

**Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)8
of the Committee of Ministers to member states
on youth information**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 16 June 2010
at the 1088th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Having regard to:

- the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5);
- the Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw in May 2005;
- the results of the 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, held in October 2008 in Kyiv;
- its Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe;
- the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201), opened for signature on 25 October 2007;
- its Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)5 on measures to protect children against harmful content and behaviour and to promote their active participation in the new information and communications environment;
- the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;
- the resolution to foster the integration of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education systems in Europe, adopted at the 21st session of the Standing Conference of European Ministers of Education, held in Athens from 10 to 12 November 2003;
- its Recommendation Rec(2004)15 on electronic governance ("e-governance");

Considering that:

- respect for democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms implies that young people have access to complete, objective, understandable and reliable information on all of their questions based on their specific needs;
- information and the ability of young people to assess and use it is a pre-requisite for their active participation in society and their responsible citizenship;
- young people are more and more involved in producing and publishing information using the possibilities offered through information and communication technologies;

Bearing in mind the challenges that young people face in finding relevant information, assessing it and then using it for their personal development, including:

- coping with an increasing amount of information;
- dealing with contradictory and ever-changing information;
- being aware of their responsibilities as "producers of information";
- being aware of the risks involved in using information and communication technologies;
- protecting their personal data;
- having access to the necessary computer hardware and software applications and to the Internet;

Considering that the provision of face-to-face information, guidance and counselling is even more important today than for previous generations, due to the fact that social inclusion of young people is now a lengthier and more complex process;

Underlining the importance of continuous implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation No. R (90) 7 concerning information and counselling for young people in Europe, whilst also acknowledging the important progress and achievements made in the field of information and counselling for young people in the Council of Europe's member states since 1990,

Recommends that the governments of the member states:

- a. consolidate and develop existing youth information and counselling services on the basis of Recommendation No. R (90) 7 on information and counselling for young people in Europe;
- b. foster and strengthen the generalist and multi-agency character of youth information and counselling services, as being complementary to specialised services for young people;
- c. ensure that young people have access to and benefit from information by adapting the many forms and channels of youth information to the needs of all young people at local, regional, national and European level;
- d. when developing youth policy, take into consideration the ever-changing information needs of young people, including by using the knowledge gathered through consultations carried out by grass-root organisations involved in youth information and counselling;
- e. foster the development of new working methods, varied approaches and innovative ways to use new forms of communication;
- f. encourage the participation of young people in developing youth information content, tools for delivery and policy development;
- g. promote the acquisition of competences by young people concerning the management of information, bearing in mind that:
 - information literacy should be part of non-formal, informal and formal education,
 - young people should learn to deal with information with a critical and self-determined approach,
 - young people should be able to create, produce and distribute information content in a responsible way;
- h. increase awareness among young people as to the risks they face as consumers and creators of online information;
- i. raise the awareness of young people concerning the dissemination of their personal data when active in online social communities;
- j. recognise the need for quality standards for online youth information services and support quality initiatives in this context at all levels;
- k. raise the level of awareness and training of staff in charge of youth information regarding the new challenges of youth information work, and promote exchanges of experience and practice among key players;
- l. encourage the access of disadvantaged young people, including those with disabilities, to online information;

Instructs the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to transmit this recommendation to the governments of those States Parties to the European Cultural Convention (ETS No. 18) which are not members of the Council of Europe.