



**Regional Summer Academy for South East Europe
Human Rights in Action**

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVENESS

19-26 June Cetinje/ Montenegro

Who can apply

Participants are invited to join the training as a team of three members. Each team consists of school head or deputy and a teacher from the same school; together with a NGO representative or a representative of a parent association. Participants are from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Kosovo*.

Working languages

The training will be held in English. All participants need to have good knowledge of English to be able to participate actively in the training.

How to apply

Please find the online application form here:

<https://theewc.wufoo.com/forms/the-south-east-europe-regional-summer-academy-2016/>

Application deadline

April 11, 2016, 10 am

Selection procedure

The organizers will select 13 teams (39 participants). Final selection will be made based on the following criteria: Geographical balance, sexes, EDC/HRE experiences, motivation and ideas for projects and English skills.

*All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The Regional Summer Academy for South East Europe is a training programme dedicated to building a democratic and inclusive culture in schools in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Kosovo* through strengthening the competences of education professionals and community actors.

The Academy is a great opportunity for school leaders, teachers, NGO and parents' representatives to learn practical tools and strategies on how to create a more inclusive environment for all children through education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and human rights education (HRE).

Since 2012, the South East Europe Regional Summer Academy is organised by the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Education Montenegro, the Bureau for Education Services Montenegro and the European Wergeland Centre, and generously supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Why such a training?

With increasing multicultural and diverse societies, the integration of migrants, refugees as well as other members of minority groups can be a challenge. Both for host communities and migrants and refugees themselves.

In many countries across Europe, anti-immigrant violence, intolerance and hate speech is growing, as pointed out by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) of the CoE in its report 2015.

ECRI expressed grave concern at the current humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean region 'Many thousands of children, women and men are risking their lives, trying to escape various tragic situations in their home countries. This situation has ignited xenophobic attitudes in a number of European states and societies. Until now the great majority of these migrants are hosted in only a few countries of southern Europe. The dignity of all persons is a fundamental value enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. Migration has been part of the common experience of all our countries and our European values have been greatly influenced by this.

The countries of South East Europe have always been characterized by cultural, historical, ethnic and religious diversity. The acceptance of diversity as a richness of living together, respect for

all, combating all forms of violence and discrimination are the basic goals of the development of the societies and their education systems, as well as of their mutual cooperation and cohesion. Faced with the current challenges, the SEE countries are called to fully contribute to the development of the civil society and respect for fundamental human rights.

In this context, education has an important mission to build inclusive societies. In particular, education for democratic citizenship and human rights is a powerful response to all types of intolerance, discrimination, social exclusion and loss of confidence in public institutions. Moreover, they can empower those who are likely to be marginalized.

The work on the "Competence for Democratic Culture Framework" is an important part of CoE's work for inclusive societies, since it assumes that all learners – also those with a majority background – need to develop the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge, which enable them to encounter, respect and interact in a context of diversity. Amidst an increase in refugees to Europe and growing racism, xenophobia and discrimination, this is more than ever a priority.

Schools play a central role as they reach out to all children from an early age. They should be laboratories where all children learn to live and practice democracy, human rights and respect for diversity.

Building inclusive schools through EDC /HRE is about changing education cultures, policies and practices so they respond to a diverse range of learners – e.g. male, female; from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, refugee, migrant and returnee children.

It is also about building a quality education system. Such a quality education system should seek to be as inclusive as possible and quality education should be ensured without discrimination on any ground(1).

By training education professionals and community actors, the Academy aims to build democratic and inclusive school environments, which facilitate a positive and welcoming atmosphere for all children.

The Academy will:

- Enhance the competences of teachers and school heads for engaging with diversity in the classroom and school;
- Support participants to develop school-based EDC/HRE projects which promote a democratic and inclusive school environment for all children;
- Provide a forum to exchange effective practices and experiences for inclusion in schools through EDC/HRE;
- Encourage dialogue and cooperation between a variety of actors in education and participating countries;
- Facilitate the dissemination and use of the CoE Charter for EDC/HRE and CoE materials;
- Strengthen further a network of multipliers in EDC/HRE.

"Quality education provides secure, non-violent and inclusive learning environment in which the rights of all are respected and everyone's participation in decision-making is facilitated and supported."

CoE Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland, 2015

(1) CM Recommendation (2012) 13 on ensuring quality education.

“In only one year, our teachers created a new school governed by the spirit of democracy and human rights. My son is discussing about his rights and responsibilities at home with us!”

Father of a student, Greece 2014



What are key features of the programme ?

1. Expertise and international recognition

The training is offered by organisations and institutions with a long-standing experience in promoting human rights and democracy through education. It promotes CoE policies, and teaching and learning materials which are recognised by education professionals for their usefulness. The training is conducted by a team of trainers with international experiences and from the region.

2. School-community teams

A variety of stakeholders in education have a role to play in creating democratic and inclusive institutions. By bringing together school heads, teachers and community actors, the training strengthens cooperation among them which in turn benefits relations within the school and between school and community.

3. A whole school approach to EDC/ HRE

The Academy promotes a whole school approach to EDC/ HRE which means going beyond the classroom in teaching democracy and human rights. The culture of the school – the atmosphere, the involvement of parents and students in the school life, the governing structure are all ingredients that should reflect values and principles of democracy and human rights.

4. Regional cooperation & dialogue

The training is an opportunity for participants to meet with other educators and community actors from South East Europe, who like them, are motivated to initiate changes in their schools and communities. The training has proven to facilitate dialogue, exchange and collaboration among participants. In a regional context with a history of conflict, this is quite significant.

5. Action orientation

During the training, participants develop an action plan with the support of trainers. The action plan addresses specific challenges faced in their school communities. Based on it, participants involve their colleagues, students and other stakeholders in a local project to initiate positive changes and responses to the challenges identified. The projects are implemented during the school year, and supported online by a trainer.

6. Alumni Network

By taking part in the training, participants are part of an alumni network where they can get in contact with former participants, find up-to-date information and latest publications. The network also offers support for new initiatives, school partnerships across Europe and other opportunities for professional development such as advanced training courses.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The training is composed of the following phases:

Phase 1: Preparation phase online (May/ June)

Phase 2: Residential seminar in Cetinje (19 June to 26 June)

Phase 3: Follow-up online (September 2016 to May 2017)

Venue:

Hotel Grand, Njegoseva 1, Cetinje, Montenegro
Tel: + 382 (0)41 231 651
www.hotelgrand.me

Travel and subsistence expenses - please read carefully!

Travel costs, accommodation, meals and all activities included in the training program are covered or will be reimbursed by the organizers.

Travel and visa reimbursement

For the selected teams, travel expenses to and from Cetinje/ Montenegro, including travel insurance for the stay, will be covered by the Council of Europe. Further information on travel arrangements will follow at a later stage, and will be sent to you by Mr Samir Hećo: samir.heco@coe.int.

Subsistence expenses:

All meals and activities included in the program are covered by the Montenegrin host for all participants.

More information:

You will soon find more information about the SEE Summer Academy “Human Rights in Action” on the EWC web page: www.theewc.org

Certificate of participation

Upon completion of the SEE Summer Academy, all participants will receive a certificate of attendance, signed by the organizers.

CoE tools and materials:

[CoE Charter on EDC/ HRE](#)

[Democratic School Governance](#)

[Living in Democracy](#)

[Compass - A manual for human rights education with young people](#)

[Compassito – A manual on human rights education for children](#)

[Training Pack - Teaching controversial issues](#)

[Bookmarks – Combating hate speech online through human rights education](#)

“Although we don't have refugees yet in my region I often use activities from CoE Compass or the UNHCR lesson modules to promote tolerance and prepare pupils to welcome refugees. After all, we all usually have multicultural classes anyway. I hope that the more we promote positive stances by acting early, the less we will have to deal with intolerance and hate.”

Teacher, professional blog 2016

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(May/ June)**

**Residential seminar in Cetinje
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**Follow-up online
(September 2016 to May 2017)**

Application deadline April 11, 2016

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For further information or questions regarding applications, contact:

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