



PRIORITIES OF THE YOUTH SECTOR OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2009

Preliminary remark:

This document presents the priorities and objectives of the youth sector for 2009 as adopted by the Joint Council on Youth at its meeting in March 2008, in a format which corresponds better to the format of the Council of Europe programme presentation (Projects and expected results).

For 2009, the proposal is to maintain the 2006-2008 priorities and objectives with some adjustments. In view of the suggestion to increase the activities under the work priority "Social cohesion and inclusion of young people" in 2009, some additional changes in the objectives of this work priority have been introduced.

YOUTH PROGRAMME ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Expected Result 1:

Youth organisations and youth workers are further involved and better equipped for working on intercultural dialogue and peaceful transformation of conflicts with a human rights perspective.

Indicative objectives

- To increase the capacity of youth organisations to engage with issues of global solidarity and the peaceful transformation of conflict.
- To promote reflection on the role of Europe in relation to globalisation from a youth point of view and to mainstream a global dimension in the programme of the Directorate of Youth and Sport.
- To develop educational programmes and resources for the promotion of global solidarity and the peaceful transformation of conflicts with a focus on Euro-Mediterranean co-operation.

Expected Result 2:

Inter-religious co-operation in youth work is reinforced and co-operation with other concerned youth partners is reinforced.

Indicative objectives

- To promote inter-religious dialogue among young people and to address the role of religion in young people's lives.
- To review the role of intercultural educational theory and practical approaches in relation to contemporary social realities faced by young people in Europe.
- To develop policy and practical responses to situations of discrimination and intolerance affecting young people, such as racism, Antisemitism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Expected Result 3:

Networks of trainers and multipliers active in promoting human rights with children and young people are consolidated and expanded.

Indicative objectives

- To implement a programme of national and European training courses in Human Rights Education.
- To develop networking between practitioners in the field of Human Rights Education (trainers and multipliers).
- To support exchange and co-operation among actors in the field of Human Rights Education.

Expected Result 4:

Good practices for Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue by young people at local level are supported and promoted.

Indicative objectives

- To provide financial support to pilot projects in Human Rights Education.
- To encourage the exchange of good practice between practitioners and other actors in the fields of Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue.
- To further involve local actors in positions of authority in the promotion of Human Rights Education and Intercultural Dialogue with young people.

Expected Result 5:

The quality of Human Rights Education practice through non-formal learning will be developed and further recognised through agreed standards and guidelines.

Indicative objectives

- To develop and disseminate educational resources for Human Rights Education.
- To promote the role of Human Rights Education with governmental and non-governmental educational institutions in the member states of the Council of Europe.
- to develop quality standards and tools for formal and non-formal education in the field of human rights and citizenship education.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Expected Result 1:

The role of youth NGOs in the development of democratic participation will be promoted and sustained.

Indicative objectives

- To support youth NGOs as spaces for young people to practise active citizenship, and to support their capacity to become more effective and sustainable.
- To support and integrate the development of a viable youth NGO sector in the member states of Eastern and South-East Europe.
- To support the emergence and development of new forms of organisations and networks of vulnerable young people or groups under-represented in society.

Expected Result 2:

Innovative ways and forms of youth participation will be shared and supported.

Indicative objectives

- To support and further develop existing and new forms of youth participation in decision-making, especially with young people who have less access to decision-making structures.
- To promote public youth policies in the member states that enable effective participation of young people in decision-making.
- To enhance the participation of young people from minority background and to ensure appropriate follow up to the recommendation on the promotion of the participation of minority youth.

Expected Result 3:

Youth workers develop projects for European Citizenship through the Youth Partnership with the European Commission.

Indicative objectives

- To empower young people to become active citizens and to actively participate in democratic institutions and processes.
- To train youth leaders and youth workers to act as multipliers in projects for European citizenship through the partnership with the European Commission in the field of youth.
- To further develop concrete ways to implement the Council of Europe's revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life.

SOCIAL COHESION AND INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Expected Result 1:

The access of young people to working life and to social rights is facilitated.

Indicative objectives

- To further make youth workers and policy actors aware of the social dimension and its values in our European societies, and to increase their capacity to develop responses to challenges in this respect.
- To further explore responses to the challenges of youth employment, including the transition from school to work, greater access for women, migrants, minorities and people with disabilities.
- To further develop non-formal education and its recognition, as a means to increase the possibilities for young people, and give equal opportunities to young women and men to access working life, and to promote the integration of non-formal education/learning in the life-long learning agenda.
- To foster equal opportunities for all, especially those at risk of exclusion, by providing exchange of knowledge and practice and by supporting the development of a sense of solidarity.
- To develop tools which can empower young people to gain greater knowledge and access to their social rights.

Expected result 2:

Youth policy and youth work responses to violence will be developed and disseminated.

Indicative objectives

- To disseminate the recommendations of the 7th Conference of European Ministers responsible for youth "Human dignity and social cohesion: youth policy responses to violence", and support their implementation.
- To empower young people to be actors in violence prevention.
- To develop the capacity of youth organisations and multipliers to address gender-based violence affecting children and young people.

YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Expected Result 1:

Standards for youth policy development (in connection with Child policies) in the member states and in the Council of Europe will be further implemented and developed.

Indicative objectives

- To provide governments with advice and assistance for the development of their national youth policy and to stimulate co-operation between civil society and public authorities in youth policy development.
- To improve co-ordination of child and youth policies within the Council of Europe and the member states.
- To develop tools for data and information sharing about young people.

Expected Result 2:

The recognition of non-formal learning and youth work is further promoted.

Indicative objective:

- To promote the use of the Council of Europe European portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers as a tool for the recognition of non-formal education.

Expected Result 3:

Knowledge on the situation of young people in Europe is produced, made available and used by researchers and youth policy institutions.

Indicative objectives

- To create and develop technical and analytical tools for understanding the situation of young people in the member states.
- To promote exchange and co-operation among researchers on youth.
- To further promote needs and research-based youth policies and programmes.

Expected Result 4:

The quality of European youth work and non-formal education will be further sustained and developed through specific standards and activities.

Indicative objectives

- To identify and develop innovative approaches to youth worker training.
- To review and update the required competences for youth training in Europe and develop the DYS trainers' pool.
- To support the quality of the programme of youth activities of the Council of Europe and to develop standards for its evaluation and consolidation.
- To increase the visibility, transparency and accessibility of the programme of activities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.
- To further support and promote the recognition of youth work across Europe.