E-NEWSLETTER

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

Laws and policies on prostitution are indispensable anti-trafficking tools

Strasbourg, 08.04.2014 - With 84% of trafficking victims in Europe subjected to sexual exploitation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has pinpointed legislation and policies on prostitution as indispensable anti-trafficking tools, given the obvious close link between trafficking in human beings and prostitution. The parliamentarians acknowledge that it is difficult, though, to propose a single model of prostitution regulations that would fit all member States. The resolution adopted today points out that, depending on the countries, prostitution legislation and policies range from legalisation to criminalisation, with a number of systems combining the two approaches to varying degrees. But, following the conclusions of the rapporteur, José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD), the Assembly stated that criminalising the purchase of sexual services, based on the Swedish model, appears as the most effective tool for combating trafficking in human beings.

Discrimination is "alive and well"

On 10 April the French national statistics institute INSEE published a compilation of 11 different studies measuring the influence of gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation and health status on inequalities in different areas of society. The interesting conclusions that can be drawn from this research include the existence of striking differences in treatment that can't be explained by other factors than discrimination, in areas such as access to social housing, employment and education. The general conclusion which is drawn is that the white, heterosexual male aged 30-50 remains privileged compared to all other groups of people in today's society.

These data corroborate previous findings of the European Network of Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field, such as for instance those of the recent thematic report Discrimination in housing, authored by Nicolas Bernard and Julie Ringelheim in 2013. It also demonstrates the importance of having relevant equality data to be able to prove the existence of discrimination, and to raise an effective fight against it. This is the main aim of the Equality Data Initiative of the Open Society Foundations, MPG and ENAR, which focuses on equality data collection in seven European countries, including France.

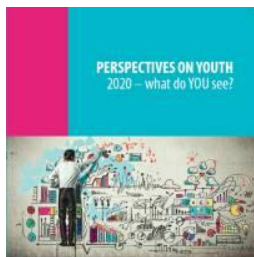## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS

Participate online in the European Youth Event

The EYE 2014 will include a large variety of activities run under the motto "Ideas for a better Europe" in a political, social and cultural sense. Activities will focus on five main themes: youth unemployment, digital revolution, future of the European Union, sustainability and European Values.

During the EYE2014 event, the Council of Europe will present its campaign, which will kick off the debate on human rights on the internet. In the YO! Village outside the Parliament's buildings, the Council will showcase its Living Library. This involves 25 people who have been a victim of discrimination talking about their experiences and how it has affected their lives.

Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation is nothing new on the web, it happens every day, and the consequences are serious. A Eurobarometer study shows that cyber bullying among children and teens can affect their school performance and often leads to depression or even suicidal tendencies among the victims. For instance, in Belgium more than a third of all teenagers claim to have been victims of cyber-bullying at least once.
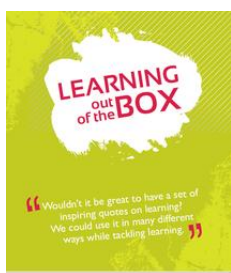
Perspectives on youth. Issue #1 now available!

The issue # 1 of the "Perspectives on youth" entitled "2020-What do YOU see? " is now available in English!

Perspectives on youth is a new series on youth policy, research and practice supported by the EU-CoE youth partnership, moving forward debates on youth and having a European/ international relevance. The series include research articles, well-founded essays, or opinion pieces. It aims to function as an information, discussion, reflection and dialogue forum on European developments in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

Download here.

Learning out of the Box – a new card game on learning

Learning out of the Box is a card game based on the use of quotes, created for youth workers, mentors, coaches and trainers. It is intended to be used as a tool to help addressing the topic of 'learning' in a fun, engaging and inspiring way in their activities.

Link to download the online version of the game: https://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/downloads/learning-out-of-the-box/

The "Europe for Citizens" funding programme for the period 2014-2020 is adopted!

Today, the Council of the European Union has unanimously adopted the Regulation setting up the 'Europe for Citizens' programme for the period 2014-2020.

The "Europe for Citizens" funding programme for the period 2014-2020 is adopted!

"European Remembrance": This strand of the programme focusses on Europe as a peace project. We must keep the memories of the past alive while we build the future. The programme will support initiatives which reflect on the causes of the totalitarian regimes that blighted Europe's modern history, look at its other defining moments and reference points, and consider different historical perspectives. Remembering the lessons of the past is a pre-requisite for building a brighter future.

"Democratic engagement and civic participation": This part of the programme aims at strengthening the general public's understanding of how EU policies are shaped today. It also fosters the close involvement of civil society in European policy-making. Citizens' organisations can draw on funding to encourage and develop the responsible, democratic civic engagement of the general public in the processes of European integration.

For more information:

Europe for Citizens Programme websites:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en