

## Call for trainers for the Study Session

# A.P.A.C. – Active Participation Against Cyberbullying

Strasbourg, France, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2018

**Deadline for applications: 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2018**

Link to the online application form: <https://goo.gl/forms/NSS3BBihiA4S0HhI3>

### What is “A.P.A.C.” about?

A good social climate in which everyone feels welcome and respected is a prerequisite for learning and personal development. Sadly, bullying is widespread in schools and takes different forms. Bullying must never be tolerated in school and steps should be taken to prevent and tackle the problem. Hence all schools must have concrete policies in order to prevent bullying and in cases of bullying. Peer support systems are useful too, both when improving the social climate and when preventing problems such as bullying.

Therefore, OBESSU demands:

- the implementation of anti-bullying and harassment policies with explicitly defined steps to be taken in cases of bullying;
- anti-bullying teams in charge of monitoring the bullying situation and taking action;
- a peer support system so students know who to turn to if they have a problem;
- “social learning lessons” to make space for students and other staff to discuss how to treat each other in a positive way within the school community and how tension can be avoided;
- appropriately trained staff offering support to students to be integrated in every school community;
- the promotion of an environment where bullies do not become segregated or discriminated in return, but involved in the social climate.

(From [OBESSU Political Platform](#))

The topic of Hate speech has been quite prominent within the work of the Council of Europe for the past years with the “No Hate Speech Movement” combating hate speech online. OBESSU has also worked to some extent on this particular topic, most notably during the “Study Session 2015: Deport Xenophobia from European Classrooms”. But with the rise of xenophobia and acts of extreme violence around the world, the topic remains highly relevant. In the Political Platform it is stated that OBESSU believes that one of the most prominent ways of combating intolerance is by encouraging democratic schools to foster mutual understanding, respect and solidarity among students. But it is also important to look at the role of student unions when combating hate speech, and what they can do to promote understanding and tolerance within their realities. It is crucial when speaking about hate speech that we have a specific focus on online hate speech. With a growing use of social media, hate speech online is spreading even more quickly and affecting school students in their daily lives. We thus need to be at the forefront of developing ideas on how to prevent and address it through education.

(From [OBESSU Work Plan 2018-2020](#))

### **Aim and Objectives:**

The main aim of the Study Session is to foster active participation of school students as multipliers in advocating for online human rights and democratic citizenship.

The objectives of the Study Session are:

- To understand the concepts of "online hate speech" and "cyberbullying", the human rights framework, and the work done by the Council of Europe in this field.
- To analyse the reality and the initiatives undertaken in different European countries, to combat online hate speech and cyberbullying at school.
- To explore the role school students and school student unions can have and the tools they can use in promoting human rights online and offline.
- To provide participants with new skills and competences to become "online activists" against online hate speech and cyberbullying.
- To design future initiatives to be implemented at local, regional, national and international level, aimed at promoting human rights and combating online hate speech and cyber bullying at school.

### **The call:**

OBESSU is looking for 3 trainers (2 coming from OBESSU Pool of Trainers, 1 coming from OBESSU Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations), that together with 1 OBESSU Board member, 1 member of the OBESSU Secretariat and 1 external Educational Advisor appointed by the Council of Europe, will be responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of the activity programme of the Study Session.

The selected facilitators will be expected to:

- Be in charge of designing the activity programme of the event, making it dynamic, interesting and useful to OBESSU's Member, Affiliate and Candidate Organisations;
- Be ready to read several background documents;
- Be generally available between the preparatory meeting and the event to communicate with the team and work independently on the content of the event;
- Facilitate some sessions of the activity programme;
- Evaluate the results of the event;
- Be available for the preparation meeting and for the whole duration of the event.

Costs for travel, board and lodging during the event will be covered by the Council of Europe.

### **The dates:**

Selected facilitators are expected to fully attend the preparatory meeting of the event, that will take place in Strasbourg (France), from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 (travel days included).

The Study Session *A.P.A.C. – Active Participation Against Cyberbullying* will take place in Strasbourg (France), from the 22<sup>nd</sup> (arrival day) to the 29<sup>th</sup> (departure day) of April 2018. Trainers are expected to arrive one day before (on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April) for a final preparation meeting.

### **Selection criteria:**

- For trainers applying as member of OBESSU Pool of Trainers, a balance between old and new members will be considered.
- In the selection process a gender and geographical balance will be taken into consideration.

**OBESSU encourages students of all genders, ethnic backgrounds and other identities to apply in order to ensure a good representation of diversity.**

### **How to apply?**

In order to apply, you have to fill the online application form: <https://goo.gl/forms/NSS3BBihiA4S0HhI3>

If you apply as trainer from Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations, you have also to send to OBESSU a [nomination letter](#) from your home organisation by email to [secretariat@obessu.org](mailto:secretariat@obessu.org)

**Deadline for applications: 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2018**

The final selection will be communicated by the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

If you have any questions, queries or would like some more information, please contact the OBESSU Secretariat at [secretariat@obessu.org](mailto:secretariat@obessu.org)

This event will be in cooperation with:

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE