



### COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



#### Safer Internet Day

"The well-being and best interests of children on the Internet are of paramount importance for the Council of Europe. We believe that every effort should be made to protect and preserve their dignity, physical and moral integrity, security and privacy in online environments," stated on 10 February Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio. On the occasion of the Safer Internet Day, the Council of Europe launches a new online third edition of The Internet Literacy Handbook.



#### European Commission against Racism and Intolerance releases three new reports

Eva Smith Asmussen, Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), announced on 24 February the release of three new reports examining racism in Bulgaria, Hungary and Norway. ECRI underlines that positive developments have occurred in all three of these Council of Europe member states. At the same time, however, the reports detail continuing grounds for concern for ECRI:

In Bulgaria, the legal and institutional framework against racism and discrimination has been strengthened. However, some anti-racism or anti-discrimination legal provisions are rarely applied, the situation of Roma and asylum seekers remains worrying.

In Hungary, a variety of measures have been taken to improve the integration of disadvantaged individuals, including Roma, and steps have been taken to improve the situation of asylum seekers. However, the recent rise in racist and xenophobic discourse in Hungarian society is worrying, as is the continuing disadvantage experienced by Roma in every field of daily life. Negative stereotypes also remain with respect to migrants and asylum seekers.

In Norway, the legal and institutional framework against racism and discrimination has been strengthened. However, the situation of persons of immigrant background remains worrying in sectors such as employment and school education, as well as the situation of Roma and Romani/Tatars.

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



#### 2008 Hate Crimes Report - submission of information

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is now preparing the 2008 annual report on hate crimes which

provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes as well as of legislative responses to combat hate crimes.

The report also identifies patterns pertaining to hate crimes and presents information on measures implemented by governments to respond to this phenomenon.

You are invited to submit information for the 2008 annual report. Please note that the attached document describes the process in which the report is developed .

Please note that following items are most relevant :

1. Information on hate crimes (please refer to the ODIHR working definition of hate crime) and responses of governments, civil society and specialized bodies;
2. Information on the presence of hate-motivated discourse, including pattern related to incitement of hatred on the internet, hate speech in political discourse and responses of public authorities to such occurrences;
3. Information on the application of relevant hate crime legislation, adoption or amendment of the hate crime legislation or the initiative to endorse such legislation;
4. Statistical information on any of the points listed above and information on existing trends in relation to hate crimes in 2008.

Information submitted on individual hate crimes and the presence of hate-motivated discourse should be, to the greatest possible extent, brief and concise and should include the data on:

The type of incident (brief description);

The victim(s)

Information on the perpetrator;

Response of the government, law enforcement or any other public body;

Any other relevant information.

The ODIHR is aware that submission of individual cases can be lengthy and time-consuming.

Information should be submitted not later than **13 March 2009**

to the email address: [tndinfo@odhr.pl](mailto:tndinfo@odhr.pl)

indicating in the subject line "HC Report 2008 \_ NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION".



#### What is your experience in working on/with the most vulnerable groups of migrants?

The European Youth Forum is collecting good practices and experiences of civil society organisations working with the most vulnerable groups of migrants, in view of developing its work focusing on migrant youth. To this aim, it invites civil society organisations to fill in a short survey.

**Deadline 29 March 2009**

[http://youth-partnership.coe.int/youth-partnership/news/news\\_72.html](http://youth-partnership.coe.int/youth-partnership/news/news_72.html)