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INPUT TO MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD PHASE (2015-2019) OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

OHCHR is preparing a midterm progress report on the implementation of the third phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education to be submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2017. The report will address national implementation of human rights education, particularly in strengthening the implementation of the first two phases of the World Programme and in promoting human rights training for media professionals and journalists. Accordingly, OHCHR has invited all Member States to submit relevant information.

The Human Rights Council called upon all national human rights institutions to assist in the implementation of human rights education programmes, in accordance with the plan of action. OHCHR therefore, welcome in addition input from NHRIs on relevant initiatives undertaken nationally during 2015-2016.

PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES IN DENMARK REGARDING HRE

The international framework for Human Rights Education is not a particular focus area for the Danish Government. Reporting and implementation strategies in relation to the WPHRE and the declaration on HRE have been scares. In addition, there is no national action plan on HRE for Denmark and thereby no overview of if and how human rights are incorporated in educational curricula.

In January 2016, Denmark was reviewed by the UN Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Among other recommendations, Denmark was recommended to provide teaching in human rights for children in primary and lower secondary education and upper secondary educationⁱ and include teaching on diversity in the curricula for basic schools.ⁱⁱ

In its annual Status Report on Education, The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) pointed to the following topics regarding HRE progress and challenges in the Danish context:

Progress

- A working group set up by the then Minister for Children, Education, and Gender Equality has prepared a report in June 2016 with recommendations on a new, improved pedagogical curriculum for daycare facilities. The working group has described the pedagogical foundation and framework for daycare facilities, wherein the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child plays a prominent role.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In December 2016, fundamental freedoms and human rights were incorporated into the objectives of higher secondary schools. This means that statute now emphasises that all upper secondary school programmes, general, commercial and technical examination programmes, as well as the higher preparatory examination must extend and improve knowledge of and respect for human rights.^{iv}
- On 18 August 2016, the then Ministry of Children, Education and Gender Equality published a common action plan to prevent and combat bullying among children. It was prepared in cooperation with Save the Children Denmark, Danish Children's Welfare (Børns Vilkår) and the National Council for Children.
- In November 2016 the then Ministry of Children, Education and Gender Equality submitted a Bill for consultation, which contained a proposal to establish a complaints body that children and parents can contact if their schools fail to sufficiently intervene in cases of bullying.^v The draft also contains a proposal to extend protection against bullying so that it also applies to the most marginalised children and young people outside of municipal primary and lower secondary schools. This includes, children and young people in special needs schools, in day treatment services and child placement facilities etc. The bill was implemented in March 2017.

Challenges

- From January 2016, police initial training was shortened to a two-year basic training course. It is still not known whether and to what extent teaching of human rights will be part of the new basic training course or police continuing and further education and training programmes.^{vi}
- In November 2016 it was decided that a six-month police cadet education programme would be established in March 2017. Police cadets will have some police authority and authority to use force and will wear a police uniform,^{vii} but the competence level the police cadets will have with regard to fundamental freedoms and human rights is unclear.

- There are currently discussions in the ministry of education to reduce the binding curriculum for primary and secondary schools. They want to reduce the amount of binding learning objectives. Some of the learning objective that they want to change from binding to guiding includes human rights. If these changes are implemented, HRE will be weakened in the official curriculum for primary and lower secondary schools.

DIHR WORK IN DENMARK ON WPHRE PHASE III 2015-2016

DIHR has worked continuously with the WPHRE as a framework for promoting HRE in the Danish context. The following initiatives relates to the third phase of the WPHRE:

- Mapping the extent of human rights education in the education of Danish journalist. As a follow up on the results of the mapping, DIHR had a meeting with the Danish Associations of Journalists. The association are positive towards the agenda of including a greater focus on human rights in the education of journalists.
- Mapping the extent and quality of human rights education in social education (pedagogues) and social work education (social workers and advisors). Ministry of Higher Education was included in the reference group of key stakeholders along with other educational actors within the field.^{viii}
- Promoting the HRE agenda and the international HRE framework in approximately 20 legal briefs concerning education policies and legislation in Denmark and Greenland.
- Drawing attention to the international HRE framework and the state responsibility to implement these standards in the yearly status report on education and national human rights challenges and progress. The report is sent out to educational stakeholders, hereunder parliament and bilateral meetings in Denmark and Greenland
- Collaborating with Teacher Training Colleges on implementation of an elective course on 'Teaching Human Rights'. The DIHR and associate professors from four out of seven Danish Teacher Training Colleges developed the course (including related e-learning materials).The course is implemented in two educations so far.
- Development of extensive e-learning on HRE for B.Ed.^{ix}

Yours sincerely,

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HUMAN RIGHTS CAPACITY DEPARTMENT

ⁱ Secondary schools include both the final years of lower secondary and upper secondary level education <http://eng.uvm.dk/Education/Upper-Secondary-Education/Four-Upper-Secondary-Education-Programmes-in-Denmark>.

ⁱⁱThe UN Human Rights Council, Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Denmark, 25 January 2016, A/HRC/WG.6/24/L.7.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ministry of Children, Education and Equality, 2016: 'Master for en styrket pædagogisk læreplan Pædagogisk grundlag og ramme for det videre arbejde med læreplanstemaer og få brede pædagogiske læringsmål' Available in Danish here: <http://socialministeriet.dk/media/18433/master-for-en-styrket-paedagoiske-laereplan.pdf>

^{iv} Act no. 1716 of 27 December 2016 on upper secondary education programmes. <http://www.ft.dk/samling/20161/lovforslag/158/tidsplan.htm>.

^v Bill to amend the Pupil and Students Teaching Environment Act and the Municipal Primary and Lower Secondary School Act (requirement for an anti-bullying strategy, action plan with regard to issues with the psychological teaching environment, the establishment of a complaints body, inspection, reinstatement of municipal council processing of decisions by headmasters, etc.).

^{vi} Ministry of Justice, Finance Division, Fact sheet: *Fremtidssikring af politiuddannelsen*, available (in Danish) at: <http://justitsministeriet.dk/sites/default/files/media/Pressemeddelelser/pdf/2014/Faktaark%20om%20ny%20politiuddannelse.pdf>.

^{vii} Read more about the police cadet education programme here (in Danish only): https://www.politi.dk/da/ompolitiet/jobpolitiet/bliv_politikadet/.

^{viii} Kristina H. Strandby, Cecilia Decara & Lea E. Dam, 2016 '*Undervisning i menneskerettigheder på socialrådgiveruddannelsen* ('Human Rights Education in Social Work Degree Programmes'). The Danish Institute for Human Rights. Available in Danish with English summary here: <https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/undervisning-menneskerettigheder-paa-socialraadgiveruddannelsen> and Kristina H. Strandby, Cecilia Decara & Lea E. Dam, 2016 '*Undervisning i menneskerettigheder på pædagoguddannelsen* ('Human Rights Education in Pedagogics Programmes'). The Danish Institute for Human Rights. Available in Danish with English summary here: <https://menneskeret.dk/udgivelser/undervisning-menneskerettigheder-paa-paedagoguddannelsen>

^{ix} The e-learning materials is available for free at The Institute for Human Rights' website (in Danish only): <https://menneskeret.dk/viden/laeringsportalen/professionsuddannelse>