

Methodology, Education and Training
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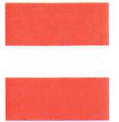
RE: Midterm progress report on the third phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education– Finland – Human Rights Centre contribution

The Human Rights Centre would like to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the opportunity to report on the issue of human rights education and training.

The Human Rights Centre, its Human Rights Delegation, and the Office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman together form Finland's National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions accredited the institution with the highest A-status in December 2014. According to legislation, one of the tasks of the Human Rights Centre is to participate in European and international cooperation on the promotion and protection of fundamental and human rights. The Human Rights Centre generally represents the Finnish National Human Rights Institution in international NHRI- cooperation.

Background on human rights education and training of the Human Rights Centre

One of the Human Rights Centre's statutory tasks is to promote information, training, education, and research on fundamental human rights. The starting point on promoting human rights education has been the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, and the UN World Programme on Human Rights Education and Training. Once established in 2012, the Human Rights Centre started conducting a national baseline study on human rights education and training. As a conclusion, seven recommendations emerged from the study, setting the framework for future efforts.



The recommendations included:

- i) Drafting a governmental action plan on fundamental and human rights
- ii) Embedding human rights education in all education and training
- iii) Enhancing a respectful human rights education learning environment
- iv) Strengthening teachers' human rights knowledge and skills
- v) Ensuring human rights knowledge of public servants
- vi) Developing human rights education materials
- vii) Monitoring, evaluating, and developing human rights education

The Human Rights Centre's work on human rights education and training in 2015

Efforts to include human rights education in the government's national action plan

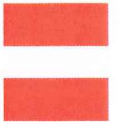
In 2015, the Human Rights Centre advocated the inclusion of human rights education into the government's national action plan on fundamental and human rights. When the action plan was drafted, the Human Rights Centre participated in the work of the drafting group in an advisory capacity.

Action to include human rights education in all education and training

The Human Rights Centre continued promoting and informing about the national baseline study by drafting statements. For example, a statement to the Ministry of Justice underlined the importance of providing judges with training on fundamental and human rights. The Human Rights Centre also reached out to education and training professionals to develop partnerships. Established partnerships included a collaboration with the Finnish National Board of Education. The partnership resulted in encouraging teachers to celebrate the UN's international human rights day at schools, and providing them materials to do so.

Action to monitor, evaluate, and develop human rights education

The Human Rights Centre continued to monitor the national core curriculum on basic education. Monitoring efforts included issuing a statement of the draft core curriculum on upper secondary education. The statement issued to the Finnish National Board of Education emphasized the role of human rights as legally binding international norms.



The Human Rights Centre's work on human rights education and training in 2016

Action to include human rights education in the government's national action plan on fundamental and human rights

The Human Rights Centre continued supporting the inclusion of human rights education into the government's national action plan on fundamental and human rights. Efforts included providing advisory support to the governmental working group on the issue. In early 2017, the government approved the national action on fundamental and human rights plan that included a section on human rights education (one of the four main topics).

Action to include human rights education in all education and training

The Human Rights Centre is engaged in a dialogue on human rights education with a variety of governmental entities and organizations. To continue the dialogue, the Human Rights Centre organized a round table discussion on the relationship of human rights, global education and democracy. Moreover, cooperation with universities on human rights education continued. In 2016, the cooperation efforts included:

- a training for youth instructors in partnership with Haaga Helia University
- guest lectures on human rights education at Helsinki and Oulu Universities

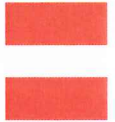
Action to develop human rights education materials and efforts to strengthen human rights knowledge of teachers and public servants

In 2016, the Human Rights Centre prioritized development of human rights education materials. The materials contain printed materials and series of lectures. The printed materials, available in Finnish and Swedish, include the following:

- a republication of an introduction to human rights education (fact sheet)
- a brochure on human rights education and the new national core curricula

The series of lectures include five lectures on fundamental and human rights. They are available in pdf slides in Finnish and Swedish, both official languages of Finland. They are also available as video lectures. The lecture series covers following topics:

- Introduction to human rights
- UN's human rights system
- European Council's human rights system
- EU's fundamental rights
- Constitutional rights



Several experts contributed to the development of the lecture series. These included members of the Human Rights Delegation, central human rights organizations, representatives of the parliamentary ombudsman's office, and legal researchers. The marketing of the lecture series started in 2017 at nation's largest education fair. The Human Rights Centre participated in the fair together with three NGOs working on human rights education. In collaboration, an exhibition on human rights education was organized. According to an estimation, over 3 000 persons (of whom mostly teachers) visited human rights education stand during the two-day exhibition.

The Human Rights Centre will continue marketing the lecture series in 2017. The main target group of the lecture materials are teachers, journalists and civil servants (in a leadership position).

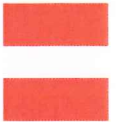
The Centre's additional efforts to strengthen teachers' human rights knowledge included supporting teachers' democracy and human rights education project funded by the Finnish national agency for education. The project aimed to increase initiatives on democracy and human rights in Finnish educational institutions.

Action to monitor, evaluate and develop human rights education

The inclusion of human rights education in the new curriculum on basic education was successful. However, the Human Rights Centre continues to monitor the local application of the national curriculum on basic education.

Concluding remarks

The Human Rights Centre has taken a number of actions between 2015-2016 to promote, develop, strengthen, monitor and evaluate human rights education in Finland. As demonstrated in this report our work on human rights has been, and continues to be a joint effort together with our Delegation, the Ombudsman's Office, educational authorities, the civil society and the academia. We want to emphasize the importance of co-operation, and remain thankful to all our partners for the excellent partnership. Furthermore, we would like to extend our gratitude for the extremely valuable work the UN has done and continues to do in the area of human rights education.



On behalf of the Finnish Human Rights Centre,

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Director

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Expert

Emilia Hannuksela
Associate expert