

2019
2009

Better Education for Better Democracies

"One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world." Malala Yousafzai

Europe faces new global challenges such as the rise of populism and radicalism, the refugee crisis and terrorist threats. The increasingly dominant presence of social media in young people's lives and the mainstream use of new technologies in schools offer unexpected challenges to students and teachers alike. These include the questioning of expertise and basic facts, illustrated by terms such as "alternative facts" and "fake news". The Education Department thus focuses its priorities on these challenges.



2019

2018

- Promoting Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship Education in six Eastern partnership countries (three-year joint EU/CoE Programme)
- First national programme to strengthen integrity and combat corruption in higher education in Armenia (three-year, joint EU/CoE Programme)

- Launch of the ETINED Platform promoting Ethics, transparency and integrity in education and working to counter education fraud – Prague
- Intergovernmental Conference: The language dimension in all subjects: equity and quality in education – Strasbourg

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the importance of competences in the language(s) of schooling for equity and quality in education and for educational success

- 3rd Intergovernmental Conference: Quality in the linguistic integration of adult migrants (LIAM): from value to policy and practice – Strasbourg
- High-level conference under the Austrian presidency of the Council of Europe: Quality education and language competences for 21st century society: traditions, challenges, and visions – Graz
- Global Forum on Higher Education for Democratic Innovation – Queen's University Belfast

- Regional inclusive education in South East Europe (three-year, joint EU/CoE Programme)
- Democratic and Inclusive School Culture in Operation (DISCO) launched for all 50 signatories to the Culture Convention and continues today (joint EU/CoE Programme)



- High-Level Conference organised by the Andorran Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers entitled Competences for Democratic Culture and Intercultural Dialogue: A Political Challenge and Values – Andorra la Vella
- Intergovernmental Conference on Quality and inclusion in education: the unique role of languages – Strasbourg

- Conference entitled Human Rights and Democracy in Action – Looking Ahead: The impact of the CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education – Strasbourg
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on ensuring quality education
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the responsibility of public authorities for academic freedom and institutional autonomy

- The Council of Europe co-chairs the work on Structural Reforms within the European Higher Education Area (until 2015)
- Launch of the 4th medium-term programme of the ECML: Learning through languages – Promoting inclusive, plurilingual and intercultural education – Graz

- Generation Democracy on Education for Democratic Citizenship in Turkey (four-year joint EU/CoE programme)
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on validating migrants' skills

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on intercultural dialogue and the image of the other in history teaching
- Global Forum on Reimagining Democratic Societies: A New Era of Personal and Social Responsibility? – University of Oslo



Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Recommendation CM/Rec (2010)7)

- Intergovernmental Policy Forum: The right of learners to quality and equity in education – the role of language and intercultural skills – Geneva
- Launch of the Platform of Resources and References for Plurilingual and Intercultural Education – Strasbourg

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

2009
1999

From East-West integration to North-South co-operation

"I do not like the expression "duty of remembrance". The only "duty" we have is to teach and pass on." Simone Veil

Responding to increasingly multicultural societies, the Council of Europe provided support for better social integration and cohesion, and intercultural understanding through educational and cultural action. Co-operation and capacity-building programmes in Education were launched more broadly to advice newer member states.



- Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)10 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on improving access of migrants and persons of immigrant background to employment

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the use of the CoE Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the promotion of plurilingualism
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on strengthening the integration of children of migrants and of immigrant background

- Launch of the 3rd medium-term programme of the ECML: Empowering language professionals – Graz
- Global Forum on Converging Competences: Diversity, Higher Education, and Sustainable Democracy – Strasbourg

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the public responsibility for higher education and research
- Follow-up intergovernmental Conference: Languages of schooling within a European framework for languages of education: learning, teaching, assessment – Prague

- The Council of Europe co-chairs the work on qualifications frameworks within the European Higher Education Area (until 2012)

- The Responsibility of Higher Education for a Democratic Culture – Strasbourg
- Launch of Project on Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants
- Intergovernmental Conference: Languages of Schooling: towards a Framework for Europe
- Recommendation 1740 (2006) on the place of the mother tongue in school education



- Year of Citizenship through Education
 - The year 2005 was an opportunity for the Council of Europe to put forward all the work that was accomplished on education for democratic citizenship since 1997
 - Many events were organised throughout the year in different member states according to each country's priorities in EDC

2004

2002

2001

2008

2007

2006

2005

- Adoption of the Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee
- Launching Conference of the European Year of Citizenship through Education – Sofia
- Launch of the Council of Europe Higher Education Series – 23 books published by the mid-2019
- Launch of the 2nd medium-term programme of the ECML: Languages for social cohesion – Graz

- Intensive support for education and higher education reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina starts
- Conference on Language Policy: Language, Diversity, Citizenship: Policies for Plurilingualism in Europe

European Year of Languages Campaign (EYL)

- This year-long event had a major impact on public awareness and served as a platform for the launch of strategic projects
- It also served to establish the European Day of Languages, celebrated every year since 2001 on September 26th
- Launch of two flagship instruments for language education: The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the European Language Portfolio (ELP)

- Recommendation Rec(2001)15 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on history teaching in twenty-first-century Europe
- Adoption of the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications and Periods of Study by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee
- Montenegro, Serbia

- Recommendation No. R (2000) 10 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on codes of conduct for public officials
- Launch of the 1st medium-term programme of the ECML

- Council of Europe joins the Bologna Follow-Up Group and becomes a key contributor to the development of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna Process)
- Adoption of the Recommendation on International Access Qualification by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee, at its first meeting following the entry into force of this Convention



- Declaration on the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Council of Europe
 - To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Committee of Ministers adopted a declaration and a programme on education for democratic citizenship. The declaration strengthened the primary purpose of the Council of Europe to promote cultures based on human rights and democracy
- Intergovernmental Conference: Linguistic Diversity for Democratic Citizenship in Europe – Innsbruck

1999
1989

Post Cold War, an Opening to the East

"Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education." Maria Montessori

This period was marked by rapid enlargement of the Council of Europe and by the expansion of programmes through the participation of the new member states from central and eastern Europe. Twenty additional states thus became parties to the European Cultural Convention. It also saw the development of what were to become two Council of Europe flagship initiatives: the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, and Assessment, and the Lisbon Recognition Convention, the sole legal framework for the recognition of qualifications in Europe, developed jointly with UNESCO.

- Recommendation No. R (98) 6 to member states concerning **modern languages**
- Resolution (98) 11 confirming the **continuation of the European Centre for Modern Languages**
- Recommendation No. R (98) 3 to member states on **access to higher education**



- Conference on **Language learning for a new Europe**
- The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region** (Lisbon Recognition Convention) adopted and opened for ratification on 11 April 1997; entered into force with the 5th ratification on 1 February 1999
 - The Lisbon Recognition Convention is a milestone of the work engaged by the Council of Europe shortly after its creation. It aims to facilitate the **recognition of qualifications granted in one state party in another state party to the convention**
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

European Social Charter:

Council of Europe treaty that guarantees **fundamental social and economic rights** as a counterpart to the European Convention on Human Rights, which refers to civil and political rights. It guarantees a broad range of everyday human rights related to employment, housing, health, education, social protection and welfare

- North Macedonia
- Andorra



European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) established in Graz, Austria is responsible for the promotion of innovative approaches to the learning and teaching of languages and to for the implementation of effective language policies

1998

1997

1996

1995

1994



- The Legislative Reform Programme in higher education** is launched to advise newer member states on the reform of their higher education legislation; it is an early example of a co-operation and capacity-building project
- The project on **Access to Higher Education in Europe** was a part of the Council of Europe's regular work programme in education and culture, within the European Cultural Convention
- Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia

- Bulgaria, Romania, Russian Federation
- Czech Republic, Slovak Republic

1993

1992

1991

1990

1989
1979

Building on Successes

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

In the years leading to the end of the Cold War, the Education programme deepened the projects previously launched and focused its education policy on the integration of migrants through language education and adult education.



1989

1986

1982

1981

1979

Modernisation and Recovering from Recession

"It's a universal law – intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility." Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Following the political and cultural changes around 1968 and the 1973 economic recession, the Council of Europe focused on developing common grounds in education and giving more importance to youth and the media. Adult and migrant education was an early focus, as a response to the successive waves of labour migrations from eastern and southern Europe and according to the principle of lifelong learning.

- European Convention on the Legal Status of Migrant Workers** concerned with the principal aspects of the legal situation of migrant workers

- Portugal
- Finland

- Resolution (69) 2 adopted by the Ministers' Deputies on an **Intensified Modern Language Teaching Programme For Europe**
- Launch of a **scholarship system for teachers** initiated by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the German authorities
- Cyprus

1979
1969

The First Years: "Reconciliation"

"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Winston Churchill

From the very beginning, intergovernmental co-operation in the field of education was an important goal for the Council of Europe. This was confirmed with the 1954 European Cultural Convention, which provided the basis for the Council of Europe's Education programme. In many cases, newer member states also acceded to the European Cultural Convention before becoming members of the Council of Europe; this was particularly the case with the countries acceding after 1990.

1977

1976

1970

1969

- European Convention on the Academic Recognition of University Qualifications** (ETS No. 32)
- 1st session of the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education – The Hague

- Austria, Sweden

- First Intergovernmental Conference on **European Co-operation in Language Teaching**
- Italy, Spain, Turkey

1969
1959

"Mutual Knowledge and Recognition"

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." Martin Luther King

Shortly after the ratification of the European Cultural Convention, this decade saw the launch of the first operational education policy programmes. Most notably the idea of the necessity of language learning was present from the outset in the Council of Europe's work.



1966

1964

1963

1962

1961

1960

- Hungary, Poland

- San Marino

- Recommendation No. R (82) 18 of the Committee of Ministers to the member states concerning **modern languages**

- Launch of the **Language learning and teaching for communication programme**

- Liechtenstein

European Cultural Convention

A key text that has remained the Education Department's lodestone for over 60 years:

- encourage the study, by its own nationals, of the languages, history and civilisation of the other contracting parties and grant facilities to those parties to promote such studies in its territory; and
- endeavour to promote the study of its language or languages, history and civilisation in the territory of the other contracting parties and grant facilities to the nationals of those Parties to pursue such studies in its territory

- European Convention on the Equivalence of Diplomas leading to Admission to Universities** (ETS No. 15)
- First conference on the European Idea in History Teaching** – Calw (Germany)
 - Early aim of the Council of Europe to **eliminate stereotypes and prejudice from history teaching**

- Resolution (52) 17 on **history and geography textbooks**



Creation of the Council of Europe