

Brussels, December 11, 2020

Human Rights Education Youth Network (HREYN)

Board Meeting

Online

Report

General summary:

The board of Human Rights Education Youth Network, consisting of Nika BAKHSOLIANI - the chair, Jelena MILUTINOVIC - the vice chair, David MGELADZE - secretary general, Barbara SANTIBANEZ and Maxim BURMITSKIY meets several times a year. This document reports the second meeting after the one in March. The board discussed the COVID-19 effect on the network and its activities, they planned together how to act in the current sanitary situation and how to emerge from the crisis, planning the activities for the time when travel restrictions are lifted. In addition, the board decided on the time and format of the upcoming General Assembly and the direction of follow-up projects. The board meeting was fully attended by every member, except for Maxim BURMITSKIY, who had limited attendance. Hereby goes the report and decisions made by the board of HREYN.

1. Opening and adoption of agenda;

The December meeting of the board of HREYN was conducted online, the agenda was prepared and opened for modifications in a period of one week beforehand. The meeting was attended by the $\frac{4}{5}$ of the board, which qualifies as sufficient for decisions. The meeting was opened by the board chair Nika BAKHSOLIANI, accompanied by the informal exchange between the board members. The agenda was adopted.

2. Selecting the rapporteur

The board selected David MGELADZE Secretary-general of HREYN to take the meeting minutes and report to the members the outcomes of the board meeting.

3. General update on COVID-19 pandemic

The members updated each other on COVID-19 situations in their countries and reviewed the challenges the pandemic has posed to operations of HREYN and proceeding of the Strategic Plan 2019-2024 of the network. Generally, pandemic has obstructed the pursuit of HREYN's vision is to support the networking between the professionals, COVID-19 sanitary restrictions has preempted or postponed the face-to-face meetings of the network. The board expressed their priority to face-to-face meetings over the online

counterparts. It was generally agreed that understanding the volunteering position of the board members, increased online workload, and “zoom-fatigue” among the general population, the network has remained passive over the last 3 quarters of the year.

4. Finances

The board examined the financial documents reflecting 2 years after the re-registration of the network. In 2019 there were insignificant cash flow on the account, however in 2020 the Network saw an increase in financial assets amounting to EUR 19,527.76, which was constituted by EUR 756.26, EUR 18,000 and EUR 771,5 from the Council of Europe Study Session remuneration, Human Rights Education Hotspot first installment and membership fees respectively. The expenses accounted for EUR 988,52 which was largely distributed to the travel costs for the study session, but also was spent on website fees and accounting services.

The board agreed on general considerations and guidelines on financial operations within the network. Given the COVID-19 sanitary situation and lower activity of the network, board members agreed to extend the annual payment dues to two years.

5. HREYN Representation

a. Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

HREYN is represented by the Chair - Nika BAKHSOLIANI at the Advisory Council on Youth, where he was elected as a bureau member coordinating the priority focus group on young people’s access to rights. Even though the mandate was severely affected by the pandemic, there have been interesting events where the Chair participated: Human Rights Education Forum in Samarkand by UNDP, as a speaker, Committee of Experts creating recommendations on combating hate speech (ADI/MSI-DIS), where HREYN and Youth dimension will be introduced. In a previous statutory meeting, the chair advocated for diverging media literacy from “human rights education” priority, which increases the chances that organisations will cover more topics in human rights education, and not just concentrate on media literacy. Chair invited board members to discuss what topics and modalities should be advocated during the mandate, especially by the middle of January 2021, before the bureaux (CCJ and CDEJ) meeting online. Chair informed the board that the Council of Europe is working on a new campaign/movement (similar to No Hate Speech) about democracy. Board agreed to exchange ideas before the bureaux meeting.

b. EU-RF Partnership

Maxim BURMITSKIY represents the network in the partnership. However due to his absence from the meeting this was not discussed.

6. On-going projects

a. Advocates of Human Rights Education (AHRE) - study session at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Council of Europe

Due to COVID-19 crisis, the study session was re-applied by the board and re-approved by the CoE Secretariat. For the moment of the board meeting, the preparatory meeting is foreseen in March, and the

study session itself is planned to be held from 26th of April to 1st of May. There is no decision whether it will be organised onsite or live. The process of selecting a new junior facilitator is on-going. Nika suggested aiming for offline meetings, due to the special networking opportunities which come from the offline international meetings that HREYN offers to the participants. Jelena MILUTINOVIC - Vice Chair and Course Director of the study session suggested to have a follow-up meeting on this topic in February. Board members agreed to coordinate between the other projects of HREYN and create synergies between them.

b. Joint Human Rights Education Programme (JHREP) -

Barbara SANTIBANEZ informed the members that within the framework of this project, Emilia ASTORE, Nika and Barbara together with the team of Amnesty international submitted a long-term strategic partnership project for Erasmus+ in October. So far, there's no information about the outcome, but it was marked as a nice exercise as Amnesty was applying for the first time for this profile of funding. Nika reminded the board that there are many links with the EYF project, and if it gets funded there will be more possibility of advancing on the project. The board took note on the programme proceedings.

7. New projects

a. Human Rights Education Hotspot

A partnership building activity supported by BIJ - National Agency of Belgium. The board agreed to deliver it offline in Dworp, Belgium in the second half of 2021. The board agreed to carefully select the experienced participants as the project duration is limited to 5 days and there won't be space for training. In addition, the board agreed to create a call for facilitators, which will be disseminated in HREYN's trainers' pool and members. The board will select the well-suited candidates according to the project needs and HREYN statute. Nika informed the board that the infopack is already created, once the dates are set, it will be ready to be disseminated among the members. The board agreed to use a good possibility to link this project to AHRE, and plan one after another. Therefore, the board agreed to book the youth center for the middle or the second half of June with the flexibility to modify/rebook. In order to ensure consistent process in selection and maintenance of the projects, the board agreed to organise a small information webinar with the project partners. In order to ensure successful outputs, the board agreed to employ a project management consultant as part of the project team, a dedicated person giving the participants feedback. The board agreed to spare the budget of this project for "Reclaiming Civil Space" annual work plan approved by the European Youth Foundation which requires co-funding. (the board later agreed to set the dates for the mobility from 26 June 2020 till 2 July 2020).

b. Reclaiming Civil Space -

Human Rights Education Enhancing Participation, Citizenship and Access to Rights for, with and by Young People - Annual Work Plan addressing shrinking space phenomenon. The board took note that the project was recently approved by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The project consists of 4 main activities - a seminar in Brussels among the experienced activists and educators for exchanging practices, a blended course (offline and online) for young people organised in Turin, followed by the interphase activities, where the participants from the implement actions locally, funded by HREYN and a seminar in Tbilisi to discuss, document and disseminate the outcomes and experiences. The total budget amounts for EUR 65,000, out of which EUR 18,000 needs to be co-financed by HREYN. The

board agreed to increase its efforts to fundraise for the project through Erasmus+ and other sources. The board took note of vice-chair's expertise in the topic and the possible links to be made to project run by Youth Initiatives for Human Rights in Serbia.

c. **Netizen - Education for Digital Rights and Democracy - t**
he board took note that the Study Session applied to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe was approved, however put on the waiting list due to financial constraints, with possibilities to be implemented in late 2021. The study session still requires a bit of refining.

8. Future projects

The board members expressed their views and opinions on the projects that the network should apply for. The board agreed to prioritise creation of online courses, under Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ in order to increase the access to human rights education and to create the legacy on human rights education online courses which are more youth-friendly than the ones offered by the HELP programme of the Council of Europe.

Barbara expressed an interest to create a project on human rights education that is research based and from the perspective of facilitators and trainers, which would include state of the art training, main trends using upcoming projects as data collection points. Jelena intends to connect the dots between her organisation and HREYN on the following matters: shrinking space, youth participation, gender issues, rather than creating new projects. The board decided to create a structural grant proposal for the European Youth Foundation, since the approved annual work plan made HREYN eligible to apply for it.

9. Members, membership and recruitment;

The board welcomed the new members inside the network and decided to act more on strengthening the partnership between them and creating more opportunities. Nika expressed the need for more consistent recruitment and membership procedures.

10. General Assembly;

The board recalled that according to the statute, the General Assembly should have been organised for January 2021. However, due to the sanitary situation and force majeure created by the pandemic, the board agreed to organise hybrid online and offline General Assembly in second or third quarter of 2021. The board took note that upcoming general assembly calls for election of new board members, since Jelena, Nika and Maxim already exhausted their time as board members.

11. Internal communication;

The board agreed to increase the number of board meetings online. In addition, the board agreed to tacitly approve the Code of Conduct of the Board prepared by the vice-chair.

12. Task division;

The board agreed on the following distribution of tasks:

David MGELADZE secretary-general of HREYN took responsibility on supporting the organisational parts of HREH, especially with setting the dates with the youth center.

Nika BAKHSOLIANI took responsibility to create the call for facilitators for HREH and guide the board into organisation of the activity.

Jelena MILUTINOVIC to create more synergies between AHRE and HREH.

Barbara SANTIBANEZ took responsibility to apply for ECOSOC status for HREYN.

13. Evaluation matrix;

Board members evaluated the board meeting using a prepared form.

14. AOB.

The board took note that there's still no update on Participatory Status of HREYN in the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations at the Council of Europe, which was applied in March 2020.