

- ADOPTED - 12 June 2008
COOPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY AND THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE WITH RESPECT TO THE EUROPEAN RESOURCE
CENTRE ON EDUCATION FOR INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING, HUMAN
RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway

and

the Council of Europe

(hereinafter: the Parties)

WHEREAS the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, at its 1014th meeting at the Deputies Level (12 December 2007), welcomed the Norwegian initiative to establish a European Resource Centre on Education for Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship (“the Centre”), which will cooperate with the Council of Europe,

WHEREAS the Parties share the goal of promoting intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship, and believe that the Centre can play a major role in the pursuit of this goal,

WHEREAS cooperation between the Council of Europe and Norway with respect to the Centre should reinforce the impact of their action to the mutual benefit of both Parties, (while respecting mutual autonomy),

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Parties to conclude an agreement defining the general principles and objectives, as well as the concrete modalities, of their mutual cooperation with respect to the Centre,

Agree on the following:

Article 1 Scope

On the basis of the Council of Europe’s and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway’s shared fundamental values and principles and in pursuance of the aims of fostering democratic culture, respect for human rights, intercultural dialogue and understanding, the mission and mandate of the Centre is to support and promote the work of the Parties in these areas; in so doing the Centre contributes to the implementation, in

the signatory states to the European Cultural Convention, of the Council of Europe's educational principles and goals, as spelled out in its relevant policy recommendations¹.

Article 2 The mission of the Centre

The Centre shall act as a resource centre on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship for the member states of the Council of Europe.

The Centre shall carry out and support research on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship.

The Centre shall provide in-service training and support for the professional development of teachers and teacher training professionals on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship.

The Centre shall disseminate information and serve as a platform and meeting place for researchers, teachers, teacher training professionals, policy-makers and other relevant actors.

The Centre shall cooperate with the Council of Europe on the basis of the Council of Europe's and Norway's shared values and goals as regards education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship.

Article 3 The target groups

The target groups of the Centre will consist mainly of multipliers, practitioners, researchers, administrators and decision-makers in education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship and related fields in formal and non-formal education.

Article 4 Strategic objectives

The Centre will principally cooperate with the appropriate units of Directorate General IV of the Council of Europe, and specifically with the Directorate of School, Out-of-School and Higher Education, the Directorate of Youth and Sport, and will collaborate as required with other Council of Europe services and entities, including the North-South Centre – as well as with the relevant Norwegian institutions, with a view to enhancing the impact of their work by:

- improving the capacity of trainers through the development of training materials for multipliers; aiding networks of experts and practitioners and supporting the Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme for the training of education professionals;

¹ e.g. Declaration by the European Ministers of Education on intercultural education in the new European context (Athens 2003), Recommendation Rec (2002)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on education for democratic citizenship, etc.

- carrying out research and development, including exploration of conceptual, methodological and policy issues for the Council of Europe in close coordination with its Steering Committee for Education (CDED) and its Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR) and in cooperation with the relevant bodies active in the youth field, in the areas of intercultural education, democratic citizenship and human rights education;
- providing up-to-date documentation and information to practitioners and other multipliers in these fields, especially with regard to Council of Europe values, standards and achievements;
- acting as a focal point for networks of researchers, teacher trainers and other multipliers in the areas concerned;
- acting specifically as an instrument of the Council of Europe and the Government of Norway while remaining open for cooperation with all member states in support of the promotion of intercultural dialogue and intercultural education, particularly through collaborative programmes with other relevant Organisations such as the European Commission, UNESCO, ALECSO, and instances such as the Alliance of Civilisations and the Anna-Lindh Foundation.

Programmes of activities will be established by the Centre in pursuance of the above-mentioned objectives. The programme offered by the Centre will contribute to the efforts of the Council of Europe and the Government of Norway by enhancing their capacity for initiating actions in the areas included in the Centre's mission.

Article 5 Undertakings of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway undertakes to

- establish the Centre as an independent legal entity ("stiftelse") under the Norwegian Foundation Act (stiftelseslov)
- facilitate cooperation with relevant Norwegian institutions
- contribute basic financing to the Centre in accordance with the provisions of Article 7

Article 6 Undertakings of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe undertakes to:

- co-operate with the Centre with a view to the pursuit of the Centre's objectives and to the implementation of its programme of activities;
- consider the Centre as a privileged partner for the implementation of Council of Europe initiatives in the field of education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship;

- ensure access by the Centre to the *acquis* and expertise of the Council of Europe as regards the Centre's areas of activity and develop synergies between the respective programmes of activities.

Article 7 Financing

Within a yearly amount of at least NOK 6 500 000 (2008 cost level) the Government of the Kingdom of Norway will

- provide the Centre with fully equipped premises (including meeting rooms) adapted to the nature of its activities,
- maintain these premises on an ongoing basis and finance the implementation of a core programme (activities and staffing) and
- place the basic capital of NOK 100 000 at the Centre's disposal;

The Centre may receive contributions from other member states, from international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations as well as other donors which may wish to cooperate with the Centre and contribute to its work.

Article 8 Governance

The Centre shall be governed by a Board composed of seven members, with tasks and responsibilities laid down in relevant Norwegian legislation² and the statutes of the Centre.

Three members and two substitute members of the Board shall be nominated by the Council of Europe. As soon as possible after the entry into force of the present Agreement and at least three months before the expiry of their terms thereafter, the Council of Europe shall communicate the names of the members and substitute members to be appointed on its behalf by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

The Council of Europe shall nominate suitably qualified nominees according to the conditions set out in the statutes for the composition of the Board, particularly as concerns gender balance; the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research shall inform the Council of Europe within two weeks of receipt of the proposal by the Council of Europe, of the acceptance of the nomination.

The Centre shall bear the travel and subsistence costs involved in the fulfilment of the statutory functions and tasks of the members of the Board.

Article 9 Contacts between the Parties and the Centre

² In particular in the Norwegian Foundation Act

The Government of the Kingdom of Norway, represented by the Ministry of Education and Research, and the competent services of the Council of Europe Secretariat shall each appoint a senior official to ensure effective liaison between them.

The appointed liaison officers shall attend the meetings of the Board of the Centre as observers.

The Executive Director of the Centre shall be responsible for the day-to-day contact and relationship between the Centre and the Parties.

Article 10 The Centre's relations with the Council of Europe and its member states

In the course of its activities the Centre shall comply with the fundamental values and standards underpinning Council of Europe activities. Neither the Council of Europe as such nor its member States shall be bound in any way by the statements and activities of the Centre. In the event that the Centre's activities should be found to be contrary to the above principles or to the provisions of the present Agreement, the Council of Europe reserves the right to suspend immediately all cooperation with the Centre.

The Centre is authorised to use the name, the flag and the logo of the Council of Europe for the activities that fall within the purpose of cooperation with the Council of Europe, in accordance with applicable rules.

The Centre shall not be entitled to invoke any privilege or immunity enjoyed by the Council of Europe, its buildings and premises.

Staff recruited by the Centre shall be remunerated and managed in accordance with the Norwegian Working Environment Act and may not claim any link whatsoever with the Council of Europe in respect of contractual and working conditions or benefit from the privileges and immunities enjoyed by Council of Europe staff.

Article 11 Evaluation of the Centre's performance

One year after the entry into force of the present Agreement, and at least once every two years thereafter, the Parties shall hold a meeting to evaluate the functioning of the Centre and the cooperation between the Parties, with a view to their ongoing enhancement.

Article 12 Resolution of disputes

The Parties shall seek to settle amicably all differences and disputes arising out of, or in connection with the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 13 Entry into force and termination

This Agreement is drawn up for a period of five years starting from the date when the Parties have informed each other that the internal conditions for entering-into-force have been fulfilled, and shall be tacitly renewed for subsequent periods of five years. The terms of the Agreement may be amended or supplemented by means of a supplementary Agreement between the Parties, drawn up in writing.

Either Party may, after a period of five years, terminate this Agreement by giving six months written notice to the other Party on the understanding that appropriate consultations have taken place.

Signed in ..., thisthe day of ... 2008, in two copies, in English

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Norway

Minister

For the Council of Europe

The Secretary General

[...]

Right Honourable Terry Davis