 2nd Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Cohesion met in Istanbul on 11-12 October 2012. The conclusions of the Conference highlighted the importance of achieving social sustainability through intergenerational solidarity: “Youth unemployment remains a major concern in all our Member States, with more than half of the under-25-year-olds not being able to find a job. The perception by young people themselves that they belong to a sacrificed generation is a strong reason for all of us to continue to look for innovative approaches for policies that involve their active participation and give priority to employment for young persons as an essential element of social cohesion and sustainable intergenerational solidarity.” A [declaration](#) was adopted.

A preparatory seminar for the Online Youth Campaign against Hate Speech was held at the EYCS from 10 to 12 October. Some 80 youth activists - representatives of youth and human rights organisations - developed proposals for the preparation and implementation of the campaign. The campaign will be launched on 21 March 2013 and will run for 1 year. It will be based as much as possible on national committees and young people will be invited to take action online.

Offline activities, however, will remain very important, as online hate speech often has serious consequences offline. Think Youth! will be following the campaign closely over the next months.

The [Congress](#) at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Session on 17 October adopted [Resolution 346 \(2012\)](#) and [Recommendation 327 \(2012\)](#) on “Youth Democracy: the changing face of youth political engagement” after a debate which included a presentation by the Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth. Reference is made to the model co-management system of the Council of Europe in the field of youth which should be mirrored at the local and regional level.

During its [chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers, Albania put intercultural dialogue high on its [agenda](#). The conclusions of the successful “[Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue](#)” held in Durrës on 3-4 September will be presented in the high-level conference “Diversity in Europe: an asset for the future” which will be held in Tirana on 8-9 November to mark the end of the Albanian Chairmanship. The Conference will seek to reinforce and spread the message of peace and openness to each other’s cultures and beliefs.

The Albanian Chairmanship, in coordination with the Youth Department, hosted the first [Regional Youth Peace Camp](#) in Llogara, Albania last September. The camp was a unique experience for both participants and organisers. It was proposed to organise a Regional Youth Peace Camp on a regular basis and to hold it every year in one of the different countries and entities in the region.

Also in the framework of the Albanian Chairmanship, the CoE/EU partnership in October held a [Symposium](#) on Youth Policy Cooperation in South East Europe: focus on recognition of youth work & non-formal learning in Tirana, Albania. The event was organised together with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania and a number of other partners.

Director General of Democracy Snežana Samardžić-Marković announced on 11 October that: “Strengthening young people’s access to rights remains a “top priority” of the Council of Europe” [[PRESS RELEASE](#)]. In a recent CoE [podcast](#) looking back on her first six

months in office, she highlighted young people's contribution to furthering democracy in Europe, the online anti-hate speech campaign and advancing gender equality.

At a meeting of the Croatian presidency of the [Decade for Roma Inclusion](#), the Roma Youth Action plan received major support encouraging the Decade partners to pay greater attention to youth matters. From 18 to 26 October, a course for youth leaders and multipliers active against discrimination of Roma was held in Budapest. The course was a major success in many ways, preparing participants to develop local projects for inclusion and against discrimination. The course is expected to play an important role in “de-centralising” the Action Plan and bring it closer to the Roma communities and young people.

A consultation with Roma young people “Youth participation: from exclusion to dialogue” will be held in Strasbourg on 25 November. The consultation will enable young people to discuss policies and actions at the local and regional levels to promote the effective participation of Roma young people in social, political and civil life in Europe. The event is being organised in cooperation with the Youth Sector and the Congress.

A high-level Conference “Tackling hate speech: Living together online” will be held in Budapest on 27-28 November thanks to the EEA / Norway Grants. It is organised by the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. The Conference will be preceded by a workshop on Acting and Campaigning against Hate Speech which will bring together some 50 bloggers and online activists to the European Youth Centre Budapest. The workshop will also serve as a preparatory mobilisation for the Online Youth Campaign against Hate Speech in 2013. The workshop is also co-funded by the EEA / Norway grants.

Also on 28 November a first meeting bringing together the Bureaus of the Steering Committee on Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) and the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) will be held in Strasbourg to discuss cooperation between the Committees and transversally across the Education and Youth Sector of the Council of Europe.

On 29-30 November a joint conference between the Youth and Education Departments: “Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead”, will bring together some 300 actors in the formal

and non-formal education sectors working for human rights education. The conference will analyse the impact of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and propose future European and national strategies, The youth sector will organise a preparatory seminar on 28 November. The results of a survey on the impact of the Charter on non-governmental actors in HRE will also be presented at the Conference.

## **(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. A compendium of six booklets was produced to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 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.

## **(3) Youth Department update**

The results of the two visits to Ukraine by the expert team on the youth policy review will be presented during a national hearing at the beginning of 2013 and then at an international hearing in March 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]

An expert visit to the youth centre in Brezice, Slovenia was held on 10-12 October. The centre had applied for the [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres](#). Decisions on label awards during this pilot phase will be made in 2013.

The Internet Governance Forum ([IFG](#)) will be held in Baku on 6-11 November. The main theme of the Forum is: 'Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development'.

The statutory meetings of the Council of Europe in the youth sector (CDEJ, CMJ, CCJ) will be meeting in Strasbourg on 12-14 November. The gender equality rapporteur, nominated to represent the CMJ will participate in the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe on 16 November.

The 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Coordination Board of the [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) will meet in Strasbourg on 12 November (in the margins of the statutory meetings).

**Activities held in October included:**

- 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)
- Roma leaders to fight discrimination (EYCB, 21-28 October)
- National and Regional Training Course on Human Rights Education (Italy, 25 – 28 October)

**Other activities held in October in the EYCs:**

- Study sessions “Volunteer Fall Seminar 2012” (EYCB, 14-20 October) organised by [Phiren Amenca International Network](#);
- “Study session Youth Advocacy for Peace”(EYCB, 14-20 October) organised by [United Network of Young Peacebuilders](#) (UNOY Peacebuilders)
- Study session “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).

**Forthcoming events include:**

- Training Course for Trainers and Multipliers on Human Rights Education (Chernigiv, Ukraine 5-11 November)
- Seminar on “Access to Social Rights for young people in the UK” (Leicester, UK, 15-16 November)
- Seminar on “The role of youth work in combating segregation in school environments: a seminar for youth workers and actors in formal education” (EYCS, 21-24 November).

- "Training of trainers for democratic youth participation" organised in cooperation with the League of Arab States and hosted by the government of Tunisia (Tunisia, 8-16 December).

### **Other events at the EYCS**

- "Gender: Revised!?" - Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe ([EYCE](#))  
World Student Christian Federation - Europe region ([WSCF-E](#))  
(EYCB, 11-18 November)

- "Rainbow Resources: Gender and sexuality rights education with children" - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Education International ([IFM-SEI](#)) (EYCB, 11-18 November)

- "Responding to hate - learning to protect human rights online" - International Falcon Movement - Socialist Education International (IFM-SEI) (EYCS, 19-25 November)

- Training seminar for students and youth leaders on fighting segregation in school environments. (EYCS, 20-25 November)

- Youth Peace Ambassadors: Network Conference (EYCB, 5-9 November)

- Human Rights and democracy in action – looking ahead (EYCS, 28 November – 1 December)

We extend a warm welcome to three new faces in the EYCs: In Strasbourg, László FÖLDI will be looking after the project Young People Combating Hate Speech Online and Joanna KILLY will provide support to the division until the end of the year. Ms Ioanna KOSMIDOU, in Budapest, will look after the preparation of a workshop on Acting and Campaigning against Hate Speech and supporting the high level conference on the same issue (co-funded by the EEA Norway grants).

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

- Expert group on recognition of youth work and non-formal education (Brussels, 5-6 November)

- Africa Europe Youth Platform (Addis Ababa, 5-8 November)

- Pilot Seminar "Participatory and knowledge-based youth policy" (Bonn, 15-16 November)

[Upcoming deadlines:](#)

- 31 October: "Training of trainers for democratic youth participation" (Tunisia 8-16 December) Applications: <http://youthapplications.coe.int>
- 1 November: Youth Event (February 26, 2013) as part of the 5th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Vienna (February 27-28, 2013) [UNAOC Vienna Youth Event Application Form](#)

#### **(4) 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.

The Conference of INGOs held a [Civil Society Debate](#) on "Inclusive Democracy" in Strasbourg on 7 October 2012.

A meeting organised by the Children's Rights Division on the development of a self-assessment tool on child participation was held in Strasbourg on 2 October. It involved members of the *ad hoc* advisory group on child and youth participation of the CMJ.

#### **(5) Other news**

According to an [ILO](#) document presented at a G20 Task Force on Employment meeting (Geneva 3 October) youth unemployment remain alarming, ranging from about 8 per cent to over 50 per cent in 17 of the G20 countries for which data is available. The task group expressed commitment to promoting and strengthening quality apprenticeships as a proven means of transitioning between learning and work. Most notably, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow, and the Secretary-General of the International Organization of Employers, Brent Wilton, both said they planned to lead national consultations on the subject.

[Eurofound](#), the European Union's Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, released a [report](#) on 22 October on young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Eurofound's latest comparative research findings on NEETs show

that the economic loss to society of not integrating NEETs is estimated at €153 billion, in addition to the inestimable costs for their disengagement from society in general. The report's findings were presented for the first time in full at the EU Presidency Conference on Employment Priorities held in Cyprus on 22-23 October.

The [Youth Employment Action group](#) of the (YFJ) met on 25-26 October to discuss ways in which youth organisations can drive forward the campaign of a youth guarantee for Europe. Themes included the relationship between non-formal education and employability, the need to devise a new economic path for Europe and national actions needed in the run-up of the meeting of the Council of the EU on 5 December, which is likely to address high level youth unemployment in Europe. In their conclusions, an appeal was made to European policy makers to act now to ease the transition from education to the labour market. The group also expressed concern regarding cuts aimed at the support structures for young people (including youth organisations) which were having a dramatic impact on vulnerable young people.

## **(6) Publications**

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

### **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

ILO: International Labour Organisation

PACE: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

YFJ: European Youth Forum

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