

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



**28 January**  
**Data Protection Day:**  
**guaranteeing individuals'**  
**privacy rights**

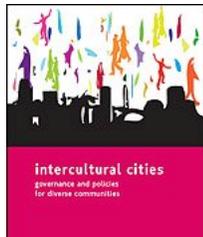
The annual Data Protection Day aims to give people the chance to understand what personal data is collected and processed about them and why, and what their rights are with respect to this processing.

### **Council of Europe action on data protection**

Convention 108 of the Council of Europe was opened for signature in 1981. The Convention defines a series of universally recognised core principles and legally binding standards.

### **The EU's 1995 Data Protection Directive**

On 4 November 2010, the Commission set out a strategy to strengthen EU data protection rules. This policy review will be used by the Commission with the results of a public consultation to revise the EU's 1995 Data Protection Directive. The right to the protection of personal data is explicitly recognised in Article 8 of the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights and in the Lisbon Treaty.



**CoE: Intercultural cities -**  
**Call for expressions of**  
**interest**

Intercultural cities began in 2008 as a pilot action seeking to conceptualise and operationalise the practical dimension of local integration policies. Intercultural cities are calling for experts who wish to be involved in the programme's second phase, beginning in 2011.

Deadline for applications: 4 February 2011

Further information (including selection criteria and procedure, financial conditions and application form) you can find here:

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/cities/experts\\_call\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/cities/experts_call_en.asp)



**PACE: Reinforced**  
**protection of the rights of**  
**migrant women**

Participants at a round table on the rights of migrant women, organised by the PACE Migration Committee in

Paris 08 December 2010, have called for reinforced protection through legal means and improved practices.

Participants said it was crucial to provide migrant women, who may be victims of trafficking, but also of discrimination, abuse, exploitation and violence with access to the legal and judicial system.

Migrant women entering Council of Europe member states should be granted an independent and autonomous right of legal residence as well as the right to a work permit independently of their family situation. Migrant women should also have full access to their fundamental rights, including to healthcare and education, fair working conditions, exposure to and ability to report violence and exploitation.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



**European Year of**  
**Volunteering**

The EU has designated 2011 as the "European Year of Volunteering". The EU will use the Year to work towards four main objectives: to create an enabling and facilitating environment for volunteering in the EU; to empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering; to reward and recognise volunteering activities; and to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

<http://europa.eu/volunteering/en/home2>



**Keeping kids in school**

Today, some six million young people drop out of school each year – about 14% of all pupils. They are more likely to end up unemployed, poor or otherwise marginalized.

Early school leavers are broadly defined as 18 to 24 year-olds who have left school with a lower secondary education or less.

The EU's plan for tackling early school leaving aims to reduce the average drop-out rate to below 10% by 2020. The plan focuses on three areas:

**Prevention.** Equal access to high-quality early childhood education should be improved.

**Intervention.** Warning signs such as truancy or poor performance should be met with tutoring or mentoring support, and cooperation with parents should be stepped up.

**Compensation.** Students who drop out should be given the chance to gain the qualifications they miss out on at a later stage.