

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



**European Day of  
Languages:  
26 September**

Did you know that there are about 225 indigenous languages in Europe? In the whole world there are between 6000 and 7000 languages!

The European Day of Languages was launched in 2001 by the Council of Europe and the European Union to celebrate Europe's linguistic diversity, with its 23 official languages, about 60 regional and minority languages, and more than 175 migrant languages.

Every year all kinds of events and activities are organized all over Europe to celebrate this date. Get a flavor of what will happen this year:

<http://ec.europa.eu/languages/news/pdf/edl-events2012-eac.pdf>

You can find out more about the European Day of Languages here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/languages/orphans/european-day-of-languages\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/languages/orphans/european-day-of-languages_en.htm) and here: <http://edl.ecml.at>

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



**New Chairperson of  
the FRA  
Management Board  
elected**

The FRA Management Board on 27 September elected Maija Sakslin as its new Chairperson and Manfred Nowak as Vice-Chairperson.

Maija Sakslin is Finland's Deputy Parliamentary Ombudsman and an expert in constitutional and EU law.

Manfred Nowak is Professor of International law and Human Rights at Vienna University and Co-Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights.

The FRA Management Board is the agency's planning and monitoring body. It is responsible for adopting the agency's Annual Work Programme, and its Annual Report on fundamental rights in the EU.



**EU Youth Report  
released today calls for  
employment and social  
inclusion to be top  
priority**

The EU Youth Report adopted today calls for youth employment, social inclusion, health and the well-being of young people to be top priorities in Europe's youth policy.

The report, which is produced every three years by the Commission, underlines that the EU and Member States must do more to support young people, who have borne the brunt of the economic crisis.

Youth unemployment in the EU among 15-24-year-olds has increased by 50% since the onset of the crisis, from an average of 15% in February 2008 to 22.5% in July this year. Latest figures released by Eurostat show that highest rates are in Greece (53.8%) and Spain (52.9%). Across the EU, more than 30% of young unemployed have been jobless for more than a year.

For more information and to download the Communication and the Staff Working Documents, go to:

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20120910\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20120910_en.htm)



**European  
Qualifications  
Framework**

**Validation of non-  
formal and informal  
learning**

European countries are increasingly emphasizing the need to recognise the full range of an individual's knowledge, skills and competences – those acquired not only at school, university or other education and training institutions, but also outside the formal system.

This requires new approaches to validate such learning experiences (i.e. identify, document, assess and/or certify), making them usable for further studies or advancement in work. Helping people in this way could also make a contribution to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

This is why the Commission has made a proposal for a Council Recommendation inviting EU governments to establish validation systems by 2015, linked to the European Qualifications Framework, including the possibility to obtain a full or partial qualification on the basis of non-formal or informal learning.

For more informations please see:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/informal\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/informal_en.htm)

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**UNITED Study Session, Strasbourg  
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe  
9 to 15 December 2012**

**Step in! Be Active Against Racist Propaganda  
and Hate Speech Online**

UNITED is organising a special study session at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. The session aims to train 35 young people to recognise and combat hate speech online. It will motivate and enable them to step in when they witness situations where racism, discrimination and hate speech are spread online. Deadline for nomination **15 October 2012 at 24:00** E-mail for information:

[strasbourg@unitedagainstracism.org](mailto:strasbourg@unitedagainstracism.org)