



МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ,
МОЛОДІ ТА СПОРТУ УКРАЇНИ



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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High level Education Forum on

Education Systems in Europe in the 21st Century

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The high-level representatives from Ministers of Education from the contracting states parties to the European Cultural Convention met in Kyiv on 22 – 23 September 2011 to reflect on the challenges facing our societies in the 21st century and the role of education in maintaining and advancing sustainable democratic societies in Europe.

Participants **recognise** that numerous challenges are facing societies in the 21st century, which education must address. These include extending and deepening democratisation globally; enhancing the role and the contribution of civil society; fostering sustainability and engaging with cultural diversity in multicultural societies.

Participants **affirm** that education for a Europe of knowledge ensures sustainable democratic societies and largely contributes to the well-being of all citizens. Furthermore, they pledge to strengthen the role of education in society.

Participants **promote** tolerance and human rights; they stress the need to enhance intercultural dialogue through education, while strongly condemning the atrocities of terrorism. Educational strategies to this aim should rely on dialogue.

Participants **support** the Council of Europe work in the field of education seen by the various important texts and instruments adopted and therefore **emphasise** the need to further strengthen the education programme as a key element in the Council of Europe political mission.

Participants **support** the establishment of a common European education area, which encompasses universities and schools and which will be founded upon social inclusion, personal development and employability. To this end, they advocate closer co-operation among all stakeholders represented within the Council of Europe. Educational systems should be fully accountable to citizens.

Participants **endorse** the benefits of a multi-purpose lifelong learning. They stress that qualifications should be based on the mastery of transversal competences. Teacher education should equip teachers with the skills needed for this new methodology.

Participants **support** education reforms inspired by European standards and best practices, focusing on teacher education for multiculturalism and language and history teaching.

Participants **welcome** the regional meeting on the European Higher Education Area held in parallel at this Forum. They support the idea to organise regular regional meetings on this subject in order to share national experiences and good practices in the development and implementation of national qualifications frameworks compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the European Higher Education Area as well as the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.

Participants **call** upon all member states of the Council of Europe and the European Union, as well as other international organisations, to support and contribute to the development and implementation of projects on intercultural dialogue and the enhancement of cultural diversity involving vocational and general education and training, and higher education.