

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



A new human rights education pack

'Rights and freedoms in practice – teaching resources' is a new education pack published by the Council of Europe. Designed for secondary school teachers, it makes both a theoretical and a practical contribution to classroom discussion of human rights with pupils aged 14 to 18.

It provides learners with vital information about the Strasbourg Organisation, the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the way cases are dealt with. Nine worksheets – each focusing on a particular article of the Convention – illustrate the fundamental human rights that a democratic society should ensure. The pack is available on the Council of Europe website in English, French, German, Russian and Turkish:

http://www.coe.int/AboutCoe/media/interface/publications/fiches_dh_en.pdf

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

2012 is the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. A chance for all of us to reflect on how Europeans are living longer and staying healthier than ever before — and to realise the opportunities that represents. Active ageing can give the baby-boom generation and tomorrow's older adults the opportunity to:

- stay in the workforce and share their experience
- keep playing an active role in society
- live as healthy and fulfilling lives as possible.

The European Year seeks to raise awareness of the issues and the best ways of dealing with them. But most of all it seeks to encourage all policymakers and stakeholders to set themselves goals and take action to meet them.

<http://europa.eu/ey2012/>



EU seeks to drive down youth unemployment

The Commission's Youth Opportunities Initiative calls on EU countries to work on preventing early school leaving,

help youngsters develop job-related skills and to make better use of EU funds.

In total, 7.5 million people in the 15-24 age groups are neither in employment nor in education or training. This share has increased from 10.8% in 2008 to 12.8% in 2010 for the EU as a whole. In Bulgaria, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Spain over 14% of the young generation is not in studies (anymore) and not (yet) in employment. The youth unemployment rate (at over 20%) is twice as high as for the whole working population and nearly three times as high as the rate for the adult active population.

To tackle these challenges, Europe needs to propose immediate and effective actions to prevent and tackle the high rates of youth unemployment. The Commission is proposing a Youth Opportunities Initiative, targeting in particular young people who are not in employment, education or training, to combine concrete action by Member States and the EU with the priorities identified in the Europe 2020 strategy.



EU Court rules on transfer of asylum seekers

Court of Justice of the European Union states that asylum seekers may not be transferred to a member country where they risk being subjected to inhuman treatment

EU law does not permit a conclusive presumption that Member States observe the fundamental rights conferred on asylum seekers



Germany plans 'neo-Nazi database'

Germany's cabinet has adopted plans to establish a national database of active neo-Nazis. The move was prompted by the discovery of 10 killings in the eastern city of Jena. Self-styled fascists shot dead nine immigrants and one police officer over a 10-year period.

Only neo-Nazis who have committed violent crimes will be included. Those who express fascist views will not feature.

German Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger said this was the first step in tackling the far-right. She called for a full investigation into the killings and a national debate on crime and security.

There is no national body to track the far-right movement and Germany's 16 states have separate police forces.

While the register will not restrict freedom of speech, it is a crime under German law to praise the Nazi dictatorship of Adolf Hitler.