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## Seminar

# The role of sports associations in promoting active youth participation and enhancing intercultural dialogue

European Youth Centre Strasbourg  
8 – 12 November 2009

**Presentation of the seminar**

**Call for Participants**

## Introduction

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest political organisation, created in 1949 on the basis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Today, the organisation brings together 47 member states; its mission in relation to its core values remains fully relevant, as the purpose of building a more cohesive and united Europe remains a permanent challenge.

Enhancing youth participation has been one of the most important aims of the activities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe for many years now. Developing strategies for active youth participation and analysing factors that both enhance and inhibit it has been the main topic for intercultural training courses such as "TC Charter" and "TC Active Participation".

The final document of the last Council of Europe conference of the Ministers responsible for youth, that was held in Kiev in October 2008, "**The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020**", calls for promoting young people's active youth participation in democratic processes and structures. The participation of young people in public life requires that public life is organised in such a way that it makes a real participation offer and makes participation and involvement possible and enticing. The concept of youth participation needs to be addressed through concrete examples of participation at a local level through increased transparency and through examples of co-management of youth policy, between NGOs and governments. Participation reaches wider than the city council, the region and local structures and politics. It concerns schools and universities, urban environments and even family life. It flourishes in an environment that encourages open and frank interactions and dialogue.

The White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue « Living together as equals in dignity » adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2008 provides good guidelines that can be used by the sports associations that work with young people for the promotion, strengthening and sharing of the fundamental values of the Council of Europe.

Sports associations or youth organisations that use sport as a tool in working with young people have an important role to play in enhancing youth participation and promoting intercultural dialogue. Fighting racism in the sports tournaments, creating equal opportunities for young people to participate in sport events, creating access to sport for young people from very different social backgrounds and working to break the barriers of communication and understanding are just a few examples of objectives many organisations set to contribute to building the culture of human rights. There are many examples of inspiring projects developed and run by and for young people that try to reach these objectives. "Compass – a manual on human rights education with young people", which has been translated into more than 25 languages, has 'sport' as one of the thematic areas young people can explore and learn about in the context of human rights. The Directorate of Youth and Sport has taken many initiatives to address the issues of violence and youth participation in its programme of activities, e.g. during the seminars "Youth against violence", "Youth work with boys and young men to prevent violence" or "Youth work with fan clubs to prevent violence in and around sports arenas".

The Council of Europe has more than 30 years of experience in the field of sport policies. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) provides a platform for

intergovernmental sports co-operation between the public authorities of member states of the EPAS, in addition to encouraging dialogue between public authorities, sports federations and NGOs, with the aim of making sport healthier, fairer and better governed.

The EPAS aims to promote sport and emphasise its positive values through policy and standard setting, monitoring, capacity building, and the exchange of good practice. It uses existing Council of Europe sports standards such as the European Sports Charter, the Code of Sports Ethics, the European Convention on Spectator Violence and the Anti-Doping Convention as a foundation for its own strategies.

The 11th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport organised by EPAS (Athens, December 2008) focused on the topic of ethics and autonomy in sport. The Ministers adopted there three resolutions : 1) Ethics in Sport, 2) Autonomy in Sport and 3) Current political issues on the pan-European co-operation in the area of Sport.

The follow-up activities of this conference are, for example, focused on:

- campaigning activities on combating racism and discrimination in sport
- Belgrade Conference (20-21 October 2009) "Fight against racism and violence through promotion of diversity in sport;
- educational project for young people (intercultural dialogue and fair play in sport);
- the fight against the trafficking of young sports people, corruption, match-fixing;
- revision and promotion of the Code of Sports Ethics

### **Aims and objectives of the seminar**

The main aim of the seminar is to develop strategies and approaches that can be used by youth sport organisations and associations in enhancing youth participation and intercultural dialogue.

The seminar has the following specific objectives:

- to explore the meaning of youth participation and its different forms and to discuss the ways it can be promoted and fostered, particularly through sport;
- to share views and exchange experience related to enhancing youth participation in participants' work realities, both in formal and non-formal educational settings;
- to familiarise participants with the Council of Europe's approaches to youth participation;
- to discuss how the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue developed within the Council of Europe, and other educational tools of the Directorate of Youth and Sport can be put into practice by sport associations;
- to reflect on and discuss how sports associations and youth organisations using sport as a tool to work with young people can promote intercultural dialogue;

- to develop recommendations for the sport associations and the Council of Europe on how sport can be used to enhance youth participation and promote intercultural dialogue;
- to develop a network and possibly plan future cooperation between the participants.

## **Dates and venue**

The seminar will be held from 9 to 11 November 2009 in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The participants should plan to arrive on **8 November** and to depart on **12 November**.

## **Participants**

The seminar will bring together 40 participants.

*All participants should be:*

- youth workers, youth leaders, activists, teachers or volunteers working in youth sport organisations and associations or youth organisations using sport as a tool to work with young people in formal and non-formal education;
- motivated and interested in exploring the concept of youth participation and intercultural dialogue;
- willing to contribute to the contents of the seminar;
- available for the full duration of the seminar;
- able to work in English and/or French;
- residents in one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention
- preferably between 18 – 35 years of age.

## **Working languages**

The seminar will be held in English and French with interpretation.

## **Application procedure and selection of participants**

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at <http://courses.opencontent.it/>.

The preparatory team will select participants on the basis of the profile outlined above, ensuring a balanced group (sex, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed by 25 September 2009 as to whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list.

## **Deadline for applications**

All application forms must be completed by **20 September 2009**.

## **Financial and practical conditions of participation**

### **Travel expenses**

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The travel reimbursement will be made either on the spot in the European Youth Centre or by bank transfer after the event. Only those participants who attend the whole seminar will be entitled to reimbursement of their travel expenses.

### **Accommodation**

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided at the European Youth Centre and paid for by the Council of Europe.

### **Enrolment fee**

An enrolment fee of 40 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

## **Other activities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport**

If you are interested in other activities related to international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond with the requirements of the seminar, please note that the Directorate of Youth and Sport organises several other activities, including study sessions and training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers. Some of these offers are run within a Partnership on Youth, jointly run with the European Commission.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from the Directorate of Youth and Sport and the Partnership sites: <http://www.coe.int/youth> and <http://www.youth-partnership.net>

For the activities organised within the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport, please consult the following web site: <http://www.coe.int/epas>

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