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1.Establishment of the Training Centre

November 1998: The idea of establishing a European Training for Human Rights and Democracy is presented to the EU presidency conference in Graz on "European Educational Co-operation for Peace, Stability and Democracy, which endorses the proposal.

October 1999:
Registration of ETC as non-profit organisation.

Since October 1999:
Fund-raising: Up to now the ETC has been supported by the City of Graz. the Government of Styria, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. A promise of support of the Ministry of Interior was also given.

Since November 1999:
The ETC is provisionally hosted at the Institute of International Law and International Relations of the University of Graz.

28 February 2000: Presentation of the ETC at an inter-ministerial session in Vienna. Present were the ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, Education, Science and Culture, Justice and Economic Affairs. They were made familiar with the aims and activities of the ETC.

Since June 2000: Establishment of the International Advisory Board for the ETC. The Advisory Board consists of about 30 international and Austrian experts and shall help the ETC with the planning and carrying out of its activities.

7 December 2000:
Official inauguration of the premises of the ETC at the Mozarthof in Schubertstrasse 29, A-8010 Graz.

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2. Co-operation agreements and networking activities

August 2000: Cooperation agreement between the ETC and the University of Graz.
With this agreement, a close co-operation between the university of Graz and the ETC will be possible in training and research.

Co-operation agreement with the European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe in Graz.
Emphasis was laid upon language training of administration officials considering the human rights aspects as well as in the range of the minorities´ and migrants´ languages .

ETC is a partner of the People's Decade on Human Rights Education (PDHRE), New York, for Europe. PDHRE is a non-governmental organisation promoting the UN-Decade for Human Rights Education with other partners based in Argentina, Mali and India.

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3. Lectures and conferences

28 March 2000: Guest lecture of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch in Graz.
In this context the ETC was presented to the University of Graz and also to the public.

30 June - 1 July 2000: International workshop on "Human Security and Human Rights Education" in Graz.
30 international experts participated in this workshop, among them representatives of international organisations. This workshop was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to elaborate adequate proposals for the support of the "Human Security"-Initiative through human rights education. These proposals shall be put into reality through the creation of an international network of competent institutions and organisations in the field of human rights education. The result of this workshop was presented to the Millennium Assembly at the United Nations 2000 by the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs. In the scope of the current UN Decade of Human Rights Education (1995-2004) the result of the workshop will be a basis for the development of a common strategy in this specific field. A follow-up is planned in the year 2001.

13 October 2000: Guest lecture of Prof. Vojin Dimitrijevic, Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, on the elections in Yugoslavia and the events in Belgrade.

21 November 2000: Round Table with Ambassador Gerhard Jandl (Sarajevo), Wolfgang Benedek and Joseph Marko on Bosnia and Herzegovina 5 years after Dayton.

Proposal: Conference on the rights of minorities and languages of minorities during the European Year of Languages 2001 in Graz. The European Year of Languages 2001 was initiated by the Council of Europe and the European Union. The proposal for the project was handed in at the Ministry of Education in order to arrange an international conference on minorities´ languages.

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4. Research- and co-operation projects

September 2000 - 2002: International co-ordination of the project "Establishment and Networking of Human Rights Centres in Former Yugoslav Republics".
The European Union finances this two year project. The ETC is the co-ordinator for the establishment of 4 university-based human rights centres in Former Yugoslavia and networking activities with 8 centres and focal points in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Podgorica, Prishtina, Belgrade, Zagreb and Skopje. A first strategy meeting of this network will take place from 7-9 December in Graz.

October 2000 - September 2001: Research project "Institutionalising Ethnic Diversity in Post-Conflict Situations: The Role of Human Rights and Minority Protection in South-East Europe".
This international and interdisciplinary research project belongs to the winner project of the competition "Promoting Peace and Preventing Violence" initiated by the Ministry of Science. New concepts for institutionalising ethnic diversity in post-conflict situations (like in Bosnia or Kosovo) shall be elaborated in the macro and micro field. Like this, not only the base for a new orientation of international mediators but also the base for a new orientation of the population in the region, especially for the political élite, is given. The aim of this project is to strengthen the process of democratisation and to support the embodiment of the rule of law in ethnically divided societies.

Planned for 2001-2003: Research project "Culture of Human Rights" in the context of activities of "Graz - Cultural Capital 2003". In connection with the "Graz - Culture Capital 2003" the realisation of the two year research project on a culture of human rights is planned, in which among other things case studies are very important. These case studies shall examine the meaning and consequences of this topic in Austria and in other countries. The results will be presented in the year 2003.

Planned for 2000/2001: Research project on the evaluation of human rights education in Austria. Together with other institutions in Austria working in the same field, an evaluation of the current situation of human rights education in Austrian schools, education institutions, universities etc. shall be undertaken. This can be the base for an improved national strategy in this field. At the same time an Austrian contribution to the mid-term Review of the Human Rights Education Decade of the United Nations taking place in the year 2000 could be made.

Planned for 2001/2002: Research project on Human Security and Human Rights Education as a follow-up to the workshop held by the ETC in June/July 2000.

Since winter term 2000/2001:
Co-ordination of the participation of University of Graz in the European Regional Master Programme on Democracy and Human Rights for South-East-Europe starting in January 2000 in Sarajevo.

Since March 2000: Assuring the international co-ordination, on behalf of University of Graz as contractor, of the TEMPUS programme on Curriculum Development in Human Rights at universities in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

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5. Participation in International Teaching Programmes Since winter semester 2000/2001: The ETC is in charge of the participation of the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz in the European Master Programme for Human Rights and Democracy.
This one year Master Programme for 80 students based in Venice is financed by the EU Commission and involves partner universities in all EU countries. The University of Graz was accepted to the programme as associated university beginning with winter semester 2000/2001. With this it is invited to offer lectures to the students in the winter term in Venice and possibly also receive students in the summer semester 2001 in Graz.

6. Elaboration and realisation of training programmes

Since October 1999: Establishment of a Documentation Centre and expert database.
Since October 1999 a literature database relating to the topics human rights, democracy and the rule of law has been set up. This database will develop into a Documentation Centre. At the same time the establishment of an expert database began, which is the basis for a pool of experts and resource persons in the field of education in human rights, democracy and rule of law.

21 - 23 March 2000: Participation of the ETC in the workshop "Basic Knowledge on Conflict Management" at the Academy of Bozen, Italy.
Through experiences of former participants in human rights field missions, in particular in ex-Yugoslavia, the basis for adequate education programmes for such missions was created. A model curriculum for such a training was elaborated and was made available. Adequate education modules will be offered in the next step for international organisations.

16 July 2000: Participation of the ETC in the meeting of national training experts of the OSCE States, Vienna.
The OSCE increases its activities in the field of training of civil personnel in the fields of human rights, election monitoring, democracy etc, through the REACT-concept (Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams) since February 2000. For this reason the OSCE elaborated training standards which were made accessible to organisations which were interested in that meeting. National training centres, such as the ETC, were invited in order to offer such training programmes in co-operation with the OSCE.

October/November 2000: Seminar series "Key aspects of the protection of human rights in Europe and their implementation in Bosnia-Herzegovina - Course offered to judges and prosecutors", Sarajevo.
In October/November 2000 approximately 30 judges and prosecutors will be trained by international and Bosnian experts for the implementation of European human rights standards, in particular the European Human Rights Convention, on 4 weekends in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This training programme is financed by the German Foundation for International Legal Co-operation.

3/4 November 2000: Advanced training for the heads and members of the 6 Commissions of the Austrian Advisory Board for Human Rights, in Vienna.
The heads and members of the Commission of the Austrian Advisory Board for Human Rights are in charge of the visits of prisons and of the investigation of the conditions of prisoners. During this seminar they are made aware of the prevention of torture. They have also the chance to exchange their experiences. This seminar should elaborate adequate guidelines for the further proceeding of the Commission, which will be published at the end of the seminar by the ETC in the form of a handbook.

Planned for 2001: Train-the-trainers-seminar for Austrian NGOs on "Human Rights Education". Austrian NGOs and experts get the chance to reflect upon methods and ways of human rights education in Austria.

Planned for 2001: Seminar for the training of teachers in the field of human rights and rule of law with special emphasis on the struggle against racism.
Such a seminar series for Austrian teachers will be offered soon to the Ministry of Education.

Planned for 2001: Training seminar and research on "Human Rights and Business"
In co-operation with the business community, training programmes and research activities in this field should be elaborated. Not only shall this planned research and training bring together human rights- and economic experts but also leaders of international companies. Through this, particularly the "Global Compact" initiative of the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan shall be made public in Austria and should also be realised. The "Global Compact" initiative puts its emphasis on the importance of human rights in all economic activities.

Planned for 2001:
Workshops on "Globalization and Human Rights", the role of the civil society in WTO-, IMF- and World Bank-Affairs for Human Rights, Development and Environment.

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7. Participation in Austrian and international events

Since October 1999: ETC as member of the Austrian Board on Human Rights Education, Vienna.
The ETC participates regularly as a member in the sessions of the Boar, which co-ordinates Austrian activities in this field.

12 - 15 April 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Marko) in the "5th Annual Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalism", Columbia University/New York in the panel "European Identity Formation at the Crossroads: Ethnic Homogeneity or Multicultural Diversity?"

25 - 27 May 2000: Participation of the ETC (Dr. Oberleitner) in the conference of the EU presidency "The European Union and the Central Role of Human Rights and Democratic Principles in the Relations with Third Countries", Venice.
This conference took place at the headquarters of the European Master Programme of human rights and democracy in Venice. The ETC participated in the working group "Human Rights Education" which formulated adequate proposals for the advancement of EU activities concerning human rights education. These proposals were made available to the relevant EU bodies.

15 March 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Benedek, Dr. Oberleitner) in the meeting of the Austrian OSCE presidency with NGOs, Vienna.
At the beginning of the Austrian OSCE presidency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, invited to a meeting with NGOs in order to inform about the Austrian programme and also to receive advises from NGOs. The ETC could be presented as the new Austrian institution in the training field.

19 June 2000: Participation of the ETC (Mag. Klempa) in the OSCE meeting on "Trafficking in human beings", Vienna.
This conference was organised by the Austrian OSCE presidency. At this meeting recommendations for the prevention of trafficking in human beings were elaborated. These recommendations aim at improving the training of the personal of international organisations. In this context the ETC offered its co-operation.

19 - 20 June 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Benedek) in the third ASEM seminar on human rights in Asia, Paris.
For the third time European and Asian human rights experts came together for an informal meeting.

6 July 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Benedek) in the seminar of the International Peace Academy on "Sharing Political Space in Peacemaking:
The UN and Regional Organisations - The Case of Europe" at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna. During this seminar the question of the sustainability of peace-keeping and the development of adequate training programmes was discussed.

16 - 17 September 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Benedek) in the Academic Conference and Opening of the European Master Programme in Human Rights and Democracy, Venice.
Lecture on Human Security and Human Rights. This conference was the first actual step towards an incorporation of the ETC and other associated universities into the masters programme.

14-15 October 2000: Participation of the ETC (Prof. Benedek) in the preparatory meeting for the establishment of the European Regional Master Programme for Democracy and Human Rights in South-East-Europe, held in Bologna.

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8. Internships and research assistance

January 2000 - February 2000: Internship (Minna Nikolova, Bulgaria), who developed an internet guide on "Human Rights Education".

June 2000: Visit of exchange students from Bosnia-Herzegovina.
The students were supervised by the ETC in order be able to write research papers on human rights questions.

19 May 2000: Visit of an international student group from the European Peace University Stadtschlaining in the ETC.
Students had the chance to hear lectures and discussions offered by human rights experts.

Since September 2000: Internship (Claudia Röck, Austria), during this internship a PhD thesis on "Human Rights Education and the Rights of Women" shall be elaborated.

September - November 2000: Internship (Sabina Dujak, Austria, and Sandra Habaschy, Austria) for the preparation of the seminar series "Training of judges and prosecutors in Bosnia-Herzegovina".

Since October 2000: Internship (Eva Schöfer, Austria), during this internship a PhD thesis on "Culture of Human Rights" shall be elaborated.

Since November 2000: Internship (Stefan Börger, Austria) for the preparation of the seminar for heads and members of the Commission of the Austrian Advisory Board on Human Rights and the preparation of a handbook.

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9. Contacts and visits

Contacts with the command of the division for international missions of the Austrian army.
Within these activities especially the elaboration of programmes relating to human rights education and within the NATO-programme "Partnership for Peace" as well as training programmes will be discussed.

31 March 2000: Visit of the Canadian Ambassador Counsel Pierre Guimond in the ETC. He expressed the special interest of Canada in human rights education and the activities of the ETC.

13 September 2000: Chilean Ambassador Gonzalez visits the ETC to discuss co-operation.

18 September 2000: UNHCR Regional Representative Karola Paul visits the ETC and proposes co-operation activities.

Planned for 2001: Contribution to the partnership between the cities of Graz and of Dubrovnik by way of a Seminar on human rights in a regional perspective funded by the city of Graz and organized by the European Training Centre in co-operation with the Inter University Centre (IUC) in Dubrovnik.

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