AC News

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The Newsletter of the Advisory Council on Youth

The new working priorities of the youth sector 2006-2008

The Council of Europe's concept of Europe is based on values which are commonly held among young people, namely democracy, peace, social justice and human rights.

Through the work of the DYS, the Council of Europe has facilitated a comprehensive contribution by the youth sector in the fields of human rights education, the promotion of peace and democracy and the development of European citizenship awareness. The youth sector of the Council of Europe has made a significant contribution to the development of youth policy, youth work structures and youth organisations in a growing number of member States, especially in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In this spirit the Joint Council on Youth approved at its 12th meeting the detailed working priorities for next triennium:

PROGRAMME 1: YOUTH PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

- Youth promoting global solidarity and the peaceful transformation of conflict
- Youth promoting intercultural dialogue, inter-religious co-operation and respect for cultural difference
- Developing networks of trainers and multipliers in Human Rights Education and intercultural dialogue with young people
- Supporting and promoting good practise in Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue at the local level
- Supporting the recognition of human rights education and intercultural dialogue in formal and non-formal education

PROGRAMME 2: YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

- Promoting and sustaining the role of youth organizations in the development of democratic participation
- Promoting citizenship education and participation of and by young people
- Promoting access of young people to decision-making

PROGRAMME 3: SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- Facilitating the access of young people to working life and social rights
- Youth work and policy responses to violence

PROGRAMME 4: YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Developing and promoting standards for youth policies in connection with child policies in the Council of Europe and Members States
- Fostering the recognition of youth work and non-formal education competencies in the member states
- Developing and sharing knowledge on the situation of young people
- Support measures for the quality and sustainability of European youth work training and policy

Directorate of Youth and Sport
Direction de la jeunesse et du sport

Welcome to AC *News*!

We are very happy to present you the first issue of AC *News*, the newsletter of the Advisory Council on Youth.

The Advisory Council is a unique structure for youth participation in the frame of the co-management system of the Youth Sector at the Council of Europe.

The Directorate of Youth and Sport, in DG IV of the Council of Europe, has three main statutory bodies. Namely: the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), which is composed by 48 representatives of the governments that have signed the European Cultural Convention; the Advisory Council, which consist of 30 representatives of all different kinds of youth organizations in Europe and the Joint Council, which is composed by both members of the CDEJ and AC.

The uniqueness stands on the fact that the Joint Council (meaning young people and governments sitting at the same decision-making level) takes the political decisions relevant for the entire Youth Sector of the Council of Europe.

This Newsletter aims to promote and disseminate the work of the AC towards other sectors and bodies of the Council of Europe, youth organizations and other institutional partners. We hope that with this publication the work of young people within Council of Europe will be more visible in its mission to help achieving the big challenges that youth face in today's Europe.

Our agenda for next months is quite rich, Council of Europe will held its 3rd Head of States Summit in May and its 7th Conference of Youth Ministers in September… and more to come! We have a lot of work to do…

The Bureau of the Advisory Council

A Youth Campaign for 2006!

At its 12th meeting, the Joint Council on Youth approved the proposal for a European Youth Campaign to be held in 2006. The Campaign has been proposed by the Advisory Council and the European Youth Forum. The Joint Council set up at its 11th meeting a European steering group. Therefore, the steering group decided to focus the Campaign on the promotion of **Diversity**, as cornerstone to build peaceful societies in Europe.

The aim of this large scale campaign is to take a positive approach to prevent different social phobia and discriminations currently challenging the cohesion of our societies. The methods used to implement this campaign will be based on the well established experience of the youth sector of the Council of Europe in the field of Human Rights, intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and inclusion of young people. The method used for all actions of the Campaign will be based on youth participation, with the aim of fostering a **participative approach to building European societies.**

The 2006 Campaign will be directly linked with "**All Different, All Equal**" Campaign, in particular as concerns the promotion of concepts and practices of tolerance. This is especially true given that 2005 is the 10th anniversary of the "All Different, All Equal" Campaign, providing a useful opportunity to take up issues of the 1995 Campaign and bring them forward to the present situation.

Towards the 7th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth

The 23rd and 24th of September 2005 the 7th Conference of Ministers responsible for youth will take place in Budapest.

After the 6th Conference in Thessaloniki in 2002, this year's conference will focus on a specific topic "Youth Policy Responses to Violence", with the idea of bringing concrete joint action from youth ministers and youth organizations.

The Advisory Council at its 13th meeting in Budapest expressed the conviction that the conference should be also the place where the Ministers responsible for youth will endorse the working priorities for 2006-2008. Furthermore, the AC is looking forward a conference were young people will be protagonists through the involvement of all participants to the youth event (that will take place just before) to the entire conference.

3rd Summit of Head of States and Government of the Council of Europe

The aim of the 3rd Summit of Heads of States and Government (16-17 May 2005) is to draw inspiration from Europe's shared values regarding the protection of the rule of law, human rights and democracy, to define the role of the Council of Europe in the new international institutional framework.

In 1993, the final Declaration of the 1st Council of Europe Summit expressed the conviction of all Member States that the participation of Young People is essential for creating the cohesive yet diverse Europe necessary to consolidate peace and stability on the continent.

During its 12th Meeting in Budapest, the Joint Council for Youth asked Council of Europe Member States to reaffirm during the Summit and in its final declaration and action plan the political commitment to enabling young people to participate in building peaceful societies based on respect, diversity and inclusion and called for a Europe-wide public campaign of the youth sector to promote human rights and active citizenship, in co-operation with the European Union, with the aim of strengthening participatory democracy, by constructing improved relations between young citizens and public authorities.

On this occasion the European Youth Forum, in cooperation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the Polish Ministry of National Education and Sport will organize the 2nd European Youth Summit, in Warsaw the 15th and the 16th of May 2005. A Youth Declaration will be adopted by the participants in the Youth Summit and presented to the Heads of States and Government at the opening session of the 3rd Summit.

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Directorate of Youth and Sport – DG IV
Council of Europe

67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX
Tel: +33.3.88.41.38.93
Fax: +33.3.90.21.49.64