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Budapest, 21 September 2007

Evaluation and follow-up meeting of sub-regional training courses for trainers in human rights education in Arabic

Swedish Institute in Alexandria, Egypt,
29-31 October 2007



Presentation and Draft Programme

A “Compass” for human rights education

Human rights education (HRE) – understood as educational programmes and activities that focus on promoting equality in human dignity – is of incalculable value in the shaping of a global dimension of citizenship meaningful to all young people. Those involved in non-formal education in youth work should also consider the evolution, practice and challenges of human rights, with regard to their universality, indivisibility and inalienability, and what they mean to the lives of young people of today.

The Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe has acquired an undisputed reputation for and expertise in developing educational approaches and materials suitable to both formal and non-formal contexts as well as to different cultural environments (see, e.g., www.coe.int/compass) For the youth partners of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, human rights education has provided the background and values for their projects and activities while being a constant, though not explicit, element in what they do. Today, in view of events that threaten the foundations of a culture of peace and human rights, a more visible, explicit and conscious approach to human rights education is required and needed.

With this in mind, the Directorate of Youth and Sport has produced COMPASS - a manual on human rights education with young people. COMPASS presents background concepts essential to human rights education as well as practical activities and methods for use in both formal and non-formal education contexts. Building on accumulated experience of non-formal education and youth work, the manual is based on learner-centred approaches and provides a framework for developing young people’s skills, competencies and attitudes related to human rights education. Compass is now available in 24 languages, including Arabic.

Training for HRE in the Euro-Mediterranean work of the Partnership on youth

The Euro-Med co-operation between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries signatory of the Barcelona process, was initiated in order to, among other things, promote greater understanding and co-operation among the peoples of Europe and the Mediterranean area. This co-operation is based on mutual respect, democracy, human rights and intercultural exchange. It can not be pursued without a strong emphasis on human rights and intercultural learning with and for young people.

Recognising the potential of human rights education, the new Partnership on Youth between the European Commission and the Council of Europe has, among others, a specific objective of promoting human rights education, intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity. The activities carried out so far in the framework of the Partnership confirm the opportunity and the need to deepen practices of human rights education as an open educational approach valid and relevant to all the partners in Euro-Med projects.

The publication of ITTIJAHAT - the Arabic version of Compass - by the Council of Europe provided an opportunity to enlarge the circle and scope of human rights education while allowing to reach new target groups and organisations.

The role of Compass as a catalyser of human rights and human rights education activists depends on the existence of trainers and educators at national level who will be able to use it and train other people to use it and disseminate it. The purpose being, obviously, not to “promote” Compass as such, but rather to promote human rights education using Compass as a starting point.

A regional training programme

In order to address different needs and realities of young people and youth organisations, the Council of Europe and the Partnership decided to run three sub-regional training courses in human rights education for Arabic-speaking trainers using Compass as a starting point:

- For the Middle East and Gulf States region (Amman, March 2006), in cooperation with the National Centre for Human Rights (Jordan)
- An Arab-European course for Middle Eastern and European participants (Alexandria, April 2006), in cooperation with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria;
- A Maghreb-European training course held in Fès, Morocco, in May 2007 in cooperation with the Conseil Consultatif pour les Droits de l'Homme and the association Initiatives pour la Protection des Femmes (Morocco).

These three regional courses have involved more 100 trainers and multipliers from over 20 countries. They were held in Arabic, essentially by trainers from the regions concerned and were held in partnership with local/regional human rights organisations.

The Partnership is now proceeding to the evaluation of these courses' results and impact. This evaluation will be used to better assess the value of the courses and to shape the future strategies and priorities of the Partnership in relation to human rights education and intercultural dialogue in the broader Euro-Mediterranean framework.

The evaluation meeting will bring together organisers, trainers and participants involved in the courses. Furthermore, the evaluation includes a consultation with other regional stakeholders in human rights education in view of exchanging experiences and identify possible areas of cooperation.

The meeting is organised in cooperation with and hosted by the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, partner in this process since 2004.

Objectives of the meeting

- To evaluate each course in terms of process, outcomes and impact;
- To review the developments regarding human rights education training in Europe and the Arabic-speaking regions;
- To contribute to defining the future strategy for human rights education and intercultural dialogue by the Partnership Council of Europe-European Commission in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region;
- To prepare recommendations and suggest future actions and partnership for a closer Arab-European cooperation for human rights education with young people.

Methodology and Programme

The meeting will be based on the findings of an evaluation and impact study of the three sub-regional training courses for HRE in Arabic currently under preparation. These findings will be discussed and compared with the experiences of other stakeholders represented at the meeting.

Sharing of experiences and results will naturally be an important part of the meetings programme. It should result in conclusions applicable to the programme of the Partnership and, where adequate and relevant, it should indicate strategies and partnerships for further development on HRE.

The meeting will be based on informal, yet structured, reflections in working groups and general debates in plenary. Guest speakers may be invited to share their experiences and points of view on human rights education.

The programme of the meeting is currently being developed; a final version will be provided at the meeting itself. It is, in any case being organised around the structure outlined below.

Monday, 29 October

09:30 Opening of the meeting

Welcome words by the co-organisers (Swedish Institute in Alexandria and Youth Partnership)

Presentation of the participants and their roles in the programme

10:15 Working groups devoted to the evaluation of each course

Based on the findings of the external evaluator and on their own evaluation reports, the trainers, participants and co-organisers of each course will evaluate:

- The process of preparation of trainers and participants;
- The process of running the course (including team work, competence development [of trainers and participants], methodological aspects [with an emphasis on preparing participants to work on the basis of Compass] and relation trainers-participants organizers;
- The non/achievement of the objectives and the preparation for follow-up by the participants and the co-organisers;
- The impact of the courses on participants and their organisations, including the follow-up they gave to the courses;
- The role of the trainers and co-organisers in the post-course process.
- The administrative issues of the courses.

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Working groups continued

17:30 “Progress report” of the working groups in plenary

18:00 End of the day’ programme

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, 30 October (09:30 -18:00)

09:30 Human rights education: current trends and developments in the Arabic-speaking region, introductory lecture by an Mr Bahey ElDin Hassan, Director of the Cairo Institute of Human Rights

Discussion

10:45 Break

11:15 Finalisation of the conclusions in each working group

12:00 Presentation of the main conclusions and recommendations from each working group

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Presentation of the outcomes and impact of the three courses by Mr Ali Chahoun, consultant, followed by discussion

16:00 Break

- 16:30 Round-table about initiatives, results and challenges by other partners active with human rights education in the region (e.g.: Anna Lindh Foundation, Swedish Institute in Alexandria, League of Arab States, Equitas, etc.)
- 18:15 End of the day's programme

Wednesday, 31 October

- 09:00 The role of the Partnership Council of Europe-European Commission in relation to intercultural dialogue and human rights education, presentation by Rui Gomes, Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport
- 09:30 Follow-up needs and opportunities
- Working groups focusing on:
- Follow-up perspectives by the Council of Europe-European Commission Youth Partnership;
 - Possibilities and needs for cooperation in human rights education among different stakeholders;
 - Recommendations for future activities.
- 11:30 Presentation of the conclusions and proposals of the working groups
- 12:30 Conclusions and evaluation of the meeting
- 13:00 Closing of the meeting

Participants

The meeting will bring together:

- The trainers involved in planning and delivering the three sub-regional training courses;
 - A selected number of participants from each course;
 - The external evaluator of the courses;
 - The co-organisers and national partners for the courses;
 - Representatives of International, regional and national stakeholders in human rights education with young people.
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