A variety of well adapted implementation mechanisms

The Council of Europe must present a coherent education programme for the period 2010 – 2014; a programme centred on the overarching principles and priorities of the Council of Europe which draws on a variety of traditional as well as newer mechanisms and working methods in making our vision of education an operational reality.

For the higher education part of the programme, important guidelines are also provided by the ministerial conferences of the Bologna Process.

The Council of Europe education programme will be overseen by the Steering Committees for Education (CDED) and for Higher Education and Research (CDESR). While the two Steering Committees will have specific responsibilities within the programme, based on their respective competences and the role of public and other actors in each area, they will cooperate closely in ensuring overall implementation of the programme in accordance with the Council of Europe’s standards and political priorities. They will also cooperate with other pertinent Council of Europe bodies as well as with other international institutions, public authorities and civil society. Structural and functional arrangements will have to be found to improve coordination with the training activities for young people organised within the Directorate of Youth and Sport.

In addition to our long standing working methods, including conferences, seminars, working groups and expert contributions, the Council of Europe education programme will be implemented through and supported by:

- the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) in Graz, which implements Council of Europe policy in the Enlarged Partial Agreement’s member states through the development and dissemination of best practice and innovation in language education;
- the mechanisms of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, which is a unique instrument for protecting and promoting the linguistic diversity that is a key European asset in an age of globalisation;
- the European Higher Education Area, established in 2010 on the basis of the Bologna process, and which offers the Council of Europe a unique opportunity to further European values and policies in the framework of a broad platform of public authorities, higher education institutions, staff and students and social partners;
- the Council of Europe programme for the training of education professionals (Pestalozzi Programme), which trains education professionals in Council of Europe standards and values and supports all parts of our education programme;
- the European Wergeland Centre in Oslo, which develops education for intercultural understanding, human rights, awareness of democratic culture and the need for intercultural dialogue among professionals in all areas of education.