

# Youth Partnership News

European Commission and Council of Europe  
[www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)



## The Partnership Youth Research Seminar Series

Six research seminars have been organised by the Partnership Programme since 2003. These international seminars bring together researchers working on topics related to youth to present papers and discuss them together with policy makers and youth practitioners. The seminars are a key component of the Partnership's commitment

to the triangular dialogue between research, policy making and youth work. Seminar themes have included Re-situating Culture, Voluntary Activities, Non-formal learning, Political Participation and Social Inclusion. The latest seminar, held in the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg looked at Diversity, Human Rights and Participation.

## Researching Diversity-Human Rights-Participation

The research seminar took up the themes of the "All Different-All Equal" European Youth Campaign launched by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the European Commission in June 2006. It also followed on from the work begun with the seminar on **Re-situating Culture** which examined the limitations of the concept of culture, addressing in particular the issue of interculturalism and the way it is applied in European youth policy and practice. This year's seminar aimed to enlarge on the three pillars of the campaign and to examine the interrelationship of the three concepts: diversity, human rights and participation.

**Diversity** is linked to interculturalism and is key to the European Union's anti-discrimination agenda. **Human Rights** education has become a central

focus of the Council of Europe's work in the area of citizenship education.

**Participation** is at the heart of the European Commission White Paper on Youth.

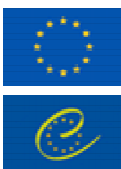
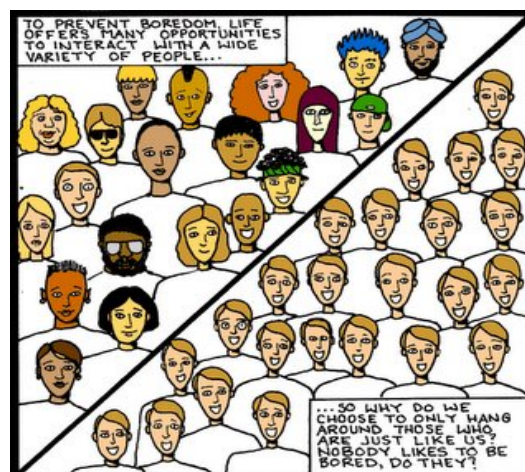
In this light, the seminar had three main aims:

- To **analyse** the conceptual 'baggage' behind concepts such as diversity and human rights;
- To be **constructively critical** of how these concepts are applied in practice (in formal and non-formal education, youth work, diversity training, human rights education, anti-racism, social work etc.);
- To **facilitate a discussion** on how a more egalitarian participation can be achieved through evidenced-based youth research.

### Research Websites:

- [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)
- [www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net)
- [www.youth-debate.net](http://www.youth-debate.net)

Over 110 applications to participate in the seminar were received. Only 17 could be selected to present their research. Participants came from countries as diverse as Turkey and India, Azerbaijan and Cyprus, Spain and Romania. Three facilitators chaired thematic panels: Gavan Titley, Yael Ohana and Andreas Karsten. Key-note lectures were given by Gavan Titley, on **Resituating Culture/Situating Diversity**, and by Professor Costas Douzinas of Birkbeck College, London on **The Ends of Human Rights**. Finally, Dina Kiwan drew conclusions from the seminar, initiating the final discussion.



## Debate Youth

As part of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy ([www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net)), in March 2006 the Partnership launched a new-look discussion platform: [www.youth-debate.net](http://www.youth-debate.net). In the run-up to the research seminar on Diversity-Human Rights-Participation there was a lively on-line discussion on the pages of Youth Debate on the seminar themes. The site allows anyone, following an easy registration procedure, to contribute articles, vote on polls, comment on items or start discussion threads. All the papers from the research seminar can be found on-line, both on Youth Debate and in the EKYP database.

In June 2006 Youth Debate published a call for online editors. Those interested are invited to submit applications no later than September 4, 2006

The **results** of the seminar will be summarised and evaluated in a report. The report can be found on [www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net).

to become a volunteer editor on a youth-related theme of their choice. Themes may include:

- European and/or global citizenship
- Youth participation (political, voluntary activities...)
- Young people and social exclusion/inclusion (poverty issues)
- Employment
- Racism and discrimination
- Homophobia and sexism
- Human rights education
- Non-formal learning
- And more...

On the pages of Youth Debate you can find discussions on the main issues dealt with by the Youth Research Partnership. Sign up and join the debate!



[www.youth-debate.net](http://www.youth-debate.net)

*« ...Diversity is, increasingly, the fate of the modern world... The capacity to live with difference is, in my view, the coming question of the twenty-first century »*

Stuart Hall

## Tune in to Youth Research

The research seminar on Diversity-Human Rights-Participation was the first seminar to go **audio**. The Youth Research Partnership in co-operation with the [www.nonformality.org](http://www.nonformality.org) co-produced **Podcasts** of the keynote lectures by Gavan Titley, Peter Lauritzen, Costas Douzinas and Dina Kiwan.

Podcasts are digital audio recordings. They can be downloaded onto your computer in a variety of formats or even on to your MP3 player if you have an Apple Ipod.

Podcasts can be downloaded by following the link at [www.youth-debate.net](http://www.youth-debate.net)

The success of these podcasts means that the Partnership intends to invest in them in the future. They allow those who cannot attend our seminars to experience them (almost) live !



Tune in to Youth Research!

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The Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe