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Strasbourg, 23 May 2017

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Learning to Live Together: a Shared Commitment to Democracy

Conference on the Future of Citizenship
and Human Rights Education in Europe
Strasbourg, 18 – 23 June 2017

**Presentation
Conference programme
and
Youth and non-governmental sector
Side events**

Charter as a tool for change

The 47 member states of the Council of Europe adopted the [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) in 2010. The Charter is an expression of a shared understanding and commitment to education for human rights and democracy in Europe. Its aim is to support further development through dialogue and cooperation. The Charter works hand in hand with the Council of Europe Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture, which is another important tool in this area.

Human Rights Education Youth Programme

The [Human Rights Education Youth Programme](#) of the Youth Department aims to consolidate and support the role of non-governmental youth organisations and as actors in the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. It does so by combining the development and dissemination of tools and resources on human rights education and capacity-building activities for trainers, multipliers and advocates of human rights education as a human right.

Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education

Every 5 years we review together with member states and civil society the progress achieved in promoting citizenship and human rights education in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Charter. The conclusions of the 2nd review are presented in the [Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) which will be discussed at this Conference. While the Charter provides us with a shared understanding of citizenship and human rights education and the principles for action, the review process helps us to identify strategic goals and actions, and the ways to evaluate how successful they are.

Have your voice heard

The aim of this Conference is to discuss the conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe, to share experiences and lessons learned and to propose recommendations for future action. The participants will propose strategic goals for the next 5 years to promote citizenship and human rights education, both within the countries and in the European and global context, and methods of promoting dialogue within and between the countries. About 300 participants are expected at this event, including representatives of governments, education professionals and civil society organisations.

Tackling today's challenges together

Europe is facing serious challenges, and citizenship and human rights education can play an important part in addressing them. How to integrate migrants and refugees successfully? How to prevent violent radicalisation without creating a climate of mistrust, suspicion and discrimination? How can education address the growing divide between the elites and the ordinary people? There are no easy answers to these questions, but many innovative practices have been developed and can be used as inspiration. The Council of Europe provides a platform where the countries – and different partners within the countries - can learn from each other, develop common solutions and provide mutual support.

A year of celebration

In 2017, we are celebrating 20th anniversary of the Council of Europe project on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education which led to the Charter, and the 15th anniversary of the [Compass Manual on Human Rights Education with Young People](#), one of the most popular manuals on human rights education, available in more than 40 languages. The conference will be a moment to learn from these achievements and set new goals for cooperation and common action.

What will happen after the Conference?

The conclusions of the Conference will be broadly disseminated and submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, which brings together all the member states and makes decisions on what the Council of Europe does and how. These conclusions will inform the Council of Europe Programme of Activities in the Education and [Youth sectors](#) in 2018-2019 and beyond.

Briefing meeting and training workshops for Youth and non-governmental sector representatives

On 19 June 2017 a briefing meeting to support the participants from the youth, children and non-governmental sector will take place in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The meeting has the aim to update on the latest development in citizenship and human rights education in the youth sector and to support them in their advocacy efforts.

On 22 June 2017, in the afternoon, separate meetings and training workshops will be offered to participants from the youth sector on advocacy for human rights education with young people and children, as well as practical info sessions aiming to further associate them with the Human Rights Education Youth Programme (workshops for organisers of national training courses; translation of Compass, Compasito; etc.).

Aim and objectives of the conference

The aim of the conference is to discuss the conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe, to share experiences and lessons learned and to propose recommendations for future action.

The objectives of the conference are:

- To highlight the need for and the contribution made by citizenship and human rights education to advance human rights and democracy;
- To analyse the challenges and opportunities for citizenship and human rights education in Europe based on the preliminary results of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe;
- To encourage and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among key stakeholders across sectors and at all levels: local, national and international;
- To propose a set of goals, with associated guidelines and benchmarks for implementation, for the promotion and implementation of EDC/HRE over the next 5 years at a) the Council of Europe level and b) the member states level, highlighting the role and contribution to be made by all stakeholders, including civil society organisations and education institutions;
- To produce recommendations on the renewal of the Council of Europe network of coordinators for education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, with a view to the strengthening the impact of the Charter.

Expected outcomes

- Goals and guidelines for the development of action plans or strategies for promotion of EDC/HRE over the next 5 years, with possible benchmarks at national level;
- Improved understanding of current challenges and opportunities with respect to the promotion of democracy and human rights through education;
- A renewed and solid commitment among the key stakeholders of the Charter as a common framework for the promotion of democracy and human rights through education;

- Increased motivation and capacity for the use of the support tools and resources such as the Council of Europe Reference Framework of competences for democratic culture;
- Strengthening of, and support to, the political, social and educational role of EDC/HRE in sustaining a culture of democracy and human rights, including the pursuance of the related Sustainable Development Goals;
- Recognition and support of the role of civil society, particularly of youth and students organisations, and other change agents at national level, in furthering the agenda for EDC/HRE;
- Increase of participants' motivation and capacity to ensure quality EDC/HRE;
- A reinforced network of partners at national and international levels;

PROGRAMME

Monday, 19 June – EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE STRASBOURG

Arrival of participants

- 10:00 Registration of Youth and NGO sector participants at European Youth Centre Strasbourg
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Briefing meeting for youth and non-governmental representatives
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Briefing meeting for youth and non-governmental representatives
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Evening activities at European Youth Centre Strasbourg

Tuesday, 20 June 2017 – PALAIS De L'EUROPE

- 08:00 Getting to know each other activities
- 09:00 Opening session
- 09:30 The Council of Europe: 20 years of supporting the member states in the promotion of Citizenship and Human Rights Education - the context and role of the conference
- 09:50 Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 Workshop 1: Key conclusions of the Report on the State of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe - challenges and opportunities: parallel groups
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:30 Workshop 1 (continued): parallel groups
- 15:00 Break
- 15:30 Promoting human rights and democracy through education: case studies
- 17:00 Information Market/ Networking Activities
Reception

Wednesday, 21 June 2017 – PALAIS DE L'EUROPE

- 08:00 Getting to know each other activities
- 09:00 Conclusions of Workshop 1
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Workshop 2: Learners at the centre of education - good practices and lessons learned: parallel groups
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:30 Workshop 2 (continued): parallel groups
- 15:00 Break
- 15:30 Conclusions of Workshop 2
- 17:00 Closure of the day conference programme

Thursday, 22 June 2017 – PALAIS DE L'EUROPE

- 08:00 Getting to know each other activities

- 09:00 Promoting human rights and democracy through education in Europe today - round table
09:45 Round Table with International Institutions
10:30 Break
11:00 Workshop 3: Setting the milestones - Recommendations for future action for the Council of Europe, member states, civil society organisations and education institutions: parallel groups
12:15 Conclusions of Workshop 3
12:30 Conclusions and closing of the conference
13:00 Lunch

IN EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE STRASBOURG

- 15:00 Evaluation of the results and processes of the Conference in respect to the youth sector and measures to follow-up at local, national and international level
16:00 Break
16:30 Parallel workshops and info sessions for participants from Youth, children and civil society sectors on the following themes:
 - National and regional training courses in human rights education with young people;
 - Revision of Composito. The manual on human rights education for children;
 - Revision of Gender Matters. Manual on gender based violence affecting young people;
 - Advocacy for human rights education and measures to further implement the Charter;
 - Other topics proposed by participants.
- 19:00 Barbeque and farewell in the garden of European Youth Centre Strasbourg

Friday, 23 June

Departure of participants