



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

No. MGE - 32/2012

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has, with reference to the latter's communication reference number RRDD/DESIB/METS/MS/EI/PT, dated 10 February 2012, the honour to enclose herewith a response prepared by the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration. *ML*

Geneva, 20 April 2012



Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights

GENEVA

OHCHR REGISTRY

20 AVR. 2012

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Number: ZČP-32/12
Date: 13 April 2012

Subject: Response to the request by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding the progress report on Implementation of the Second phase of the world Programme for Human Rights Education

With regard to your request for information concerning the department assigned by our Government to coordinate the implementation of the Second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE) dated 6 September 2011 and your further request for information on the implementation of the World Programme dated 10 February 2012, we would like to share with you the following information:

In line with UN Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/15/28, Slovenia is continuing with the implementation of the first phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education also after its official closure in 2010. Implementation measures described in the evaluation report of the first phase (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/docs/replies/SLOVENIA_Evaluation29_April2010.pdf) continue to be applied.

Slovenia has also taken concrete steps towards the implementation of the second phase of the World Programme, focusing on human rights education for higher education and on human rights training programmes for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel. In June 2011, the Government established a Governmental Working Group tasked with preparing a comprehensive implementation plan. The working group is composed of representatives of the relevant ministries responsible for the areas of higher education, public sector and foreign affairs respectively. In consultation with other relevant actors from different line ministries, the civil society and the academia, the working group is currently preparing a draft programme of implementation of the second phase of the World Programme.

The group began its work by identifying and assessing existing human rights education initiatives in higher education, the training of teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and of military personnel. They have identified a number of useful approaches and practices, as well as a number of areas where additional efforts will be needed in order to ensure the provision of human rights education and training. Let me illustrate with some examples:

All teachers are trained in human rights before obtaining their license, and candidates for principles must attend courses on human rights education. Additional human rights and human rights education training is offered to teachers on a voluntary basis throughout their carrier.

Universities, on the other hand, are autonomous, and we find that not all of them offer courses on human rights, nor do they all offer human rights education training to their professional staff.

Human rights training is systematically provided to police officers, who also learn about the role of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. Special emphasis is placed on training in how to manage stereotypes and prejudices and prevent discrimination.

Human rights training is also systematically provided to military personnel taking part in international operations and missions, but not yet to all staff. Training of the administrative staff in the military is being intensified.

Systematic human rights education and training is provided to the police, the military and people working in the judicial system. Furthermore, basic content on human rights is systematically included in the mandatory training for all civil servants upon entry into the profession, as well as in the training program for top managers in public administration.

Having Identified a number of gaps, the working group will now proceed with the identification of possible measures and preparation of guidelines for improving the provision of human rights education in the focus areas of the second phase of the World Programme.

Once the first draft programme of implementation is prepared, it will be examined and expanded further by a nominated group of experts from different relevant institutions, and subsequently adopted by the Government and put into practice.

More details on specific initiatives to improve the provision of human rights education will be available by the end of this year, when the Governmental Working Group is expected to have produced a draft programme of implementation.

With Regards,

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Jernej Videtič
Ambassador, Head of Human Rights Department