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**LOCALISING HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION  
THROUGH PARTICIPATION AND AGENCY OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**ROADMAP**  
for Education for Democratic Citizenship  
and Human Rights Education with young people; 2024-2028

Adopted by the Joint Council on Youth at its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting



LEARNING EQUALITY,  
LIVING DIGNITY.

## Background

The [Human Rights Education \(HRE\) Youth programme](#) is commonly used to refer to the range of activities of the Council of Europe's youth sector which contribute to mainstreaming human rights education in youth policy and youth work. The programme was originally launched in 2000 on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The HRE Youth Programme has now been integrated in the Youth for Democracy programme, priority 2: *Young people's access to rights*, and is the youth sector's main contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) (EDC/HRE). The Charter, adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2010, recognises the important role of non-governmental youth organisations and youth work in providing and promoting EDC/HRE through non-formal education.

The HRE Youth programme is based on three inter-connected measures which are reflected in the annual programme of activities:

- the development and provision of resources for human rights education through non-formal learning, chiefly [Compass](#), the manual for human rights education with young people, and [Compasito](#), the manual for human rights education with children;
- capacity-building of trainers and multipliers in human rights education, notably the Training of Trainers in Human Rights Education course (TOTHRE) held at the European Youth Centre Budapest since 2002;
- support to youth-led national activities for multipliers in human rights education, through the programme of Compass national training courses on human rights education.

These are complemented by other Youth for Democracy activities, such as study sessions held at the European Youth Centres.

In 2022, the Youth Department, in co-operation with the Education Department, concluded the [Third review of the Charter's implementation](#). The results were presented and discussed at the [Forum on the Present and Future of Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#), organised in Turin in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

The Joint Council on Youth decided to organise a Consultative Meeting *Asserting Human Rights Education Today* on 23 and 24 May 2023 in Strasbourg with three main objectives:

- to reflect and analyse the results, conclusions and recommendations of the 3rd Review process of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and of the Forum on the Present and Future of Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Europe with Young People while taking into account the results of the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe;
- to make proposals for follow-up for the Council of Europe's work in the field of EDC/HRE for next 5 years and connect them to priorities and programme of the Youth and Education departments of the Council of Europe;
- to discuss ways to renew the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, as one of the ways to further action at national and international level to improve the provision and quality of citizenship human rights education in member states.

The full report of the meeting is available [here](#). As requested by the Joint Council on Youth, the meeting resulted also in a roadmap for prioritising action for citizenship and human rights education.

This roadmap was adopted by the Joint Council on Youth at its 49<sup>th</sup> meeting (24-25 October 2023).

## Roadmap for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education with young people, 2024-2028

The roadmap is based on the outcomes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> review of the Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE, the conclusions of the Turin Forum on the Present and Future of Citizenship and Human Rights Education as reviewed by the Consultative Meeting, taking into account the outcomes of the Reykjavik Summit. It takes specific account of the role of the partners of the youth sector, both governmental and non-governmental, while recognising and stressing the importance of close co-operation with actors from the formal education sector, especially at national and local levels.

The roadmap considers the localisation of human rights education as the most important priority, allowing more young people to benefit from, and contribute to, the core values of the Council of Europe. The active participation and agency of young people and youth organisations in providing and imparting human rights education is the distinctive feature of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme and must be further promoted.

### 1. At the level of the Council of Europe

- 1.1. Systematically advocate for HRE as a priority and a necessary feature in education and training activities with young people and youth workers, especially at the local and regional levels in member states, notably within country action plans;
- 1.2. Develop a baseline standards curriculum for HRE training and capacity-building courses that can be used in every member state, with a concern to make it relevant/adaptable for the local contexts while including “non-negotiable” issues, such as gender equality, pluralism, abolition of the death penalty, the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, inclusion and non-discrimination;
- 1.3. Review Compass and other education resources to include or extend critical issues such as migration, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, climate crisis and justice in pedagogical processes, and make use of the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights for educational purposes;
- 1.4. Develop and strengthen the platforms to protect and defend human rights educators and teachers, in view of the growing obstacles to HRE and threats they face, in particular on “unpopular issues”, including providing visas and other protection mechanisms;
- 1.5. Carry out regular forums or platforms to share experiences and favour networking among HRE practitioners, activists and educational professionals;
- 1.6. Strengthen advocacy efforts with local and regional authorities to develop EDC/HRE youth action plans for municipalities that include educational activities for young people and strengthen local youth councils’ activities for EDC/HRE; co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may bring added value to the outcomes;
- 1.7. Encourage and support translations of EDC/HRE educational materials, such as Compass and Compasito, into national languages, especially minority languages and improve their accessibility to all young people;
- 1.8. Continue the course training of trainers in human rights education with young people on an annual basis;
- 1.9. Continue co-operation with Amnesty International and other partners to advocate for the provision and quality of HRE at European level;
- 1.10. Support and encourage national, regional, and local EDC/HRE educational activities for multipliers (e.g., trainers, youth workers, youth leaders) in member states;

- 1.11. Include activists from the Russian Federation and Belarus and other countries facing severe democratic backsliding in activities for democracy and human rights.

## **2. At the level of member states**

- 2.1. Include human rights education in the curricula and programme of education and training activities for youth leaders and youth workers;
- 2.2. Support evidence-based research on the challenges in EDC/HRE that should be addressed at the national and local levels;
- 2.3. Initiate or support translation and dissemination of educational resources for EDC/HRE into national languages, including minority languages;
- 2.4. Support networking amongst the different EDC/HRE stakeholders, especially between formal and non-formal education sectors;
- 2.5. Encourage and support youth centres and youth councils to deliver and facilitate EDC/HRE;
- 2.6. Support and encourage national, regional, and local EDC/HRE educational activities for multipliers (e.g., trainers, youth workers, youth leaders);
- 2.7. Contribute to the periodical reviews of the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter.

## **3. Youth and other civil society organisations**

- 3.1. Strengthen or continue advocacy for HRE in the member states, in both formal and non-formal education;
- 3.2. Play an active role in monitoring and reporting on implementation of EDC/HRE;
- 3.3. Integrate EDC/HRE in their education and training activities with young people and contribute to the quality and provision of EDC to children and young people;
- 3.4. Initiate or take part in activities and processes associating formal and non-formal education actors at national level;
- 3.5. Innovate through co-operation with other spaces not traditionally used for the implementation of EDC/HRE educational activities with young people, e.g., theatres, museums, and sports settings;
- 3.6. Promote EDC/HRE through the engagement of famous people and influencers to become EDC/HRE ambassadors.