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# **COMPASITO TRAINING COURSE**

## FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WITH CHILDREN

European Youth Centre Budapest  
17 – 24 October 2021

Concept Note

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**



Deadline:

**7 September 2021**

Organised by the Youth Department in cooperation with the Children Rights Division of the Council of Europe, in the framework of the programme of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WITH CHILDREN

The Council of Europe protects and promotes the human rights of everyone, including children. Based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the European Convention on Human Rights and other legal standards, the Council of Europe promotes and protects the rights of 150 million children in Europe. The Council of Europe work on children's rights is currently guided by the [Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) adopted in Sofia in April 2016. The strategy identifies five key priorities for member states:

- i. Equal opportunities for all children
- ii. Ensuring the meaningful participation of children in all matters affecting them, including in decision-making processes especially when it comes to child-related laws, policies and actions. Participation is also promoted through schools and facilitated by supporting the development of citizenship and human rights education.
- iii. A life free from violence for all children
- iv. Child-friendly justice for all children
- v. Rights of the child in the digital environment: promoting creative, critical and safe use of the Internet.

Learning about human rights – the right to human rights education – is key for children to take an active part in participating in the promotion of human rights and being protected from human rights abuse.

*Compassito, the manual for human rights education with children*, was originally published within the framework of the [Human Rights Education Youth Programme](#). This Council of Europe programme seeks to involve young people in human rights issues, reaching beyond those already active and motivated to a wider public, and bringing human rights closer to their daily reality. The programme was launched in 2000 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights. Since then, its activities have reached thousands of young people and has resulted in a cascading effect in the development of human rights education programmes and human rights projects with and by young people all over Europe.

The experiences of the programme were integrated in the Council of Europe [Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#) adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2010. The charter calls on governments to provide every person within their territory with the opportunity of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education through formal and non-formal education.

The [2030 strategy of the youth sector of the Council of Europe](#) confirmed the central role of youth participation, human rights education and intercultural dialogue in the activities of the Youth Department. The strategy aims at enabling young people to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Within the priority of young people's access to rights, the strategy calls for "increasing capacity building and resources for youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders to provide human rights education and advocate access to rights". The Youth for Democracy programme continues this work by training trainers and multipliers and supporting capacity-building activities in member states. This is significant progress in the recognition of the right to human rights education, which needs consolidation in education and youth policies at national level.

Human rights education is a process which aims to establish a culture of human rights. Human rights education should have a key role in any educational processes. The United Nations Convention on

the Rights of the Child (CRC) offers an invaluable opportunity for introducing human rights to children. Learning about and experiencing children's rights helps children to understand what human rights are about, to understand that they are rights-holders themselves, and to adapt and apply their rights in everyday life. These are the key aims of human rights education with children.

Human rights education and education for democratic citizenship go hand in hand because both are needed for effective democracy. Each of these educational approaches leads young people to acquire knowledge, establish core values and develop skills; both approaches serve the development of a culture of democracy, human rights and peace.

### **COMPASITO 3rd edition, 2021**

A fully revised and updated edition of *Compasito* has been published in 2021. *Compasito* has been designed, above all, for educators and trainers working with children, including teachers, caregivers and parents as well as non-formal educators such as youth workers and educational advisors / assistants in children and youth centres. The activities are designed for children from 5 to 13 years.

*Compasito* seeks to develop in children the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes they need to participate in their society, knowing and protecting their rights and the rights of others. In this way, children can actively contribute to building a culture of human rights. The manual builds on the child's and the facilitator's existing knowledge and experience. The activities can be used wherever children spend part of their daily life: in schools, in childcare centres, afternoon clubs, leisure centres, children's organisations, or camps, and even in the family environment. While children do not need to have any special skills to participate in most of the activities, facilitators do need to possess experience and skills in using non-formal educational methodology to run the activities successfully.

*Compasito* looks at children as young citizens of the present and as rights-holders who are competent in many issues related to their life. It builds on children's motivations, experiences and their search for solutions.

The approaches and methodological proposals in *Compasito* build on legal human rights frameworks such as the CRC but are closely aligned with the priority areas of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child of the Council of Europe and the standards put into place in the recent years. It supports the idea that children are equal human beings, with their own rights and ability to understand the values and attitudes that constitute human rights.

### **THE COMPASITO TRAINING COURSE**

The experiences with resources for human rights education strongly suggest that their effective use needs to be supported by opportunities for key multipliers to get acquainted and experience using the manual and in turn invite other multipliers to use it in their educational activities with children. This multiplying effect should be further supported in the upcoming years by the translation and publication of *Compasito* in more official languages of the member states.

The *Compasito* training course aims thus motivate and develop the capacity of key multipliers to implement learning and training programmes for human rights education with children based on the 2021 edition of the manual.

The training course is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in close co-operation with the Children's Rights Division. It is also part of the programme of the Hungarian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers.

### **Objectives** of the course

- To strengthen participants' understanding of the key concepts and approaches of human rights education and non-formal education methodologies with young people and children
- To develop participants knowledge of the normative framework of children rights, with a specific emphasis on the standards and mechanisms of the Council of Europe
- To enable participants to autonomously use the *Compasito* manual as trainers or educators, adapt its content and methodologies when needed and disseminate it in their local context/organisation/institution
- To enable participants and their organisations to further develop and implement quality human rights education activities with children and act as multipliers
- To support the implementation of the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education by stakeholders in the children and youth policy areas and reinforced the role of human rights education in the strategies of the Council of Europe on the Rights of the Child and for the youth sector
- To promote synergies and cooperation among advocates and activists for children's rights and human rights education through youth work and non-formal learning.

### **Methodology**

The course is designed to give participants the opportunity to experience and reflect upon activities and concepts central to human rights education based on the experiential learning cycle. The training course uses participatory methodology where the participants explore the *Compasito* manual together, the legal framework it builds upon as well as ways in which it can be applied and adapted to different groups. This means that all participants are expected to be present and take part actively in the training course by bringing their individual perspectives and ideas to the floor. External speakers may be invited to give further inputs to the training course.

*Compasito* has been designed, above all, for educators and trainers working with children, including teachers, caregivers and parents as well as non-formal educators such as youth workers in children and youth centres. This training course is targeted towards those who work with human rights education with children (directly or indirectly) and who are looking for practical tools with which to discuss values and social issues with children.

Like other human rights education activities of the Council of Europe, the methodology of the course builds on dialogical learning, active participation and cooperative learning. The programme and methods will be based on the combination of learning *about*, learning *through* and learning *for* human rights (and children's rights).



As a follow-up to the training course, the participants are expected to implement aspects of what they have gained in the training into their daily work within their organisations and to devise a follow-up project or plan. This phase supports participants in implementing activities and/or approaches from the *Compasito* manual with the appropriate age groups with the support of the training course team and other participants.

### **Profile of participants**

*Compasito* has been designed, above all, for educators and trainers working with children. This training course is targeted towards those who are able to act as multipliers in human rights education with children (directly or indirectly) such as:

- trainers or facilitators in non-formal education, especially within youth organisations and associations and in other NGOs or youth centres concerned with human rights education with young people and children
- teacher trainers or educational staff with a multiplying role within formal education systems interested in introducing non-formal learning methodologies in their human rights education activities
- educators working directly with children, interested in introducing human-rights education into their activities with children
- youth workers, activists or volunteers experienced in and intending to act as trainers and advocates for human rights education with children.

All participants must also:

- be able to work in English
- be aged between 16 and 30 years
- be resident in Europe; exceptions are possible if justified
- be supported by a children, youth or human rights organisation, association, or institution within which they can act as multipliers of human rights education
- Have experience in working as trainers, facilitators or educators with children
- be able and committed to act as multipliers or trainers for human rights education following the course
- be motivated to develop their competences in human rights education, to share their experiences with other participants and to contribute to the development of the communities of practice of human rights education
- be committed to attend for the full duration of the course (17 to 24 October 2021)
- be motivated and able to apply/adapt approaches or methods from the *Compasito* manual in in projects or activities for HRE with children and to report back on this within 6 months after the closing of the TC

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

## **Financial and practical conditions of participation**

### **Travel expenses**

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. The payment will be made by bank transfer or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

### **Accommodation**

Board and lodging for the residential training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form.

### **Enrolment fee**

An enrolment fee of **60 Euros** is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYCB during the residential seminar.

### **Working languages**

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English

## **Application, procedure and selection of participants**

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from their sending organisation/institution, to be uploaded on the platform. In case of several applicants from the same organisation, the support letter should indicate the priority of the applicants.

The Council of Europe will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by 16 September 2021.

The application form must be submitted on-line with the support letters before **7 September 2021, 23:59 CET** at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>.