

COMPETENCES FOR DEMOCRATIC CULTURE – A REFERENCE AND A TOOL FOR PROMOTING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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Abstract: The final declaration of the Conference of the Ministers of Education of the Council of Europe member states, adopted in Brussels in April 2016, endorsed the model of competences for democratic culture (CDC) and encouraged the Council of Europe to pursue the development of a reference framework around this model, with potential use at all levels of education. The RFCDC can be also useful in promoting academic integrity in higher education. Some of the elements of the CDC model, including values, attitudes, skills and knowledge and critical understanding, as well as some of the corresponding descriptors of competence, are particularly relevant for building the capacity of students to initiate their research activity based on the principles of academic integrity, to recognise plagiarism and to take a stand against unfair academic behaviour. The promotion of CDC in higher education is also conducive to a general climate supporting integrity and discouraging plagiarism.

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