

# Welcome to COYOTE number 15!

**It has been a while coming so please accept our apologies for the delay. The theme is Social Cohesion, and tempted as I am, I will not try to define the term here – there are plenty in the articles included in this issue.**

What is clear is that Social Cohesion is inextricably linked with Social Inclusion – you can't have one without the other. I quite like the term: Yes it is complex and yes it might sound like a piece of policy jargon, but it has the advantage of being forward looking.

John Whitmore, in his book “Coaching for Performance”, talks about setting goals which are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed) – that is nothing new to many of us, but he also talks about goals which are PURE (Positively stated, Understandable, Relevant and Ethical). Social Cohesion has that sense of being positively stated – it's a fight FOR something not against it; it's about building something valuable and worthwhile.

The political commitment to this concept is demonstrated in the Institutional Perspectives at the front of the magazine: We then have several different perspectives on the issue and the complexity of the challenge starts to emerge. Social Cohesion is not straightforward and therefore the routes towards it will never be simple. One size - certainly does not fit all as demonstrated by our two contrasting examples of good practice.

The “Wide Angle” section of the magazine also contains articles which are relevant to Social Cohesion. Des Burke gives a practical challenge to make sure that young people are safe when they engage in activities designed to encourage social cohesion and Rita Bergstein helps us to make connections between non formal learning and that essential part of the glue of social cohesion – employment.

As usual, I have learned a lot during the production of this issue of Coyote, so my thanks go out to those who have contributed. When we started, Florian Cescon was responsible for coordination of the magazine within the Partnership. He has now moved on elsewhere in the Council of Europe but we send thanks for his efforts in the previous few issues. Florian has handed over the baton to Marta Medlinska, who is no stranger to the Magazine or the issues we cover - welcome Marta!

Having waited too long for this issue of Coyote, you will be pleased to know that you can expect two more in the year. (It is a regular frustrating experience for some, to wait a long time for a bus, only to see two arrive at once - or is this just a UK thing?!). As part of the Belgian Presidency of the EU, a Youth Work Convention will be held in Ghent in July (see [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net) for news!). Coyote Extra will form a pre-convention issue and number 16 will be a post convention issue. In Coyote Extra we will help to explore the agenda for the Convention – and as with all issues, aim to get people thinking. In number 16 we will be bringing some flavours and perhaps some conclusions. We will be trying some new styles and some new approaches – so don't expect the next issues to be the same as before. Even if you are not attending the Convention you can be sure there will be something of relevance for you. ■

Enjoy your reading!

*Jonathan Bowyer*



Contact:



[youth-partnership@coe.int](mailto:youth-partnership@coe.int)

