



E-NEWSLETTER

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



Gender equality: annual review

To meet gender equality standards across its 47 member states, the Council of Europe has just published an [annual review](#) of its [Gender Equality Strategy](#).

A comprehensive document, the 2014-2017 Gender Equality Strategy has helped member states to narrow the gap between de jure and de facto gender equality, leading to a greater appreciation of the importance of “mainstreaming” gender into work and activities, according to the annual review. One example of success in 2014 includes the entry into force of the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (Istanbul Convention). Already a global reference, the Istanbul Convention is referred to as the “golden standard” by UN Women and received the [2014 Future Policy Vision Award](#). Promoting Council of Europe standards and sharing good practices were made possible by several key events last year, including a conference on media and the image of women and a conference on combatting gender stereotypes in education. Events focusing on equal access of women to justice facilitated implementation of standards as well, according to the review. [\(more...\)](#)



Rights of young people

Young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods must fully enjoy their social rights, says Committee of Ministers.

The [Recommendation](#) adopted by the [Committee of Ministers](#) on 21 January 2015 focuses on such areas as education and training, employment and occupation, health, housing, information and counseling, sports, leisure and culture; efforts towards abolition of the segregation and isolation that negatively affects disadvantaged neighborhoods no matter where they are. The policies should promote participation of these young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods in all matters related to the planning and management of their living environment. The role of non-formal education and youth work, as well as youth workers and youth organizations in the prevention of discrimination, violence and exclusion and the promotion of active citizenship was highlighted.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS

€1bn for youth employment and kicking off Energy Union



The European Commission proposed to make 1 billion euro from the Youth Employment Initiative available as early as this year. This change will increase by up to 30 times the pre-financing Member States receive to boost youth employment - reaching up to 650 000 young people and helping them get into work, faster. [\(more...\)](#)

EUROPEAN YOUTH PORTAL NEWS

Join the writing competition: so similar, so different, so European



Young people from 18 to 25 years old from the EU Member States are invited to write an article of maximum 1,000 words sharing their views on an enlarged European Union. Submit your article until 27 February noon.

Your article should express your views on one or both of the following questions:

- What is your experience in an enlarged European Union?
- How can the enlarged European Union meet the challenges of the future?

[\(more...\)](#)

Apply to compete for the European Charlemagne Youth Prize



Young people from 16 to 30 years old from all EU countries are invited to apply until 23 February with projects that promote the development of a sense of European identity and offer examples of Europeans living together as one community. The [European Charlemagne Youth Prize](#) aims to encourage the development of European consciousness among young people, as well as their participation in European integration projects. Representatives of the 28 national projects selected will be invited to the award ceremony in Aachen, Germany on 12 May 2015. The three best projects receive money prizes and as part of the prize, the three laureates will be invited to visit the European Parliament (in Brussels or in Strasbourg).