



DDCP-YD/ETD (2016) 63 rev2

Strasbourg, 8 July 2016

Seminar
**Social inclusion of refugee students
and their role in intercultural
dialogue**

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg
10-16 July 2016
Room 3.1

A Joint initiative with the *Global Platform for Syrian Students*

In cooperation with *Kiron - Open Higher Education*
and the *Voice of Young Refugees in Europe*

Programme



This activity has received financial support from CIRCOM
(European Association of Regional Television)

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society. In this mission, a specific attention is paid to vulnerable groups of young people, such as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. The Youth for Democracy programme of the Youth Department for 2016-2017 foresees several activities in this domain, including study sessions with youth organisations

Refugee students face various challenges in accessing and affording education, integrating in the social and cultural environments and enjoying their rights to freedom from discrimination, expression or association, to name only a few. The recent influx of refugees from Syria has drawn some attention to the harshness and magnitude of these challenges – and their impact on the academic and living environment of the students.

A variety of initiatives across Europe and beyond have mobilised resources and drew the attention of public opinion to the specific needs that student refugees face. Among them, the *Global Platform for Syrian Students* acts to provide access to higher education in safe haven countries throughout the world to Syrian students affected by the war. Another initiative, *Kiron* - Open Higher Education for Refugees – works to address the 4 main challenges faced by student refugees as identified by the UNHCR: costs, legal matters, capacity and language.

The experiences of these and other initiatives can be utilised to promote the rights of young refugees in general and to advocate for the cause and situation of students in particular. The role of refugee students is also important as mediators and multipliers for intercultural dialogue and in helping other students and academic environments to peacefully overcome tensions and barrier to participation. In social contexts sometimes characterised by growing xenophobia and hostility towards refugees it is important that refugees themselves are leading or directly involved in projects for intercultural dialogue.

For the Council of Europe sector, it is important to reach out to refugee students and to identify ways to advocate for their rights and support their social integration through youth work and youth policy projects based on participation and citizenship.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar will discuss challenges, identify needs and possibilities for the inclusion of refugee students in Europe and support their role as agents in intercultural dialogue. Specific objectives of the seminar are:

- To develop a better understanding of the issues and barriers faced by refugee students in Europe
- To learn from existing experiences and projects and advocate for support to overcome the challenges faced by refugees in accessing education and their social inclusion
- To support refugee students in their role as agents for dialogue and inclusion in their hosting countries and communities
- To identify and propose measures through which youth policy and youth work can support refugee students, notably through Council of Europe youth activities and projects.

The seminar should also result in proposals for consistent follow-up activities and projects by the Council of Europe and its partners regarding refugee students.

PROGRAMME

Sunday, 10 July 2016

Arrival of participants

17:00 Registration of participants and administrative formalities

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Informal welcome evening

Monday, 11 July 2016 – Welcome and Group Building

09:15 Introduction of the participants and context of the Youth Peace Camp

09:40 Opening of the seminar with:

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Marko Grdošić, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth

(Joint session with the participants of the Youth Peace Camp)

10:15 Learning about each other

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Framework of the seminar

- Programme, objectives and expected results
- Methodology and working methods
- Expectations and proposals for the programme

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 Exploring the experiences and realities of the participants

16:30 *Break*

17:00 Issues and barriers to inclusion and participation

18:30 Close

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Informal evening programme

Tuesday, 12 July 2016 – Human Rights and Education

09:00 Opening and review of the day's programme

09:15 Welcome address by **Nawel Rafik-Elmrini**, deputy to the mayor of Strasbourg

Meeting with **Pedro Agramunt**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

(Joint session with the participants of the Youth Peace Camp)

10:00 Instructions for the visit to the European Court of Human Rights

10:20 Leaving to the European Court of Human Rights (walk)

11:00 Human rights in Europe, with visit to the European Court of Human Rights

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 The right to education by refugee students (recognition, fees, language, etc.)

16:00 *Break*

16:30 The right to education by refugee students (concl.)

18:30 Close
19:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 13 July 2016 – Social Inclusion and Participation

09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme
09:45 The role of refugee students Intercultural dialogue and inclusion
11:00 Break
11:30 The role of refugee students Intercultural dialogue and inclusion
13:00 Lunch
14:30 The Council of Europe and Refugees, round-table with
Michelle Lafferty, Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
Penelope Denu, Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly – Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons
Sjur Bergan, Head of the Education Department
Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department
Jean-Claude Lazaro, European Youth Foundation
16:00 Break
16:30 Workshops on practices for inclusion:

- Human Rights Education
- Conflict Transformation
- Communication
- Advocacy
- Non-Formal Education
- Projects supported by the European Youth Foundationm

18:30 Close
19:00 Dinner

Thursday, 14 July 2016 – Free Day (France National Day)

10:00 Bus trip to the Vosges mountains
13:00 Lunch pack/Picnic with the group
(Joint programme with the participants of the Youth Peace Camp)
16:00 Arrival back to Strasbourg
Dinner in town (self-organised)
Street ball and Fireworks in Strasbourg

Friday, 15 July 2016 – Future actions and plans

09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme
09:45 Possibilities for advocacy and action by partners (full list to be confirmed)

- **Sally Metwally**, IT Worx Education
- **Yannick Du Pont**, Spark

- **Dalia Sendra**, *Global Platform for Syrian Students*
- **Tina Tindemans**, *Kiron Open Higher Education*
- **Zibar Huseynova**, *Voice of Young Refugees in Europe*

11:00 Break

11:30 Sharing practices for social inclusion of students and refugees

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Reimbursement of travel expenses and visit of the Council of Europe

15:00 Follow-up projects and initiatives by the participants

16:30 Break

17:00 Conclusions and expectations for future policy and action

18:30 Close

19.00 Dinner

Saturday, 16 July 2016 – Taking Action Together

09:30 Opening and review of the day's programme

09:45 Introduction to hate speech and the No Hate Speech Movement campaign

11:00 Break

11:30 Taking action with the No Hate Speech Movement

(possible joint programme with the participants of the Youth Peace Camp)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Follow-up continued

16:00 Finalising the conclusions document

16:30 Break

17:00 Evaluation

18:00 Close

19:30 Barbecue Dinner

Evening:

Farewell party

Sunday, 17 July 2016

Departure of Participants