



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

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Annual Report 2002

Contents

1. Calendar of activities 2002	p. 3
2. Global Education Programme	p. 5
3. Policy Dialogue Programme	p. 17
4. Multimedia programme	p. 27

1. Calendar of activities in 2002

Month	Date	Activities	Place
January	14	“All Human Rights for All” round table	Sofia (Bulgaria)
	30-5 Feb	“Globalising human dignity: the challenge for a rights-based approach”, seminar at World Social Forum	Porto Alegre (Brazil)
February	15-17	Global education Network Europe, 2 nd roundtable on multilateral networking of national development education structures	Amsterdam (Netherlands)
March	29-31	Global Education Week international seminar	Nicosia (Cyprus)
April	7-14	Africa-Europe training course for youth organisations	Tarrafal (Cape Verde)
	8-12	South-North Media prize ceremony during the north-south media festival	Geneva (Switzerland)
May	8-12	9 th Permanent Conference of Mediterranean Audiovisual Operators: The Media in the Mediterranean as Factors of Dialogue and Peace	Algiers (Algeria)
	12-13	Working Party for the Lisbon Forum 2002: “The right to sustainable development: Johannesburg’s missing link”	Lisbon (Portugal)
	13-15	Workshop on training and reinforcement of the capacities of civil society organisations - Central Africa	N’Djamena (Chad)
	24	1 st Think-Tank Meeting: Europe-wide Congress on Global Education	Amsterdam (Netherlands)
	27-1 st June	4 th Preparatory Committee to the “World Summit on Sustainable Development”	Bali (Indonesia)
June	15	Economic, Social and Cultural rights workshop at the Human Rights School for Future Decision Makers	Dubrovnik (Croatia)
	17	Preparatory Meeting for the Africa-Europe Quadrilogue Partnership Process in the context of the 2 nd Euro-Africa Summit	Bonn (Germany)
	18	Inaugural conference on the occasion of German membership of the North-South Centre	Bonn (Germany)
	21	GENE Working Group 3: « Improving quality in global education »	Nuremberg (Germany)

Month	Date	Activities	Place
	28-1 st July	Euro-Mediterranean Conference “From poverty to dignity : strategies for social development and social cohesion in the Euro-Mediterranean region”	Alexandria (Egypt)
August	21-23	Workshop for training and improving the skills of civil society organisations in East Africa	Dar es Salam (Tanzania)
	26	Side Event in the World Summit on Sustainable Development on Participatory Democracy and Good Governance as Fundamental Tools for a Human Rights Approach to Sustainable Development	Johannesburg (South-Africa)
September	2-11	Intercultural dialogue and solidarity in the Mediterranean Training Course	Budapest (Hungary)
	24	“Challenge Europe” - German Development NGOs and the North-South Centre	Bonn (Germany)
October	20-27	3rd University on Youth and Development	Mollina (Spain)
	28-29	Workshop for training and improving the skills of civil society organisations in North Africa	Tlemcen (Algeria)
November	15-24	Global Education Week 2002: « One Sustainable World »	Europe-wide
	15-17	Europe-wide Global Education Congress	(Netherlands)
	17	GENE, 3 rd roundtable on multilateral networking of national development education structures	
	18	G-8/GENE Global Education meeting	
	23-1 st Dec	Training course on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Arrábida (Portugal)
	29-1 st Dec	Lisbon Forum	Lisbon (Portugal)

2. Global education programme

- 2.1 Support and Networking for increased and improved Global Education: Global Education Network Europe (GENE)**
- 2.2 Strengthening policy, support and funding for Global Education**
- 2.3 Supporting co-ordination and sharing best practices : World Aware Education Award (WAEA)**
- 2.4 Global Education Week**
- 2.5 “Intercultural dialogue and solidarity in the Mediterranean”**
- 2.6 Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations**
- 2.7 3rd University on Youth and Development**

2.1 Support and Networking for increased and improved Global Education: Global Education Network Europe (GENE)

Date: January – December 2002

Place:

Process: Europe-wide

GENE Round-table: 14 February, Amsterdam

Gene Working Group 3 (Sharing good practice and theory in evaluation): 21 June, Nurnberg

GENE informal Meeting with G-8 global educators: 17 November, Maastricht

Partners:

National Committee for Sustainable Development Education (NCDO - NI)

National Committee for Development Education (NCDE - Irl)

Development Education Association (U.K.)

KommEnt (Austria)

Swiss Foundation for Education and Development

B.M.Z./Venro (Germany)

Rorg and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Norway)

Context and objectives :

The GENE project networks Global Education national co-ordination and funding structures. GENE networks existing national structures of support and funding in 7 member states, sharing strategies in policy development, support, funding and evaluation, with a view to supporting the development of national co-ordination and funding structures in other Council of Europe member States.

Results:

During 2002 the Network, facilitated by the North-South Centre, was consolidated and its members agreed that its purpose is:

1. To share experience and strategies among existing and emerging national structures, in order to inform best practice nationally and provide mutual support and learning.
2. To disseminate learning from the initial participating countries to other EU, and Council of Europe member States, so that structures subsequently emerging will learn from this experience and so that, eventually, all Council of Europe countries might have national co-ordinating structures for the increase and improvement of Global Education.
3. To develop and pursue a common European agenda on strengthening global/development education.

The Network also agreed the following six areas of common work, with Network members (indicated in bold) taking the lead in:

1. An *ongoing public awareness and policy initiative in the context of the Presidencies of the E.U., Council of Europe, and OSCE on European World Citizens* (**NCDO**; D.E.A., KommEnt, N.S.C.)
2. The *GENE study* (**KommEnt, N.S.C.**)
3. *Measuring effectiveness: sharing practice and theory in evaluation* (**D.E.A.**; **B.M.Z.**; Rorg, KommEnt)

4. *Databank on global education in the 44 member States of the Council of Europe* (**N.S.C**; Rorg; DEA; NCDO)
5. *G.E. Manifesto* - building on the EU Development Education Resolution, to develop a commitment document useful for WSSD preparations, Council of Europe, G-8, etc. (**D.E.A., N.S.C.**)
6. *Training*: sharing experiences of training, university courses and programmes (**D.E.A.; N.S.C., Swiss Foundation**).

Furthermore, there was significant progress in work area no. 3.

Follow-up:

During the informal Network meeting with G-8 country colleagues which took place in November, it was agreed to expand the network in 2003 to include France, Italy, and Russia, and that the US and Japan, as countries with observer status in the Council of Europe, would also be invited as observer members of the GENE Network.

Planning is advanced for an expert seminar on evaluation in global education, (Nuremberg, March 2003) and an International Seminar on the same topic (London, September 2003)

2.2 Strengthening policy, support and funding for Global Education

Achieved through:

1. Development Education Resolution/ Global Education Declaration.
2. OECD/North-South Centre publication on public attitudes and public support.
3. Europe-Wide Global Education Congress

Date: January - December

Place:

- 1 and 3. –Maastricht, Netherlands
2. Lisbon and Paris

Partners :

Global Education Congress and Global Education Declaration partners :

Netherlands Committee for Development Cooperation (NCDO); Government of Luxembourg; European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM); Learning for Sustainability; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Austrian Development Cooperation; Government of Sweden; Development Centre of the OECD; Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)

Public opinion publication : OECD Development Centre

Context and objectives:

In the context of growing interest in the role of Global Education in the pursuit of international development goals, the purpose of the Congress and the Global Education Declaration is to increase national and pan-European levels of policy support and funding for development education, increasing the integration of Global Education into education systems.

Also, in this context, there is a need to provide comparative data across OECD donor countries on public support for development. The publication provides such data.

Results:

Congress and Declaration

The Europe-wide Global Education Congress was organised by the North-South Centre in partnership with a number of organisations and member states, in Maastricht, the Netherlands from 15 - 17 November 2002 under the theme: *Achieving the Millennium Goals, Learning for Sustainability: Increased Commitment to Global Education for Increased Critical Public Support.*

The Congress brought together over 220 delegates from over 50 countries, including 40 of the member States of the Council of Europe, as well as from Africa, Asia and Latin America, together with representatives from COE observer states Japan and the USA. Working on the basis of systematically applying the quadrilogue process, representatives of parliaments, governments, local and regional authorities and civil society attended.

The Congress included high-level input from experts in the fields of Sustainable Development, Poverty Reduction, and Education, including the participation of 15 Ministers or Secretaries of State of Foreign Affairs, Development Co-operation, Environment and Education. It also included space for networking

between national delegations. A strong Council of Europe Secretariat Delegation was also present, along with representatives of relevant intergovernmental organisations (UNEP, International Bureau of Education of UNESCO, OECD Development Centre).

The Congress included space for the debate and discussion of an outcomes document “*A European Framework Strategy for Increased and Improved Global Education to the Year 2015*”. During the Congress this document, known as the “Maastricht Global Education Declaration”, was negotiated by Governments, debated and owned by Civil Society Organisations. Parliamentarians and Local and Regional Authorities were also engaged in formulating the document. Under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Mats Aberg, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the Council of Europe, a Drafting Committee re-worked the document, which was acclaimed in the final plenary. A copy of the document is included in the preliminary report, together with details of a parallel southern participants process and statement.

As a result of the Congress, national processes are already ongoing in Austria, Finland, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The Congress requested the North-South Centre to further refine the definition of Global Education, to ensure follow-up to the Congress, and to test the feasibility of developing a process of national peer monitoring, peer support and national review reports on the state of Global Education in member States of the Council of Europe.

Among the results achieved by the Congress, the following might be mentioned.

1. For the first time there is an agreed framework or “starting point” statement on the importance of Global Education in Europe to global agendas for poverty eradication, global social cohesion and sustainable development. Broad consensus has been achieved on the need to strengthen Global Education, with the participation of Quadrilogue constituents from a majority (40) of member States of the Council of Europe.
2. Political statements by a number of key figures during plenary inputs have also added to the consensus regarding the importance and centrality of Global Education in Europe to the achievement of multilaterally agreed goals in global poverty eradication and sustainable development.
3. There have been, both in the run up to, during and since the Congress, concrete outcomes in a number of countries, as Quadrilogue participants met to discuss national positions regarding the Framework document, and/or national preparatory or follow-up processes.
4. The European Framework document refers to the useful process of political dialogue that takes place in the North-South Centre Quadrilogue as an important route to increase and improve Global Education among the 4 Quadrilogue partners. It also refers to the need for greater international networking and co-ordination. The Centre, thanks to the assistance of colleagues in Strasbourg, particularly in the Permanent Representations, now has a detailed and up-to-date database, developed in preparation for the Congress, with information on the key actors of the Quadrilogue and in each of the 44 member States of the Council of Europe in the field of Global Education, which will form the basis for follow-up to achieve these ends.
5. The concept of Global Education was debated and, with divergent viewpoints, generally accepted as a useful umbrella term. At the same time, the North-South Centre has been requested to continue leading reflection regarding the content, the nature and the role of Global Education, in

order to ensure that the definition of global education is both inclusive (and here we make specific reference to calls to include gender education, global youth work and Southern engagement in the definition) and at the same time specific.

6. There is a commitment by southern participants, on the basis of a South statement, to establish a “South Caucus on Global Education” and to engage in further dialogue, both North-South and South-South.
7. There is increased commitment to further dialogue with Southern partners regarding the common but differentiated responsibilities regarding Global Education in Europe, and Global Education in the South.
8. Many participants identified the structured space for networking as an important part of the process that has led to tangible results.

Public Attitude Publication:

This publication was written, edited and sent to print in 2002. It will be launched in early 2003.

Follow-up:

Follow-up to the Congress and Declaration will be ongoing until 2015 and will include the development of a system of national reporting and peer monitoring among the 44 member States of the Council of Europe in the field of Global Education. For a full overview of Congress follow-up at national and international level please consult the website: www.globaleducationweurope.net

2.3 Supporting co-ordination and sharing best practices : World Aware Education Award (WAEA)

Date: January - December

Place: Europe-wide

Partners:

Netherlands Committee for Development Cooperation NCDO (NL)

KommEnt (Austria), NCDE (IRL)

National Committee for Development Education (NL)

Context:

Annually awarded since 1999, the WAEA through an annual award process, systematically encourages, awards and gives visibility to networking/partnership initiatives for increased and improved Global Education in Council of Europe member States.

Results:

In 2002, following partner evaluation of the process, new criteria were launched, resulting in a greater numbers of applicants from Central and Eastern Europe. The International Jury has chosen award winners. However, due to circumstances beyond the control of the North-South Centre, and with the agreement of funding partners, the Awards Ceremony itself has been postponed until early 2003.

Follow-up

Follow-up ongoing with the publication of examples of best practice from award winners and other applicants.

2.4 Global Education Week

Date: 15-24 November 2002

Place: In 35 Council of Europe member States participating in the project, coordinated from Lisbon

Partners organisations:

Different sectors in the Council of Europe member States participating in the project: schools (students, teachers, heads), associations, education NGOs and networks, youth organisations and networks, local authorities, ministries, (Education, Interior, Social Issues, Foreign Affairs, depending on the country), and the network of national coordinators of Global Education Week.

Context:

Since 1999, with the commitment of national structures, the North-South Centre has facilitated the work in multilateral networks. In view of the different parties involved in Global Education Week – ministries, civil society, local authorities etc., and because of its quadrilogue structure, the NSC is considered by the national coordination structures to be the only European instance capable of facilitating the work in this kind of network. The intensification of the work in networks and the accrued effectiveness at a national level are being presented more and more as the results of the networking of Global Education Week.

Objectives:

- To attract Europe-wide attention to and support for the reinforcement of global education at a national level in all the Council of Europe Member States;
- To identify and support national contacts in order to stimulate the development of national strategies for reinforcing One World Week and Global Education Week;
- To share strategies for reinforcing Global Education Week between national actors with a view to more effective coordination;
- To provide national coordination points with the following kinds of support: bi-monthly electronic newsletter, theme-based sources of information, teaching material, collective training, greater sharing of *acquis* by means of study visits;
- To encourage Ministries of Education to get involved and to support those who are working in the field
- To get more countries involved – 38 in 2003 – and to reach the 44 member States in the next few years
- Choice of annual theme by consultation
- Annual Global Education Seminar bringing together, training and forming networks with all the national coordinators with a view to sharing strategies for reinforcing the effectiveness of global education
- Full, relevant report
- More extended participation by young people and schools at a national level in terms of teachers and trained youth animators, management of programmes, and the number of young people and youth initiatives involved

- Availability of useful teaching materials and resources on the Global Education Week page at the NSC website
- Increased support for global education from Ministries of Education

Results:

In early 2002, after the annual Global Education Seminar, the preparatory and planning process for the Global Education Week, bringing in 2002 national coordinators to work under the theme of sustainable development, the networking process was reinforced and was more clearly defined with the creation of three working groups consisting of national coordinators of the week. These three groups worked on the following projects:

- The preparation of common teaching materials
- The electronic newsletter network
- Study visits to learn more from the successful strategies of Global Education Week

The monthly electronic newsletter – Global Education News – a communication tool which keeps the network regularly updated with global education events and allows them to share best practices, has consolidated the networking process, complementing as a resource, the Global Education Seminar report and the Maastricht Europe-wide Global Education Congress declaration: “*A European Framework Strategy for Increased and Improved Global Education to the Year 2015*”.

The impact of Global Education Week is measured by an evaluation questionnaire sent to all national contacts every year. The impact of the week is also measured thanks to the new partnerships being set up locally or internationally between national contacts as a result of networking and the use of the Global Education Newsletter as a tool for disseminating and sharing best practices and seeking partners. In 2002 connections to other international educational networks were established, thus geographically widening the networking process.

The 2002 evaluation process confirmed the consolidation of networking process at local level between involved constituencies, the consolidation of awareness-raising activities among educational structures, in partnership with local authorities and media, through social events or through training courses for educationalists.

2.5 “Intercultural dialogue and solidarity in the Mediterranean”

European Youth Centre of Budapest (EYCB), 2-10 September 2002

Introduction of the project:

This training Course was a cooperation exercise between the North-South Centre and the Directorate of Youth and Sports of the Council of Europe (European Youth Centre of Budapest).

The training course brought together 30 highly motivated participants concerned with Mediterranean youth cooperation, 15 of which were from non-European Mediterranean countries.

The programme was organised around three main objectives: (1) to increase participants' awareness and abilities to understand and promote intercultural learning; (2) to develop their skills and knowledge on human rights education and (3) to support the planning and development of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation projects among participants.

Results:

The most important and obvious result of such a training process was the acquisition of new knowledge and skills as well as attitudinal developments in participants that can multiply them with other young people, either as youth leaders, youth workers or NGO leaders. In addition to these, 9 projects were developed in project teams combining usually a strong dimension of intercultural dialogue and of human rights education with multi-lateral exchanges and networking.

The European Commission was represented (Youth Unit) presenting the Euro-Med Youth Programme; this was of great value to the participants and to the course (since most follow-up projects are in reality only fundable by the Commission).

The course was held in English and Arabic, a combination which was both very useful and also appreciated (in view of intercultural dialogue), though it did not solve all language difficulties.

Follow-up:

A report of the course is been produced and it will be available in both electronic and printed version.

The course did not include any direct support for the projects, but the North-South Centre and the European Youth Centre; Budapest will do indirect support and monitoring.

The publication of Compass into Arabic should facilitate significantly our future work in this area and all participants were very enthusiastic about starting to use it.

The dates for the course in 2003 have been provisionally fixed for 20-29 May 2003.

2.6 Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations

Tarrafal, Cabo Verde, 7–14 April 2002

Introduction of the project:

The Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations organised by the North-South Centre with the local partnership of the Youth Forum of CPLP and with the co-funding of the Government of Luxembourg.

The Course involved training young people in using their networks and youth organisations to engage in the fight for Poverty Eradication in a Euro-African Context, “an Euro-African Youth Journey for Poverty Eradication”

Description of the project:

The training course involved 45 people, with participants from 12 African and 13 European Countries. A large diversity of organisations engaged in youth development in Europe and Africa were represented.

The programme had four basic modules:

- critical identification of the realities based on participants experience;
- critical analysis of those realities;
- joint visioning of a new reality and
- transformation of the reality throughout their action.

Through these modules participants were confronted with the main political, social, economical processes that affect today’s European, African, Euro-African and Global reality. The programme also provided space for mentoring participants in the design of follow-up projects on poverty eradication. Intercultural experience and learning, social interaction and the building of a solid network among participants completed the programme.

A number of projects for youth participation in poverty eradication were designed by the participants on behalf of their organisations. Projects varied greatly: in different fields, using different methodologies and focusing on different geographical areas of the Euro-African context. The group decided to use the symbolic participation fees of the course, complemented by the course funding partners, to create the Euro-African Youth Foundation. This foundation had as a first initiative the funding of two projects of local Cape Verdian Organisations from the villages of Tarrafal and Chão Bom. The North-South Centre and the representative of Luxemburg’s Cooperation in Cape Verde will follow the implementation of these local projects.

The training, the micro-projects design and the establishment of a network were just some of the outcomes of the course. The course also had high profile political participation and represented an opportune moment for dialogue and political interaction between youth and key players and institutions in Euro-African Cooperation. The President of the Republic of Cape Verde, Mr Pedro PIRES gave a presentation and a reception to the group. The Minister of African Affairs of Algeria and main Rapporteur of the NEPAD process, Mr Messahel ABDELKADER, introduced and had a debate on youth involvement in the NEPAD process with the group. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cape Verde, Mr Manuel INOCÊNCIO, welcomed the group to Cape Verde and the Secretary of State for Youth of Cape Verde, Ms. Maria de Jesus MASCARENHAS, closed the course and endorsed the main

outcomes. The course also profited from the dedicated presence and the invaluable local support of Mr Philippe ASCHMAN, representing the Government of Luxembourg.

Follow-up:

The follow-up of the Course will involve different actors and elements. The participants' organisations and their concrete projects will remain in contact with the North-South Centre who will support youth participation in the forthcoming political processes, such as the NEPAD Process and in preparations for the Africa Europe Summit 2003; involvement in Dignity International and in the Africa Europe Civil Society Forum. The North South Centre will strive to consolidate the Euro-African Youth Foundation. In the youth dimension of its programme - specifically the University on Youth and Development and Inter-regional Training Programme - the North-South Centre will give further follow-up support to specific projects.

The North-South Centre facilitated an evaluation trainers' meeting in October 2002 and kept a diary of the Course ("an Euro-African Youth Journey for Poverty Eradication"). A full report will follow.

Encouraged by the positive feedback from participants and partners, taking account of evaluation, and in the frame of the political context leading up to the Africa Europe Summit 2003, the Centre will plan a 2nd Euro-African training course in 2003.

2.7 3rd University on Youth and Development

Mollina, Málaga 19-27 October 2002

Introduction of the project

The University is a space that facilitates exchanges, training, project making and the strengthening of youth organisations networking.

The University on Youth and Development is a means of strengthening the abilities of youth organisations as development agents in the globalisation context.

Its basic idea is to be an instrument that serves the changing needs of youth organisations in their work, as cooperation agents, in a global interdependent scene. With the aim of being such a tool, it is presented in a space, which is flexible, diverse, and in construction, oriented to action for change.

The University is a tool that tends to accompany the “global youth family” from the training perspective. In this sense it is complementary with other global youth cooperation tools.

This activity has two big advantages. On the one hand, it guarantees the “scale economy”, rationalizing the resources and multiplying their outcome. On the other hand, it increases the impact towards the people involved, towards society in general and also towards the institutions.

Partners:

Spanish Youth Council
European Youth Forum
Youth for Development and Cooperation
European Citizens of the World Project
Spanish Youth Institute

Description of the project

After three years of experience in the creation of the university programme, and while acknowledging that changes might be needed due to the different needs of the target group, the programme of the University has consolidated a format based on the combination of several key elements. Experience has proven these elements to be very useful.

Each year a main topic linking youth and one main theme of the Global Development agenda is chosen. In this 3rd University, the main theme was Youth and Sustainable Development.

A place for BASIC TRAINING for organised young people who are starting to develop youth cooperation projects and programmes in their organisations. This is the 8th Edition of the North-South Training Course for Youth Organisations, which due to its history and acquired knowledge throughout the years, appears as a model for basic level training on issues related to “Youth and Development”.

The value of the North-South Training Course model is proven by just looking at the figures. During the 8 editions of this course, more than 400 young people from this “youth global family” have been

trained, and most of them have later become key persons in the decision making processes of their youth organisations, other social movements and, in some cases, in various institutions.

Another space of the University Programme that appears to be becoming a permanent fixture is the thematic space, which gives projects and organisations the opportunity to bring seminars, debates, workshops, and training activities about topics related to global interdependence and how to improve the role of youth in this field.

In this edition of the university, there have been two specific themes. The first one dealt with how to create and consolidate the construction of a world citizenship from youth organisations, as a proposal for a change of the educational, social, political and cultural action: European Citizens of the World Training Course. The second one was a course searching for the possible common agenda between youth organisations and the social and citizens' movements that work for an alternative to Globalisation.

A 3rd space of REGIONAL CO-OPERATION has been established over the years. It is oriented to promote the bringing together of different youth organisations and the regional platforms from each region of the world with the aim of facilitating the flow of information and mutual knowledge. The goal is to ensure the follow-up of the political agendas that affect young people in each region. In this 3rd University, these spaces have gathered the GCCC meeting (Global Cooperation and Coordination Committee), informal regional meetings of the Southern European Youth Councils and the Euro Mediterranean youth cooperation workshop.

A 4th space is devoted to the SPECIALIZED TRAINING on youth and development instruments. In this 3rd University a workshop on project development and development education for youth took place. This activity worked on how to develop proposals/projects around poverty eradication, human rights and development education, as well as identifying funding opportunities for them.

Parallel to this, there was a training course on the European Union Youth Programme, focussing on exchanges with non-EU countries.

Lastly, the programme leaves a privileged space to the joint activities. This common space is divided into two different types of activities: joint activities related to the main theme of the University, selected previously by the partners (in this case "Sustainable Development") and the cultural and free time activities that make up the creative and youth space called "Art and Development"

Follow-up:

There are many dimensions of follow-up to the process of the University on Youth and Development:

- the implementation and monitoring of the various projects designed and promoted at the different production units of the University;
- the production of a manual on Global Development Youth Work out of the experience of the 3 editions of the University;
- the establishment of a permanent exhibition gathering the art production of the University's Space "Art and development".

The Partnership of the University on Youth and Development had its evaluation meeting in Malta on 17-18 November and started the process of launching the 4th University on Youth and Development (2004) aiming at further improvement in qualitative and pedagogical terms, as well as in increasing the number of young people involved.

3. Policy Dialogue programme

- 3.1 **Euro-Mediterranean Conference: "From Poverty to Dignity: strategies for social development and social cohesion in the Euro-Mediterranean region"**
- 3.2 **Participatory democracy and good governance as fundamental tools for a human rights approach to sustainable development**
- 3.3 **Balkan Human Rights School for Future Decision Makers**
- 3.4 **Workshops for Training and Improving the Skills of African Civil Society Organisations**
- 3.5 **Lisbon Forum 2002: "Human Rights and Sustainable Development"**
- 3.6 **Global Training Course on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

3.1 Euro-Mediterranean Conference: "From Poverty to Dignity: strategies for social development and social cohesion in the Euro-Mediterranean region"

Date: 28 June - 1 July 2002

Place: Alexandria, Egypt

Partners:

The Centre for the Study of Developing Countries, University of Cairo

Thematic focus:

- 1) Exploration of the link between social and economic policies;
 - 2) Contribution of international financial institutions to social cohesion and the fight against poverty;
 - 3) Role of the different players (governments, parliaments, local authorities, NGOs);
 - 4) Contributions of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation to the promotion of social development via strengthened social cohesion and the fight against poverty.
- Deteriorating economic and social conditions breed poverty, malaise and insecurity.

Results:

- Partnerships strengthened among participants and synergies among the NGOs, government representatives and other participants involved in the fight against poverty;
- Exchange of experiences concerning themes linked to the conference;
- Nearly 120 participants active in diverse fields (parliamentarians, representatives of governments, NGOs, local authorities, international agencies and international organisations) gathered in Alexandria.

Follow-up:

- The recommendations proposed during the conference will be implemented by the North-South Centre;
- Maintenance of ties between the partners and the participants;
- Efforts to encourage Mediterranean co-operation in the field of social development and social cohesion.

3.2 **Participatory democracy and good governance as fundamental tools for a human rights approach to sustainable development**

Date: 26 August 2002 (World Summit)

Place: Johannesburg (South-Africa)

Partner organisations:

The Regional Environmental Center for CEE

UNECE

UNEP

Centro de Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente, Argentina

Mazingira Institute, Kenya

Centre for International Sustainable Development Law

Context and Thematic focus:

The Workshop, organised in the framework of the Johannesburg meeting, focussed on the interrelationship of human rights and sustainable development. The main objective of this side event was to strengthen environmental rights (public rights of access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters) and their contribution to sustainable development within the framework of good governance, and on deepening the understanding of the interrelationship of the human rights and sustainable development frameworks.

Representatives of member States of the UNECE and the Council of Europe gave an account of their countries' experiences in committing to the promotion and implementation of UNECE's Aarhus Convention, which is widely recognised as the most far-reaching elaboration of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Representatives of other regions and from various fields were invited to share ideas on ongoing or possible new initiatives in their regions along the same lines. The representatives of partner organisations outlined their experiences in promoting the principles and mechanisms contained in the Convention, in both the UNECE and the Council of Europe member States and beyond.

Results:

The side-event highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to sustainable development. Ministers, high-level representatives, parliamentarians and NGOs have highlighted an integrated human rights approach to sustainable development and discussed the benefits of good governance and specifically environmental democracy, as well as obstacles to be overcome and possible solutions.

The Workshop provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of information and perspectives among participants from different regions on how the goals of environmental democracy may actually be realised.

Follow up:

The Lisbon Forum of 2002 was dedicated to "Human rights and Sustainable Development" (November 2002) as a direct follow-up of the side-event in Johannesburg.

The Lisbon Forum came up with recommendations for monitoring the decisions taken in Johannesburg and for the promotion of the concept of sustainable development in local, national and regional politics.

3.3 Balkan Human Rights School for Future Decision Makers

Date: 15 June 2002

Place: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Context and Objectives:

The Human Rights School for Future Decision Makers is organised by the Balkan Human Rights Network (BHRN). The North-South Centre is working closely with the BHRN as this dynamic young Network develops its work in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. At the Human Rights School in June 2002, the North-South Centre provided experts to the sessions on economic, social and cultural rights. It will continue to work and strengthen its relations with the BHRN through its contribution to this activity.

The overall aim of this activity is to provide the participants with the necessary knowledge and skills in the fields of human rights and the rule of law.

Along with the international procedures for human rights protection, special emphasis was given to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the decisions of the United Nations treaty bodies. Apart from the specific rights and freedoms, particular attention was given to other substantial issues, such as discrimination, religion and overcoming the past. The emphasis was also on the comparative analysis of the human rights jurisprudence and practice in the countries of the Balkans.

The Human Rights School for Future Decision Makers is aimed at postgraduate or final year students of law, international relations, political science, economics, or young parliamentarians, government officials or officials from political parties, as well as young professionals involved in NGOs.

Results:

35 young people participated in the Human Rights School which, for the first time, included a full range of human rights including economic, social and cultural rights with lectures on the Revised European Social Charter and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which covers the functioning of the respective supervising committees. The BHRN will expand its work on the full range of human rights including economic, social and cultural rights in the future.

Follow-up:

The North-South Centre proposes to collaborate again with the Human Rights School in 2003.

3.4 Workshops for Training and Improving the Skills of African Civil Society Organisations

Activity 1: Workshop for training and improving the skills of civil society organisations in Central Africa

Date: 13-15 May 2002

Place: N'Djaména (Chad)

Participants: 26

Partners: Organisation des Acteurs Non Etatiques (OANET)

Activity 2: Workshop for training and improving the skills of civil society organisations in East Africa

Date: 21-23 August 2002

Place: Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania)

Participants: 50

Partners: TASOCOD

Activity 3: Workshop for training and improving the skills of civil society organisations in North Africa

Date: 27-28 October 2002

Place: Tlemcen (Algeria)

Participants: 40

Partners: Centre International pour la Paix, la Démocratie et le Développement (CIPDD)

Context and objectives:

The important changes in relationships between populations, states, administrations and local authorities are linked, to a considerable extent, to the emergence and assertion of the associative movement, especially civil society organisations. A structured civil society, supported by existing people's organisations, is essential in exerting a good influence on national and regional development policies. After this, the civil society actors (representing the grass roots) wishing to improve themselves further will seek to become an effective pole that will influence all decisions, and this will involve the consolidation of their negotiating skills and their ability to debate with partners in development.

The aim of promoting African society means not only the progressive preparation of a strategy for improving the skills of local and national associations, meeting immediate needs and solving their long-term problems but also, and above all, a rapprochement with elected representatives in order to manage local development plans.

It is from this standpoint that the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum, with the support of its partners (The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe), decided to take on this task of structuring African civil society, with the following objectives.

The objective is to set up African sub-regional networks and to promote a combined concentrated effort for the exchange of information with public and local authorities

Achievements/Results:

- The creation of three African sub-regional civil society networks: Central Africa, East Africa and North Africa
- The compilation of a list of names of African civil society organisations for each geographical area
- The creation of a network of expert consultants in African civil society organisations

Follow-up:

The Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum plans to follow up these activities at two levels:

Immediate follow-up: at the beginning of 2003, the Forum plans to organise an African Civil Society Forum within the framework of the second Euro-African Summit of Heads of State and of Government (Lisbon, April 2003). This meeting will mobilise more than 250 participants and will have three main aims:

- To assemble the different conclusions from the five African sub-regional workshops with a view to submitting common recommendations from African civil society for the Lisbon Summit
- To define a common strategy between African civil society organisations to make them more effective
- To decide on the list of participants to take part in the second meeting of the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum, which is scheduled to take place on the fringes of the second Euro-African Summit in Lisbon.

Short-term follow-up: this will take the form of a training programme for association managers, which will enhance the skills of civil society leaders in their fields of action in order to make the civil society organisations more professional. This programme is scheduled to start in June 2003.

3.5 Lisbon Forum 2002: "Human Rights and Sustainable Development"

Date: 29 November - 1 December 2002

Place: Lisbon, Portugal

Context and Thematic focus:

The World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September. The Summit was meant to be an opportunity to evaluate the progress made since the Rio Earth Summit and to bring about the political and practical revival of the process defined in Agenda 21. It should have resulted in a plan for implementing the commitments made in Rio. Although the Johannesburg Summit succeeded in attracting 45,000 participants from all over the world, its final results are still controversial. On one hand, many national representatives feel that the Summit achieved its goal while, on the other hand, members of civil society are talking of a stalemate.

The North-South Centre participated in the preparations for the summit and in the summit itself. The main reason for its participation was to work towards the inclusion of respect for human rights in the Johannesburg dynamics.

The essential goal of the Forum 2002 was to create an opportunity for exchanges between the players involved in sustainable development in the follow-up of the Johannesburg Summit. It provided all those present with the chance to debate the stakes of sustainable development and decide on joint courses of action for the future.

Three main items :

- The protection of environmental and sustainable development rights
- The respect of social norms and of sustainable development.
- The role of civil society organisations, parliaments and local authorities in education and raising public awareness on environmental issues and in promoting the rights to development

Results:

The Forum brought together:

- Government representatives responsible for following up on the Johannesburg process
- Representatives of local and regional authorities working in the field of sustainable development
- Representatives of the international organisations involved in the process
- Members of civil society and especially NGOs, universities, the private sector, and the press active in the issues under discussion
- Parliamentarians

The Forum also constituted an opportunity to elaborate proposals for the integration of social and environmental norms in the development politics at a local, national and regional level.

Follow-up:

Follow-up activities will be covered by the North-South Centre and the different partners who at complementary levels - internationally (2nd Africa-Europe Summit: Lisbon, April 2003, UN Commission on Human Rights: 59th Session, UN Human Rights treaty Bodies and Special Mechanisms, etc), regionally (Aarhus Convention, Organization of American States, African Union,

etc) and nationally (case law, jurisprudence and good-practices) - will advocate and work towards the promotion of environmental human rights.

3.6 Global Training Course on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Date: 23 November – 1 December 2002

Place: Convento da Arrabida, Azeitao, Portugal

Partners:

International Human Rights Internship Program – Institute of Education
Forum Asia

Overall Aim:

The overall aim of this training course was to contribute to strengthening knowledge and skills of those working for empowering people living in extreme poverty through human rights and thereby contribute to building the capacity of grassroots movements to better promote and defend basic human rights including economic, social and cultural rights.

Results:

Twenty people from around the world participated in this training course including key personalities from Amnesty International, Food Information and Action Network (FIAN) International and Balkan Human Rights Network, as well as long standing partners of the North-South Centre. This was the first training course to be organised at a global level for economic, social and cultural rights as enshrined in the various international and regional human rights instruments including the UDHR, ICCESCR and the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe. Following the call for applications in June, the North-South Centre received over five hundred applications from 109 countries of the world. The figures stand testimony to the enormous demand for such a course and the enormous outreach that the North-South Centre is achieving in its priority regions of Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and worldwide.

Follow-up:

Following the highly positive evaluation of the training course (in terms of content, methodology) and the obvious high demand, the North-South Centre proposes to collaborate in a similar training course in 2003.

4. Multimedia Activities

4.1	Publications
4.2	Information Network
4.3	Website
4.4	Multimedia Resource Centre
4.5	Press Relations
4.6	Media and Human Rights

4.1 Publications

- **Interdependent 104/105/106/107/108/109/110**
January-November
With special dossiers devoted to the rights of children and youth (January), to NEPAD (June) and to young people (July-August)

- Presentation Dossier
March
Publication in French and English of a presentation dossier in the form of a kit of removable documents that can be updated regularly

September
German version

- **Programme of activities 2002-2004**
February
Publication in English and French

- **Lisbon Forum**
April
Publication in English and French

- **North-South Prize 2001**
May
Publication with cover in colour available in English and French

Global Education Week and leaflet introducing the publication

May
Publication with cover in colour available in English and French

4.2 Information Network

- **Integration into the Council of Europe's network**
February
The migration of the NSC to the Council of Europe's network creates total geographical transparency between all the Council of Europe sites

- **Public Folders**
July
The creation of public folders that can be shared by both Lisbon staff and Council of Europe Headquarters

- **Telephone**
October
The new telephone system became operational with direct line numbers, voice mail etc. This project was done in partnership with the DIT

- **Contacts database**

November

- An item appeared in «The Interdependent» asking subscribers to send back a form updating their personal details. They were also asked if they wanted to continue to receive the newsletter by post or if the online version was enough
- Two members of the Multimedia Team followed a training course on the Council of Europe's GESINT (Gestion des Interlocuteurs) database. This training will enable them to create a new database at the North-South Centre which can be integrated into the Council of Europe's general database. It means that publications printed at the Council of Europe can be sent out directly from Strasbourg, reducing costs.

4.3 Website

- *July*

The new North-South Centre website (www.nscentre.org) went online. This project was carried out in close collaboration with the Web Co-ordination Unit at the Council of Europe.

- *Since July*

The website is being regularly updated since July.

- *August*

An internal website user's guide was prepared.

4.4 Multimedia Resource Centre

- **Cataloguing of resources**

January

A member of the Multimedia Team followed a training course in Strasbourg on the use of Unicorn software to catalogue the North-South Centre's data in the Council of Europe's general database.

- **Archives**

April

Mr Tim Lisney, Head of the Archives Department at the Council of Europe visited the North-South Centre to lay down the guidelines for the Centre's filing policy, in line with Strasbourg's policy.

4.5 Press Relations

Press releases were prepared for some events organised by the North-South Centre, including: Porto Alegre, North-South Prize, Johannesburg, Maastricht, Lisbon Forum. These press releases appeared on the Council of Europe portal.

January/November

4.6 The Media and Human Rights

- **«All Human Rights for All»**

January

The Head of the Multimedia Unit participated in the Round Table “All Human Rights for All” (Sofia, Bulgaria) whose aim was to raise awareness of opinion makers in general and journalists in particular of the universality of human rights

- **European Centre of Expertise and Information on the Media, Diversity and Society**

February

The Head of the Multimedia Unit participated in a working group on the mission of the future European Centre of Media Information and Expertise, a project created by the network On-Line/More Colour in the Media (Netherlands).

- **Representation of minorities in the media**

September

The Head of the Multimedia Unit participated a conference on the coverage in the media of 11 September and subsequent events. This mission was organised with the Media Division of DGII of the Council of Europe and was a point of departure for the project outlined below.

- **European Media Monitoring Day**

From September, a project organised by Miramedia, a Dutch NGO

Discussion between the NSC, the Media Division of the DG II, ECRI and Integrated Projects of the Council of Europe in order to determine whether and how the Council of Europe can support this project.