

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

27.03.2015

Response to the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Evaluation of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education

Current status of human rights education and continuing education

1. Federal Police (Subject area B)

In the framework of police training, human rights education is an integral part of the curriculum in various subject areas and legal disciplines.

Already at the beginning of their police career training, trainees are provided with the basic knowledge and skills they need to fulfil their tasks in a relationship of service and loyalty defined by public law in a democratic state under the rule of law. The curricula of subjects such as public and constitutional law/civic education, European law, law governing police interventions, situation and communication training, search and interrogation techniques and psychology cover human rights, fundamental rights, non-discrimination, ban on abuse and torture, intercultural skills, the UN Charter and the European Human Rights Convention.

Trainees are also advised of possible consequences in case of non-compliance with official instructions or applicable law, including disciplinary punishments or consequences under criminal law. Training is based on cases that are taken from practice in order to ensure praxis-oriented human rights education. In addition, concrete measures are discussed in the context of practical situation descriptions, always with a reference to human rights. Using very different cases, situations and sequences, future police officers are made aware of the relevant issues.

Human rights and non-discrimination are also part of in-service training. This helps police officers continuously extend their law enforcement and social skills. Furthermore, various in-service training events provide information on foreign cultures, religions and the background and root-causes of migration with the aim of promoting tolerance and understanding for all.

Standard police measures are trained on a regular basis; including praxis-oriented human rights education.

Federal Police officers have access to various media to learn more about human rights; these include the tutorial notes on "Policing and human rights" and on "Escorting persons by air - human dignity/human rights". These tutorial notes are available on the Federal Police intranet.

Currently, the Federal Police is intensifying its cooperation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education by implementing a joint project on human rights. If this project is successful, others are planned to follow.

Also, please refer to the previously provided information (pages 1 and 2 of the report) which continues to be valid.

2. Federal public employees and federal civil servants in the general and internal administration and in the federal government IT service (subject area B):

Human rights education (in the widest sense of the word) is provided in the context of studying the Basic Law and fundamental rights.

1. Public Employees

Vocational education and training are provided in accordance with the Vocational Training Act.

Human rights education is provided in the context of classes on public law and civic education at the various vocational schools. The design and scope of such education may vary as vocational education is the responsibility of the federal states.

Further training to qualify as a Certified Clerk in Senior Public Administration (*Verwaltungsfachwirt*)

The classes on public law deal with the system and function of fundamental rights, the scope of legal standards and the protection afforded by them, the limits of fundamental rights, the ability of individuals to exercise their fundamental rights and the protection of fundamental rights for foreigners. The study course also provides a short historical overview covering the period from the age of enlightenment to the adoption of the Basic Law and explains how the German regulations fit in with those of supra-national organizations. In this context, reference is also made to the universal human rights and to the European Human Rights Convention.

2. Civil Servants

Training for a career in the intermediate non-technical service

Classes on public law and constitutional/European law deal with the definition, importance, legal nature and status of fundamental rights in the constitutional system and provide an overview of their origins and historical development, the system and impact of fundamental rights as a function of the different interests and categories of persons to be protected and of the procedures in place for amending, restricting and dealing with violations of fundamental rights. In this context, reference is also made to the universal Human Rights and to the European Human Rights Convention.

Training for a career in the higher intermediate non-technical service

Interdisciplinary basic studies

Basic study courses in public and constitutional law deal among other things with fundamental rights including human rights providing an overview of human rights, their nature, importance, function and the protection they afford. The learning unit on

European law deals with human rights in the context of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

General Internal Administration Department

The main part of the public administration management study course deals quite intensively with human rights, in particular in (sub-) modules on constitutional and European law which are characterized by ambitious learning targets and intended to make the students reflect on and analyse the issues.

Study programme "Computer Sciences in Public Administration"

The main part of the study programme "Computer Sciences in Public Administration" deals in various modules with the right of individuals to determine the use of their data as an interdisciplinary issue. The programme also covers the legal principles of copyright law and those governing the protection of users as well as regulations on the rights of use and user licences. Both areas address potential conflicts between these civil rights that may arise in the fulfilment of government tasks by the federal administration.

Training for promotion to the higher administrative service

"Master of Public Administration" in-service study programme

Human rights are part of the teaching and learning content in several compulsory and optional modules of the distance learning programme leading to the Master of Public Administration degree.

Civic Education (subject area C, no. 11):

A regular task of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB) is providing a variety of measures of civic education in particular to prevent extremism. These range from publications and online dossiers to funding for prevention efforts, model projects, handbooks and networks for multipliers. These measures include work with young people at risk of right-wing extremist indoctrination and funding for relevant organizations.

The BpB largely concentrates on countering right-wing extremist attitudes and organizations with the help of civic education. The BpB's work focuses on removing the sources of extremist, racist and xenophobic attitudes and slogans at an early stage and on providing concrete support to civil society.

For information on **subject area C, no. 14**, please refer to the BpB website at www.bpb.de.