

46 STATES,  
ONE ORGANISATION...  
...*THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE*

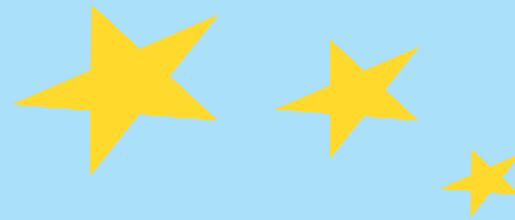
COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
STRASBOURG



# FREEDOM, RESPECT AND JUSTICE KEY VALUES FOR EUROPE

*The Council of Europe, whose goal has always been greater unity between the countries of Europe, was founded on certain basic values – democracy, human rights and the rule of law.*

*Peace and democracy freedom are things we can never take for granted. It is up to today's young people to protect and promote them.*

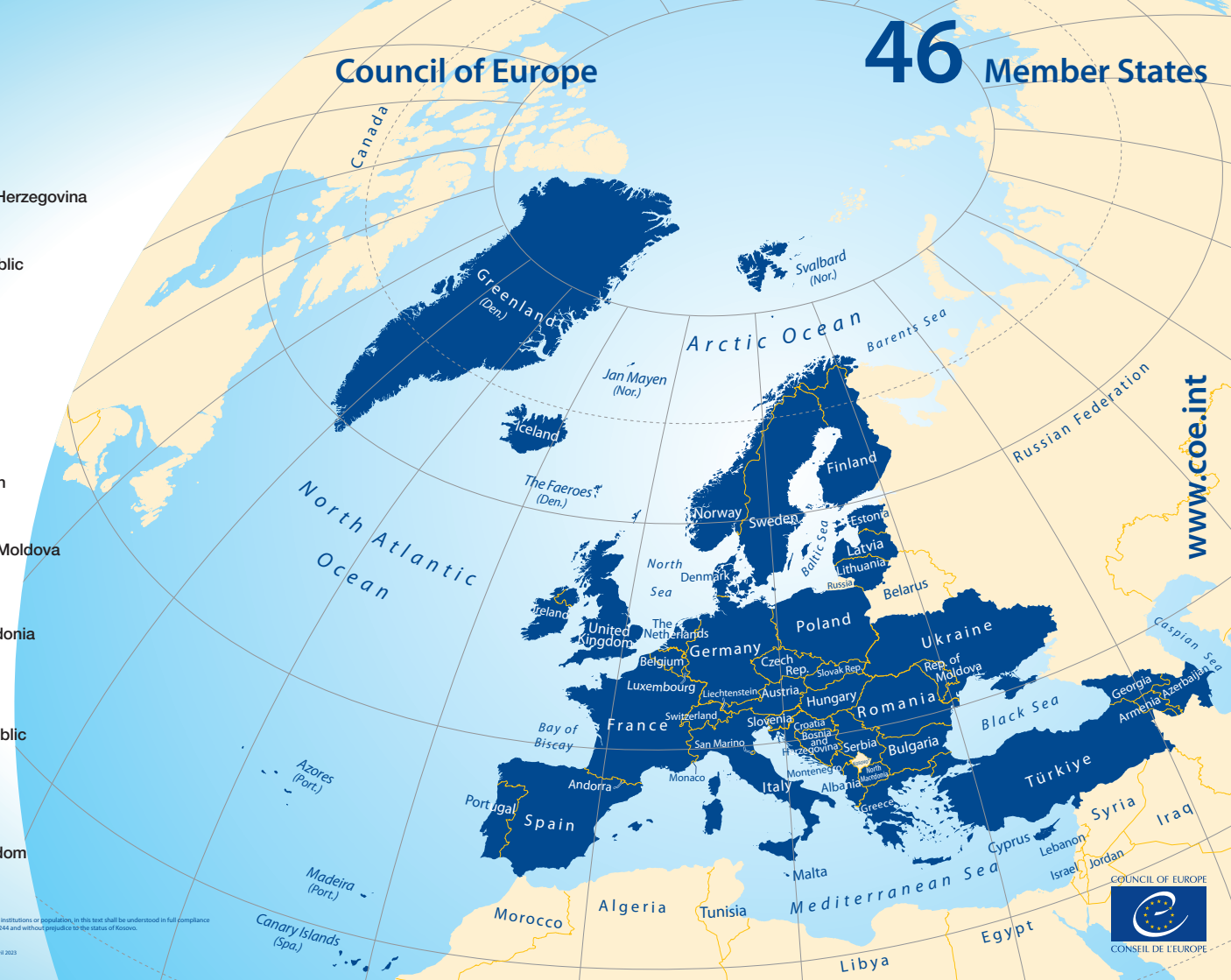
*The Council of Europe enables young people to find out for themselves what democracy and citizenship mean, helps them care about freedom and justice, and teaches them to respect other people and the things which make them different.*



# 46 Member States

## Council of Europe

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Republic of Moldova
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Norway
- North Macedonia
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom



[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

\*All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



# FINDING OUT ABOUT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Your country is in the Council of Europe – which makes you part of a vast family of nations, stretching all the way from Iceland to Azerbaijan. In that area there are millions of other young people with experiences and interests similar to yours, but with completely different cultures.

## What is the Council of Europe?

The Council of Europe is the only political organisation which brings together practically all the countries of Europe, with a total of 46 members. Founded in 1949, its job is to guarantee democracy, human rights and justice. The Council of Europe's approach is based on co-operation and dialogue with all of its member states.



THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
IS TRYING  
TO COME UP WITH  
THE ANSWERS  
OUR SOCIETIES  
NEED TODAY ON

## BUILDING GREATER EUROPE

ON SHARED VALUES  
A FEW KEYWORDS



Human rights  
Liberty  
Equality  
Social rights  
Justice  
Democracy  
Tolerance  
Respect  
Diversity



- Racism
- Discrimination against minorities
- Child welfare
- Equality between men and women
- Social exclusion
- Terrorism
- Organised crime and corruption
- Bioethics and cloning

**Budget** The Council of Europe's work is funded by its member states, whose contributions are determined by their population and wealth. **The budget comes to about 479 million euros.**



# THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S STRUCTURES AT A GLANCE



- **THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS** is the Council of Europe's decision-making body. It brings together the foreign ministers of member states or their permanent representatives in Strasbourg. The Committee decides Council of Europe policy, draws up the work programme and votes the budget.
- **THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY** is the Council of Europe's driving force. It has elected representatives from the 46 national parliaments and it is the initiator of many conventions, including the European Convention on Human Rights.
- **THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE** is the voice of local and regional democracy in the 46 member states. It represents more than 150 000 territorial bodies in Europe (towns, regions, etc.).
- **THE SECRETARY GENERAL** is responsible for directing and representing the Council of Europe. He/she is elected every five years by the Parliamentary Assembly.

## KEEPING PACE WITH PROGRESS

With every advance of society, science or culture, the Council of Europe adjusts its own priorities where necessary and comes up with rules and conventions to protect Europeans.

## DECIDING AND DOING

Conventions are vital legal instruments. The Council of Europe uses them to influence the daily life of every citizen; they contain obligations in a specific sector that states undertake to respect.

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACTION



*If the Council of Europe is famous for anything, it is famous for its work on human rights.*

Defending human rights, and trying every day to do it better, is one of the Council of Europe's prime functions. This is what makes the **European Convention on Human Rights**, adopted in 1950, so important. Its unique international protection system covers the individual rights of some 700 million Europeans.

If you feel that a right guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights has been violated by a member state of the Council of Europe, you can take your complaint to the **European Court of Human Rights**. But you must try to get justice in your own country first, using all the remedies its legal system provides for that purpose.

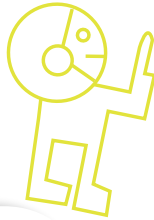
## CHIEF AMONG THE RIGHTS PROTECTED BY THE CONVENTION ARE:

- the right to life
- freedom of expression
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- the right to a fair trial



THE CONVENTION  
CLEARLY  
PROHIBITS:

- torture
- forced labour
- the death penalty
- discrimination





*THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS*, which is permanently based in Strasbourg, has one judge for every member state. Judges sit in a personal capacity, and not as their countries' representatives.

**The Commissioner for Human Rights** is responsible for promoting human rights education and awareness, and ensuring that the member states respect the Council of Europe's standards.

**The European Convention against Torture** protects the rights of prison inmates, minors in special education centres, people in police or military custody, patients in mental institutions. The members of the European Committee against Torture (CPT) carry out inspections in the member states to ensure that prisoners' rights are respected and particularly to guard against torture or degrading treatment.

**The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** engages in ongoing dialogue with national authorities, assessing the quality of member states' anti-racism policies.

*THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER PROTECTS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS, AMONG OTHERS:*

- the right to work
- freedom from discrimination at work
- the right to organise (trade unions)
- equality between women and men
- the right to housing
- freedom of movement



# WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

*In a democracy, power belongs to all the citizens. They choose who will be their representative in elections. Democracy also applies to a village or a class. So we all can participate!*

The Council of Europe ensures that elections in European countries are democratic, free and fair.

In any democracy, everyone should be able to speak and learn through the media, radio, television, internet. **The Council of Europe monitors compliance with these freedoms.** For example, journalists can do their work freely, even when the country is in crisis. And the media can express different opinions at election time.

**DEMOCRACY CAN BE EFFICIENT IF WE LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER. FOR THIS, WE MUST GET TO KNOW THE OTHER :**

## **By valuing diversity**

Many different cultures, religions and lifestyles exist side by side in the places where we live. It is important to respect each person, regardless of our differences, because we all have the same rights.

## **While respecting human dignity**

What unites us despite all differences is human dignity. We all need to be valued as human beings, no more, no less. Nobody should treat other people with cruelty or violence or address others in an offensive way.



# CULTURE, THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY

*Culture plays a fundamental role in the understanding of others and respect for diversity. Europe's cultural and natural treasures are immense and varied. The Council of Europe contributes to protect them by promoting the continent's many national cultures.*

## EUROPE ON-SCREEN

Eurimages is a support fund for cinematographic and audiovisual works which reflect the many facets of European society.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE - IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US

Twin conventions on Europe's architectural and archaeological heritage serve as a basis both for consolidating policies to protect them and for making those policies more effective.

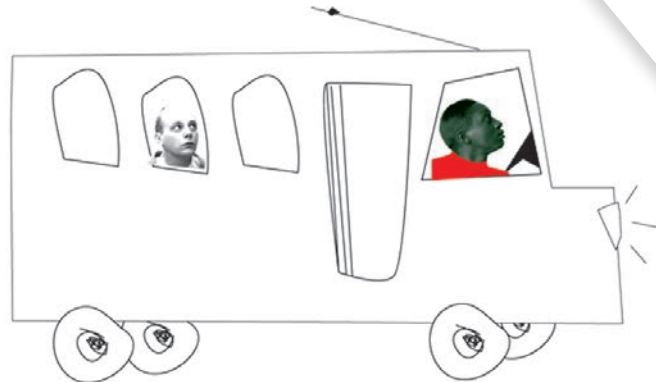
## OPEN-DOOR HERITAGE

The Council of Europe is behind the "European Heritage Days" scheme. Every September, over the space of a weekend, millions of Europeans are given a chance to visit countless museums, libraries, palaces, castles and monuments... free of charge.



## A TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE AND TIME

Routes are our common treasure and the Council of Europe organizes cultural journeys where you can follow in the footsteps of the Vikings and Phoenicians, trace the paths of the Silk and Iron Roads, spa towns, and many others.



# MEMBERS STATES, DATES OF ACCESSION,

**1949**

**5 May**

Belgium, Brussels



Denmark, Copenhagen



France, Paris



Ireland, Dublin



Italy, Rome



Luxembourg, Luxembourg



Norway, Oslo



Netherlands, Amsterdam



United Kingdom, London



Sweden, Stockholm



**9 August**

Greece, Athens



Türkiye, Ankara



**1950**

**7 March**

Iceland, Reykjavik



**13 July**

Germany, Berlin



**1956**

**16 April**

Austria, Vienna



**1961**

**24 May**

Cyprus, Nicosia



**1963**

**6 May**

Switzerland, Bern



**1965**

**29 April**

Malta, Valletta



**1976**

**22 September**

Portugal, Lisbon



**1977**

**24 November**

Spain, Madrid



**1978**

**23 November**

Liechtenstein, Vaduz



**1988**

**16 November**

San Marino, San Marino



**1989**

**5 May**

Finland, Helsinki



**1990**

**6 November**

Hungary, Budapest



# FLAGS AND CAPITALS

**1991**

**26 November**

Poland, Warsaw



**1992**

**7 May**

Bulgaria, Sofia



**1993**

**14 May**

Estonia, Tallinn



Lithuania, Vilnius



Slovenia, Ljubljana



**30 June**

Czech Republic, Prague



Slovak Republic, Bratislava



**7 October**

Roumanie, Bucarest



**1994**

**10 November**

Andorra, Andorra-la-Vella



**1995**

**10 February**

Latvia, Riga



**13 July**

Albania, Tirana



Republic of Moldova,  
Chisinau



**9 November**

Ukraine, Kyiv



North Macedonia,  
Skopje



**1996**

**6 November**

Croatia, Zagreb



**1999**

**27 April**

Georgia, Tbilisi



**2001**

**25 January**

Armenia, Yerevan



Azerbaijan, Baku



**2002**

**24 April**

Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Sarajevo



**2003**

**3 April**

Serbia, Belgrade\*



**2004**

**5 October**

Monaco, Monaco



**2007**

**11 May**

Montenegro, Podgorica



\*This member state acceded originally as Serbia and Montenegro until June 2006.

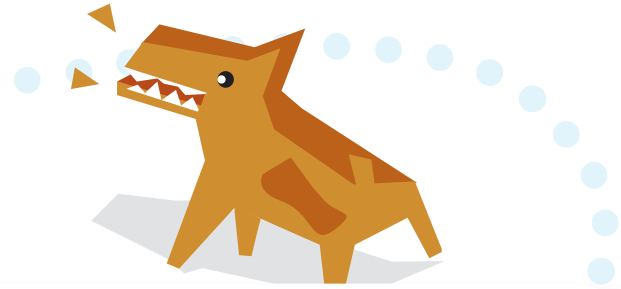
# EDUCATION - KEY TO YOUR FUTURE!



*The Council of Europe develops many educational programmes to promote the learning of human rights and democracy. Its objective is to contribute to the fight against all sorts of intolerance and discrimination.*

## EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

To live in the community, people need to know their rights, face up to their responsibilities and accept that others are different. The Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education helps them to apply these vital principles.



## EXPORTING YOUR DIPLOMAS

If you live in a foreign country, then you need to be sure your diplomas will be recognised. Equivalence is the key concept here, and the Council of Europe works with european countries to make sure it is respected.



## TEACHING EUROPEAN HISTORY

The history books often speak only of wars or national events and treat other nations as «the enemy». In order to change this perspective, the Council of Europe is working on a new approach to teaching history in Europe and is giving teachers ideas for research and the classroom.

## LANGUAGES FOR EVERYONE

The Council of Europe develops new language programmes and encourages new approaches to language teaching and teacher training.



## OVER 200 EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

**European Language Day** (26 September) helps to focus public attention on the many languages spoken in Europe (over 200!) and the value of this rich linguistic heritage. It also serves to emphasise the importance of life-long learning.



# SPORT FOR ALL

For millions of Europeans, sport means health and entertainment – but it can also teach young people a lot about teamwork, tolerance and fair play. This is the true sporting spirit, and tolerance and respect hold the key to the Council of Europe's work in this area.

## Red card for the match-fixing

The Council of Europe has adopted a new convention to prevent and fight the manipulation of sports competitions.

## NO DOPING!

The Anti-Doping Convention gives states a list of forbidden drugs and medicines. Specifically, it provides for tighter doping controls and better screening techniques.

## VIOLENCE AND SPORT DON'T MIX

The aim of the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events is to keep spectators under control and to remove their violence, particularly at football matches.

## SPECIFICALLY, IT RECOMMENDS:

- keeping rival fans apart
- controlling ticket sales
- controlling alcohol consumption
- making organisers accept more responsibility
- stepping up security
- modifying stadiums to protect spectator Safety



# SPORT WITHOUT VIOLENCE



## SPORT FOR ALL

The **European Sport for All Charter** and **Code of Sports Ethics** stress the importance of fair play in sport – of respecting one’s opponent, win or lose, and never resorting to violence or cheating.

**THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORKS ON OTHER SPORT-RELATED PROJECTS TOO INCLUDING:**

- action to promote tolerance and the sporting spirit
- a transparent governance of sport
- anti-discrimination measures
- the integration of minorities and people with disabilities
- raising awareness on health issues and the benefits of sport

# YOUNG EUROPEANS - BRINGING THEM TOGETHER

*The Council of Europe wants to make it easier for young people to travel, discover their continent's cultural diversity, meet and join in exploring the ideals and values which make for a democratic society.*

## TWO EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRES: STRASBOURG AND BUDAPEST

Throughout the year, these centres run courses for youth association leaders, giving them a chance to meet and discuss the rights of the young, social exclusion, unemployment, international solidarity and countless other topics that young people care about.

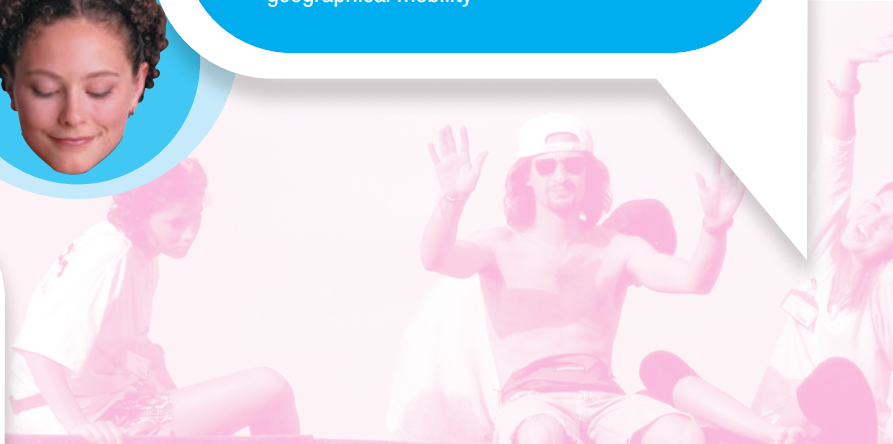
## WIDE-RANGING ACTIVITIES:

- lessons, training courses, study sessions
- intercultural language courses
- seminars, symposiums, meetings of experts

These activities in the member states are funded by the **European Youth Foundation (EYF)**, which has an annual budget of some 3.8 million euros.

## ACTION PRIORITIES:

- promoting intercultural dialogue and peace
- human rights education, action to promote human dignity and social cohesion
- participation by young people and democratic citizenship
- measures to increase young people's geographical mobility





## COMBATING HATE SPEECH

A project which helps young people and youth organisations to identify and combat racism and discrimination online. Internet is part of the social universe of young people and they should be its guarantors.

[nohatespeechmovement.org](http://nohatespeechmovement.org)

## INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE

Through the “co-management” of the Council of Europe, policies, programs and priorities for youth are jointly decided by youth organizations and government representatives.

## YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Started in 1998, the Youth Partnership sees the Council of Europe working in partnership with the European Commission (EU) in order to provide training for youth workers and youth leaders as well as facilitating research and co-operation.

[www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

respect, solidarity, justice, tolerance →



## YOUTH CARD

The Youth Card scheme, jointly launched by the Council of Europe and the European Association of Youth Cards (AECJ) offers concessions on travel and a wide range of goods and services for everyone under 26 years old.



mobility  
intercultural dialogue  
human rights  
participation peace



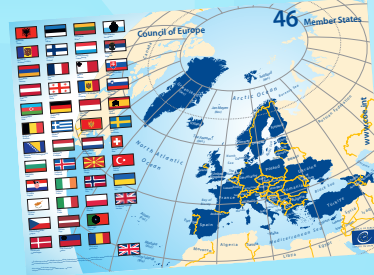
# DISCOVER MORE...



**WEAR YOUR RIGHTS**  
Each t-shirt displays a flagship article from the Convention



**HUMAN RIGHTS FACTSHEETS**  
«RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS IN PRACTICE»  
Teaching resources



**MAP AND FLAGS**  
The Council of Europe  
46 member states



*edoc.coe.int - Documentation and online resources website*

*book.coe.int - Council of Europe publishing website*

**EDITING:** Directorate of  
Communications  
Council of Europe

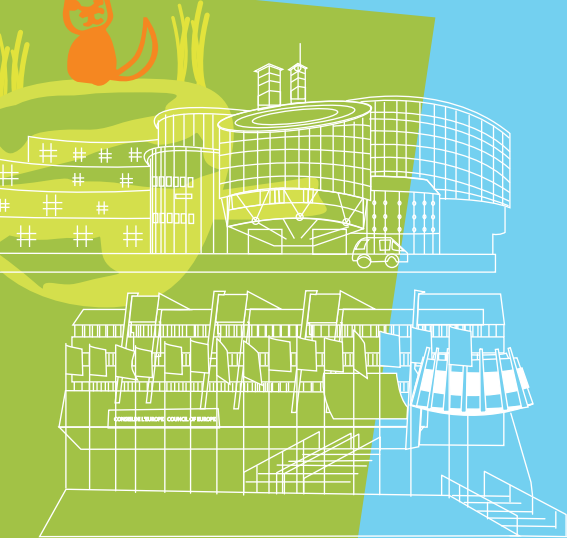
**DESIGN:** The Big Family, Strasbourg

**PICTURES:** Frédérique Cmolik

**PRINTING:** SPDP  
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*To build a united Europe, all European States have to commit to respect human rights, democracy and justice.*

*This is the mission of the Council of Europe which you will discover in these pages, with examples of actions in the field of education, sport, culture and youth.*

