



## GUIDIKOVA Irena

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The Council of Europe (CoE), based in Strasbourg (France), covers virtually the entire European continent, with its 47 member countries. Founded on 5 May 1949, the Council of Europe seeks to develop throughout Europe common and democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals. The Council of Europe aims at creating a common democratic and legal area throughout the whole of the continent, ensuring respect for its fundamental values: human rights, democracy and the rule of law, which are the foundations of a tolerant and civilised society and indispensable for European stability, economic growth and social cohesion. The main objectives of the CoE are to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law; to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity; to find common solutions to the challenges facing European society; to consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform.

Irena GUIDIKOVA. A graduate of Political Science and Political Philosophy from the Universities of Sofia (BG) and York (UK), she has been working at the Council of Europe since 1994. Her career has taken her from the Directorate of Youth and Sport where she developed and carried out a large research programme, through a transversal 3-year project on the future of democracy in Europe, the Private Office of the Secretary General where she was a policy advisor, to her present job as Head of Division of Cultural Policy, Diversity and Dialogue and Manager of the Intercultural cities programme / Diplômée en Sciences politiques de l'Université de Sofia (Bulgarie), et en Philosophie politique de l'Université de York (Royaume-Uni), elle travaille au Conseil de l'Europe depuis 1994. Elle commence sa carrière à la Direction de la Jeunesse et du Sport, où elle développe et met en œuvre un important programme de recherche pour un projet transversal de 3 ans sur l'avenir de la démocratie en Europe. Elle occupe ensuite la fonction de conseiller politique au Cabinet du Secrétaire général. Elle est actuellement chef de la Division des politiques culturelles, de la diversité et du dialogue.



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### MARS - Media Against Racism in Sport

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