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COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

Prague conference examines the gender dimension of corruption

The Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) is organising a conference in Prague on 13 December to examine – for the first time on a pan-European scale – gender-specific manifestations of corruption in Council of Europe member states.
The two main themes that have emerged so far from research are the differentiated impact of corruption on women and men – women usually being more exposed to various forms of abuse and discrimination, and the relationship between levels of corruption and increasing women´s participation and representation.

The conference "Gender dimensions of corruption", which is organised under the auspices of the President of the Senate and the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, will bring together representatives from GRECO member States, as well as representatives of international organisations and civil society.

Many people with disabilities are being deprived of basic human rights

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland calls on member states to move with greater speed from a medical to a human rights-based approach towards disability.

"Around 15% of the European population has some form of disability. In some member states persons with disabilities are still institutionalised against their wish. Some are deprived of the right to vote. Others are put aside the mainstream society, to attend specialised and segregated schools. Those who do find work are often employed in sheltered workshops without any protection under national labour law provisions.
European society and member states' authorities must safeguard the right of all Europeans to full participation in society and should encourage active citizenship and inclusion from a very early age.

I want all Member States to examine carefully the status of persons with disabilities against the blueprint of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015 and to work with the Council of Europe to ensure that all Europeans can fully enjoy their human rights," Secretary General Jagland said.

National Training Courses for Human Rights Education with Young People

The Council of Europe's Youth Department invites for expressions of interest for training courses to be held in 2014 in accordance with the criteria and priorities outlined below.

Priority criteria

- are organized in co-operation with one or more partner organisations;
- have a clear plan to build or strengthen national networks of organisations and trainers involved human rights education with young people;
- support advocacy for human rights education through the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;
- are being held in countries where newly published translations of COMPASS can be introduced to key multipliers
- are being held in countries where no similar course has been organised in the past five years;
- involve cooperation between the non-formal and formal educational sectors and actors;
- Link with the No Hate Speech Movement campaign.

All expressions of interest must be sent to the Youth Department before **10 January 2013** to dys.nrtc@coe.int.
Further information on Human Rights Education Youth Programme can be found at http://www.coe.int/youth.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS

Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 – 2020

The European legislator has adopted today the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme for the period 2014 – 2020, from which also civil society organisations will be able to benefit.
The Programme will have a budget of 439,473 million Euros aimed at financing actions to promote the rights of European citizens, the principles of non-discrimination and equality between women and men, the right to protection of personal data, the rights of the child and consumers' rights. It will include among the Programme's objectives the prevention and fight against racism, xenophobia and homophobia, the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the protection of victims of violence.
Among others also Civil Society and NGOs will have access to funding. Actions that can be supported include awareness-raining campaigns, training activities (such as workshops and seminars), and collection of data, surveys and cross-border cooperation. The allocation of funds will be organised by the European Commission.