



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

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ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2012

Executive Summary

This document contains an overview of the activities and achievements of the North-South Centre during the period 1 January – 31 December 2012. In addition to the main political developments which occurred from the beginning of the year, it takes stock of the activities carried out in the Centre's fields of action: Global Education, Youth Cooperation and Intercultural Dialogue and Euro-Med Cooperation.

2012 was a significant year for the North-South Centre with the key highlights being:

- Successful completion of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) 2009-2012 and signature of the new JMA for 2013-2015; inclusion of the NSC in the new EU/CoE Programme "Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood" (2012-2014);
- Adoption of a strategy and an action plan on Global Education (GE) for 2013-2015 at the 2nd European Congress on GE; launching of the online training course on intercultural dialogue and its growing popularity;
- Adoption of a final declaration on commitments and priorities for youth rights in the outcome of the 13th Global University on Youth and Development as well as the 4th African University on Youth and Development; launching of the Africa Europe Youth Platform and agreement of partners for the official launch of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (in 2013);
- Further strengthening of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women, in particular through the growing Euro-Med Women Network and a successful Annual Conference in Istanbul promoting best practices;
- The Lisbon Forum 2012 on challenges in the Arab region two years after the Arab Spring providing an analysis of transitions, on-going reforms and challenges and formulating recommendations for strengthening cooperation with the CoE. With high visibility and appreciation of partners, the Forum effectively promoted the model of the NSC "quadrilogue".

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1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Following the request of the Executive Committee on 2 November 2011, the Executive Director of the North-South Centre (NSC) prepared a Concept Paper on “The Role of the North-South Centre in the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy towards the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region”. It was sent to the members of the Executive Committee on 3 February. The Concept Paper was discussed at the Think Tank meeting on 22–23 March and during the Bureau meeting of 26 March. The Bureau took note with satisfaction of the Concept Paper. An updated version of the Concept Paper was sent to the Executive Committee Members on 5 June 2012.

As an important instrument of the Council of Europe’s Neighbourhood Policy, the NSC is contributing to the implementation of the EU/CoE Programme for Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood signed on 17 January 2012. The Programme provides in particular the NSC with a role at the level of regional coordination of activities. The 2012 Lisbon Forum was funded through this programme (for more information on this activity see 4.6).

The NSC Executive Director took part in the CoE mission to Rabat (Morocco) on 14–16 February. The mission allowed wide range consultations with the Moroccan authorities with a view of finalising the 2012–2014 programme of cooperation between the Council of Europe and Morocco. The Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its appreciation about the cooperation with the NSC in the follow up of the awareness raising seminar “Perspectives of cooperation between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Council of Europe” held in February 2010. It was underlined that this seminar gave a strong political impetus to deepening Morocco’s cooperation with the Council of Europe (including Morocco’s accession to the PACE “Partnership for Democracy” status). The discussions held during the mission confirmed good prospects for future cooperation in the field of youth and civil society. The NSC Director also visited the “National Institute for Youth and Democracy”, an interesting potential partner for future NSC activities. The 2012 Lisbon Forum focused its discussions on four countries, among them Morocco. Morocco was represented by an important participation of civil society, government and parliament, including the participation of the Minister in charge of Relations with the Parliament and the civil society, Mr El Habib Choubani.

The NSC Secretariat attended a debate with the Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, which took place at the Institute of Political Studies of the *Universidade Católica Portuguesa* in Lisbon on 15 February. A constructive cooperation has been established by the NSC with the authorities of Tunisia, especially following the Lisbon Forum 2011 and the Executive Director’s mission to Tunis on 2-4 December 2011 and on 28-29 August 2012. Tunisia has been actively involved in the NSC activities in 2012, including three events directly held in this country, the 3rd Congress on Mediterranean North-South Dialogue For a common vision (Tunis, 7-9 June 2012), the Symposium on “Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms” (27-29 August 2012) and “the North-Africa Sub Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter” organised by the NSC. Tunisia was one of the four countries in focus in the 2012 Lisbon Forum.

In the framework of contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the latter expressed interest in re-launching cooperation with the NSC in the areas of gender equality and education. The NSC had previously sent its recommendations for the PAM's future work (in particular on education). The NSC is planning to further involve the PAM in its activities. This year already the PAM contributed to the "North-South Women Empowerment Network" and in particular to the Istanbul International Conference on 4-6 November 2012 as well as to the Lisbon Forum 2012 (3-4 December).

The Permanent Representative of Germany to the Council of Europe sent a letter to the Secretary General on 21 February announcing the decision of the Government of Germany to withdraw from the North South Centre as of 31 December 2012.

The Bureau of the Executive Committee held its meeting on 26 March. It had an exchange of views with Mrs Souhayr Belhassen, President of the FIDH and laureate of the North-South Prize 2011 on the Arab Spring and the prospects of cooperation with the FIDH. Moreover, the Bureau focused on the NSC Evaluation (see below) and the implementation of the 2012 programme of activities, in particular the preparation of the Lisbon Forum 2012 (see 4.6).

The North-South Centre's Think Tank held a formal meeting on 22-23 March 2012 in Lisbon thanks to a generous contribution of the Principality of Liechtenstein. Following the meeting, the Think Tank members agreed on a number of views presented in the document NSC/EC (2012) 2 referring to the future activities of the NSC. These concerned the CoE Neighbourhood Policy, the 2nd European Congress on Global Education, the Lisbon Forum 2012 and the North-South Prize.

The process of application for a second Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission and the NSC for 2013-2015 was substantially initiated on Wednesday 15 February by sending the Logical Framework document to the European Commission. The European Commission (DG DEVCO) expressed its satisfaction with the "excellent quality" of the Logical Framework and an agreement was reached on the terms of reference for the renewed Joint Management Agreement at a bilateral meeting held on 8 May in Brussels. The Joint Management Agreement for 2013-2015 was signed by both parties during the 2nd European Congress on Global Education, on 27 September 2012.

The European Commission contracted an external consultant to monitor the implementation of the NSC/EC Joint Management Agreement 2009-2012. The consultant visited Lisbon on 29-30 May 2012 and subsequently issued a report which positively assessed (attributing a "B" grade) relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact prospects and sustainability of the current JMA. This positive assessment is in line with the previous monitoring report of March 2010 by another independent consultant. The report considers the JMA project's relevance as "higher than ever" in the current context of economic crisis.

An evaluation of the NSC by the Directorate of Internal Oversight started on 2 May. Following a preliminary exchange of views between the Bureau of the Executive Committee and Ms Aygen Becquart, Head of Evaluation Division of the Directorate of Internal Oversight on 26 March, the terms of reference for the evaluation were prepared and subsequently sent to the Executive Committee members for comments. An external consultant, Mr Jacques Toulemonde (Euréal), hired by the DIO for the purpose of evaluation, visited the North-South Centre on 16 May and presented the emerging findings and conclusions of the evaluation at the Executive Committee meeting of 29 June.

The Executive Committee held its third meeting on 29 June in Strasbourg, focusing on the DIO Evaluation of the NSC, the objectives of the North-South Prize, its selection criteria and decision making process; as well as on the implementation of the 2012 Programme of Activities and the preparation of future events, in particular of the 2nd European Congress on Global Education (Lisbon, 27-28 September), the Annual conference of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women in Istanbul (3-6 November); and the Lisbon Forum 2012 (3-4 December). Moreover the Executive Committee introduced the post of Vice-Chair and elected Mr Jean-Marie Heydt as Vice-Chair for a period of one year, coinciding with the remaining period of the current Bureau's mandate.

The final DIO evaluation report was sent out on 16 August 2012. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe formulated a Proposal for enhanced focus for the North-South Centre and its role in the CoE Neighbourhood Policy, in particular as regards the Mediterranean countries. The meeting of the Enlarged Bureau held on 14 September provided an opportunity to initiate discussions on the DIO Evaluation Report and the SG Proposal within the NSC Statutory bodies. In late September the Representatives of Ireland, Finland, Norway and Sweden informed about the decisions of their governments to discontinue membership in the North-South Centre as of 1 January 2013.

The forth Meeting of the Executive Committee held on 5 October provided an opportunity to continue discussions on the DIO Evaluation Report and its possible follow-up and on the SG Proposal for the NSC. Moreover 2011 financial statements and budgetary management accounts as well as the final 2013 budget were adopted at this meeting. The revised budget takes into account the recent withdrawals. The representatives of Ireland, Finland, Norway and Sweden explained the reasons for the withdrawals of their countries, among which the main mentioned included the alleged lack of focus of the NSC and budgetary constraints in the context of the economic crisis. The Executive Committee Members supported the proposal of the Executive Director and entrusted the Chair to write a letter to the Chair of the Committee of Ministers with a view of informing on the present situation of the North-South Centre and making possible follow-up proposals.

The Chair sent the letter on 17 October on behalf of the Executive Committee proposing the Committee of Ministers to hold a strategic reflection on the future of the Centre. The Committee of Ministers considered the matter on 28 November and decided to set up an open ad hoc working party to conduct a strategic reflection on the future of the North-South Centre (GT-CNS) on the basis of "all relevant documents". It is opened to the member States of the North-South Centre, to all member States of the Council of Europe, to the European Union and to observer States, as well as to the North-South Centre quadrilogue partners. The group (GT-CNS) is entrusted with formulating proposals for the future of the Centre by 31 May 2013. It is chaired by Ambassador Fernando Alvargonzález, Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe.

On 14 November the Committee of Ministers took note of the secondment by the Portuguese Government of Ambassador Francisco Seixas da Costa as Executive Director of the North-South Centre, with effect from 1 February 2013, as well as of the Secretary General's decision to ask Ms Antonella Cagnolati, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, to oversee the work of the Centre in the interim period.

The fifth meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7 December in Strasbourg decided to allocate the two vacant seats in the Bureau (following departure of Germany and Norway) to Morocco and Luxembourg for the period until the next EC meeting in June 2013. In addition it finally adopted the Programme of activities 2013 and agreed to continue its discussion on objectives, selection criteria and decision making process of the North South Prize at its next meeting in June 2013, re-examining in particular the periodicity of the North-South Prize.

2. GLOBAL EDUCATION

a) Policy Development and Advocacy

The preparation of the 2nd **Global Education Congress: *Education, Interdependence and Solidarity in a Changing World*** started in December 2011 with the constitution of a core working group composed by NSC partners. This **core working group** elaborated the Concept Paper and the programme outline and proposed draft strategic recommendations and declaration. This process was extended to an enlarged **consultative group** which provided a feedback on the draft strategic recommendations. An expert, selected upon a call for expert launched in late 2011, monitored the consultation process. This consultation process was complemented with a meeting of the core working group in May 2012 in Strasbourg.

The NSC created a special **website** for the Congress which facilitated the sharing of information with a wider audience and offered a restricted working forum to assist the consultation process between the NSC secretariat and members of the core working group. The congress website was updated on a regular basis during the preparation of the event. Users had access to all the background information related to the event, among others the Congress concept paper as well as the preliminary programme. Beside logistic information, the website displayed recent news in terms of global education related events and a resource centre with main GE background reference documents.

The 2nd Global Education Congress: *Education, Interdependence and Solidarity in a Changing World* took place on 27-28 September at the University of Lisbon. It was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) in partnership with Global Education Network Europe (GENE) and CONCORD Europe, in cooperation with the Portuguese Institute for Co-operation and Language (IPAD-Camões), the Portuguese NDGO Platform and the University of Lisbon and with the financial support of the European Commission. The Congress brought together approximately 200 stakeholders in global education, in particular representatives from international organisations, governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, as well as educators and academics from Europe and beyond.

10 years after the First Congress in Maastricht, the Lisbon Congress, through a series of multistakeholders working groups and plenary contributions, provided an opportunity:

- to agree on a strategy and an action plan on Global Education (GE) for 2013-2015 ;
- to raise awareness on the Council of Europe Recommendation on Education for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, CM/Rec(2011)4, and help Member States to implement the principles contained in this Recommendation in their national policies;
- to exchange ideas and practices developed in the field of global education and global citizenship in terms of policy development, pedagogical support and training mechanisms;

- to discuss synergy potentials and provide opportunity to develop future cooperation between and within institutional and civil society organisations, and facilitate networking and interaction inside and beyond Europe in terms of policy development, pedagogical support and training mechanisms;
- to raise awareness on the importance of inclusion of global education in the educational sector;
- to agree on Strategic Recommendations in the 5 themes discussed during the event: *1) National strategy development and implementation; 2) Curricular reform and education at the national and local levels; 3) Competence development of educators; 4) Quality support and monitoring; 5) Campaigning and outreach*

The Congress Strategic Recommendations will serve as a work frame for Global Education until 2015.

An exhibition of global education projects was held in the framework of the event. Projects covering the different dimensions of global education displayed roll-ups.

For further information, please consult: www.gecongress2012.org

The NSC Executive Director presented the process leading to the CoE Recommendation on Education for Global Interdependency and Solidarity during the debate "*Do European Citizens Care about the Rest of World?*" organised by MEP Filip Kaczmarek (Poland, EPP) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 22 May, with the participation of MEP Maria Badia i Cutchet (Spain, ALDE) and Mari Helene Kaber (Chair of the DARE Forum). The debate focused on why development education is relevant to Europe, and how the European Parliament can engage with it. It was followed by a Q&A session with the audience. On 5 July the European Parliament formally adopted a "Written declaration on development education and active global citizenship, co-tabled by MEP Filip Kaczmarek, Catherine Grèze, Fiona Hall, Maria Badia I Cutchet and Michael Gahler. The declaration, which promotes the strengthening of development education policies, both at national and European level, represents an important political milestone for the development education sector.

The NSC took part in the **Education for democratic citizenship and human rights education (EDC/HRE) Conference, *Human Rights and Democracy in Action – Looking Ahead***, Strasbourg, 29-30 November 2012, co-organised by the CoE, the European Commission and the European Wergeland Centre to assess the state of the art in the field of EDC/HRE since the adoption of the Charter. Working sessions aimed at discussing future co-operation and strategies for further promotion of EDC/HRE.

b) Capacity Building and Training

On 12 March, The NSC Global Education programme launched a new **E-learning course** focusing on **Intercultural Dialogue**. A record number of over 370 applications were received for this course and 50 candidates were selected to participate in the four-week course, taking place from 12 March until 15 April. A second course was subsequently organised in May. The course was designed to complement the Global Education Guidelines, a pedagogical tool for educators and policy makers to understand and implement Global Education, and share with a wider audience, concepts and approaches promoted by the North-South Centre's Global

Education programme. This online learning course, under the title “Global Education-The Intercultural Dimension”, provides an overview on why intercultural education is relevant and needed, what it means in theory and practice and how it can be improved in relation to the context of a globalised world, the local needs, its contents and methodology. This course complements the first cycle of E-courses offered between 2009 and 2011, which dealt with the human rights dimension of Global Education. These global education online learning courses were designed for education practitioners, social workers, civil society, youth activists, as well as policy and decision makers, local authorities and intercultural cities

In August, a third e-course was offered on the theme of **human rights dimension of global education**. In November and December two more e-courses were offered respectively under the theme of human rights dimension of global education and the intercultural dimension of global education. These two e-courses closed the annual scheme of five e-learning courses for 2012. In 2012, 752 persons applied for the on-line training courses and 250 participants took part in the five courses. 194 (77,6%) of them were from Europe (out of which 86 (34%) from new EU member states); 37 (14,8%) were from Africa and 19 (7,6%) were from other regions (North and South America, Asia). The webpage for global education on-line training courses had 4,874 hits since 1 January 2012¹.

A e-course devoted to the topic of Active/Democratic Citizenship will be developed and launched in 2013.

In the meantime, the NSC offered a **Global Education and Youth Training for Trainers**. This residential training course took place in the framework of the NSC University on Youth and Development in Mollina, Spain, on 16 to 23 September. The purpose of this first TtT, which will take place annually in Mollina, is to set up a pool of trainers for the recently created NSC Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship and also for the e-learning scheme. The team of trainers met in August in NSC premises to design the course and to select the candidates who had applied following the call launched on the NSC website.

c) Networking, Partnerships and Good Practices

The NSC held a presentation on “Education for global citizenship” at the **Technical University of Lisbon** (*Universidade Técnica de Lisboa*) on 6 January. The presentation gathered over 60 students in international relations and provided an overview of the Council of Europe and in particular the North-South Centre’s programmes for the strengthening of education for global solidarity and interdependence.

The Centre took part in the seminar ‘Making the Case for Development Education in Youth Work’ organised by the **Irish National Youth Council** (NYCI) on 9 February in Dublin. The seminar brought youth work practitioners together with national and European policy makers to explore the policy context for development education in youth work at national and European levels, and how these policies influence and are influenced by youth work practice. It provided youth workers and policy experts with a space to discuss and debate the link between policy and practice through expert inputs, panel discussions and a good practice showcase.

¹ netstats.coe.int, December 2012

In particular, the NSC shared its experience in building the capacity of youth leaders (through training and pedagogical material) and in policy-making in the field of global education. The NYCI is the Irish national coordination structure within North-South Centre's Global Education network. Ireland is a key partner due to its long-lasting support of global education.

The Centre took part in the **British Council** Global Citizens Forum held on March 8-10 in London. Representatives of organisations dealing with global citizenship from Europe, Australasia, Africa, Latin America and North America explored during this working meeting how global citizens can address worldwide challenges across a range of sectors, including education, health, environment, youth development, and human rights while encouraging a coordinated approach of such issues through a reinforced networking and partnership scheme. Here again, the North-South Centre shared its experience in promoting global education at the policy level through a coordinated approach involving all stakeholders (civil society, governments, parliamentarians, educators). The NSC joined a Task Force set up to work on a project for an Alliance of Civil Society Organizations.

In July, the NSC took part in an exploratory meeting for the second phase of the British Council project *Connecting Classrooms*. Discussions are being held in order to organise joint activities between the BC Connecting Classroom network and the NSC Global Education Week network.

The NSC took part in the **Anna Lindh Foundation** meeting on the handbook for intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship in the Euromed region held in Cairo on 20-21 April. Following this meeting, the NSC was invited to integrate the scientific committee put together by ALF for the drafting of this handbook which will be later complemented by residential training courses. The second expert coordination meeting took place in Hammamet on 1 October. Meanwhile, in June the North-South Centre took part in Istanbul in the preparatory meeting of the Anna Lindh Foundation Forum foreseen in March 2013 in Marseille. These working meetings illustrate the reinforcement of partnership between the NSC and the ALF in the framework of youth and educators capacity-building activities related to intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The 14th annual European **Global Education Week** (GEW), under the theme *Moving towards One World* took place from the 10 to the 18 November, at the initiative of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. Global Education Week (also known in some countries as One World Week) supports teachers, youth leaders, young people and other formal and non-formal educational constituencies to engage in and promote global education awareness-raising activities.

The GEW is lead through the coordinators of the Global Education Week network in 40 CoE member States and supported by a NSC specific informative webpage for practitioners to get acquainted with global education concept, methodologies and practices and access useful links for the implementation of activities during the GEW. It offers also a *leaflet* and an *information note* about the GEW for dissemination.

1459 viewers visited the GEW site at the beginning of the event and 4819 over the year.²

² Data collected from **Netstats. CoE** on December 2012

The NSC took part in the **Expert group meeting on indicators for intercultural dialogue (ICD) in non-formal education activities**, Hammamet 10-13 December 2012, organised by the Youth Partnership in the framework of the NSC pilot experience for the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship. During this second meeting the document on ICD indicators was finalised. A testing phase will take place in 2013 and the NSC e-learning course on ICD was proposed as one of the activities where the indicators could be tested.

d) Production and Sharing of Knowledge, Research and Publications

The Centre is pursuing the dissemination and translation of the Global Education Guidelines (GEG). Their hard-copy and an electronic version currently exist in English, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish while the German version is being translated..

The dissemination of the hard copy is being pursued among partners: over 650 publications were distributed in 2012.

In 2012, in total 24,167 users viewed the Global Education programme webpage; 10,926 users downloaded the GEG English version (against 3,086 in first semester) while 3,780 users downloaded the French version (1,672/first semester); 3,120 users downloaded the Spanish version of the GEG (1,856/first semester) while 3,029 users downloaded the Italian version of the GEG and 2,249 users downloaded the Portuguese version of the GEG. The Global Education on-line training-course webpage was viewed by 4,871 users (3,347/first semester).³

1000 updated copies of the English version of the Global Education Guidelines were printed in June as this version was out of stock.

The Italian version of the Global Education Guidelines, which was translated under the supervision of the Italian coordination structure within the NSC Global Education Week network, is available on-line from the Centre's website since March 2012. The Polish version was translated under the supervision of the Polish coordination structure within the NSC Global Education Week network and was launched in September 2012. The translation of the German version is being pursued in collaboration between the German coordination structure within the NSC GEW network and Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz, launching foreseen for 2013.

³ Data collected from **Netstats. CoE** on December 2012

3. YOUTH COOPERATION

a) Policy Development and Advocacy

The Centre co-organised a workshop on “Empowerment of youth organisations and youth-led civil society initiatives in the Southern Mediterranean” in Malta on 22-23 March. In this connection, an informal coordination meeting between stakeholders in Euro-med Cooperation took place on 24 March. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss ideas for long-term cooperation in the region and the preparation of several activities such as the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship and the Euro–Arab Symposium “Arab Spring: Youth Participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms”, held in Tunisia on 27-29 August 2012.

On 9-11 May, the Centre took part in the Euro-Arab youth leaders meeting organised in Rome (Italy) by the Italian National Youth Forum and the European Youth Forum. The Centre co-organised the session on capacity building and the Chair of the NSC’s Executive Committee closed the meeting. An institutional session with high level presence of various stakeholders of the Euro-Arab youth policy cooperation was organised in cooperation with the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 10 May. The idea of organising the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship already in 2012 (Nov/Dec) was welcomed both by participants in the youth leaders meeting and participants in the institutional meeting.

The North-South Centre organised the “Institutional Meeting on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation” in Braga, Portugal, in the framework of Braga 2012 European Youth Capital. This meeting took place on 25-27 May and gathered the main youth stakeholders in the Euro-African Cooperation. The activity was implemented in the framework of the NSC/EC Joint Management Agreement. The Institutional Meeting and the informal meeting that took place in the framework of the 4th African University on Youth and Development were key moments to prepare the first meeting of the Africa Europe Youth Platform held in November 2012 in Ethiopia.

On 27-29 August, the North-South Centre co-organised the Symposium “Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms” in Tunis together with the EU/CoE Youth Partnership, the League of Arab States, the Youth Department of the CoE, the European Youth Forum and other relevant stakeholders in the Euro-Arab and Euro-Med Youth Cooperation. It provided an opportunity to follow up the proposals made by youth representatives in Rome (Network of Youth Researchers, Euro-Arab Youth Platform and a Training Centre) as well as the proposal regarding the Mediterranean University agreed during the institutional meeting held in May in Braga. The main outcome of this symposium was the confirmation from several partners (Youth Department CoE, League of Arab States, Anna Lindh Foundation, UNFPA, European Youth Forum and Euro-Med Youth Platform) to organise a first pilot experience in December 2012 and to launch the first edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship in the autumn of 2013.

The North-South Centre moderated the workshop on “Democracy and Education for Citizenship” of the Youth Assembly (5-7 October) organised by the PACE in the framework of the World Forum for Democracy (5 – 7 October).

The Centre organised in partnership with the European Youth Forum, Panafrican Youth Union, ADYNE and with the support of the Youth Division of the African Union Commission, the first meeting of the Africa Europe Youth Platform (AEYP) between 4-8 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AEYP is a result of several years of strong cooperation in the youth field between Africa and Europe and is an important step forward that was agreed in 2011 in the Young Leaders meeting that took place in Addis. The mission of this platform is to prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan 2012-2015.

The North-South Centre organised the North-African Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter in Hammamet, Tunisia, on 10-13 December, in the framework of the pilot experience for the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship. This was the fifth and final of the sub-regional seminars held in five different sub-regions of the African Union within the framework of the Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission. The activity was carried out in close co-operation with the National Youth Observatory in Tunisia, as well as with the European Youth Forum, the Pan African Youth Union, the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa and ADYNE. The seminar gathered 24 participants in interactive debates on youth policies in the region and the role of youth in the process of regional integration and democratic transition. The participation of the African Union Commission and the League of Arab States in the Seminar was key to map the institutional work in the region and to create synergies between their approaches to youth work and youth policy.

b) Capacity Building and Training

The Workshop on 22-23 March in Malta was the first of a series of events on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the framework of the EU/CoE Youth Partnership and the NSC programme of activities. The Workshop was attended by 65 participants coming from youth organisations and youth related institutions from over 20 countries of Europe and of the southern Mediterranean. It was co-organised with the League of Arab States and Aġenzija Żgħazagh in Malta.

The North-South Centre launched its third call for the Seed funding of projects for Africa-Europe cooperation. As a result of the call over 160 youth projects proposed by youth groups and organisations originating from 39 countries applied for funding. 15 projects were awarded with a grant of a maximum of EUR 2000 per project/organisation (out of 160 applications). The granted projects were implemented in 2012 in various countries in Europe and Africa. The Seed Funding for Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation is a grant allocation intended to promote Africa-Europe youth exchanges, networking and political participation of non-state actors.

The Institutional Meeting of Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation (26 May) and the Third Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe (20 – 27 May) were held in the framework of Braga 2012 European Youth Capital. The training course gathered close to 25 participants from all over Europe to discuss about African Youth Diaspora identity and its role in Africa Europe Youth Cooperation. The training also promoted information sharing, networking and it allowed bringing new impetus to ADYNE (African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe).

The participants had an opportunity to celebrate the Africa Day (25 May) together with the representatives of the Institutional meeting.

The celebrations included a one day seminar and cultural activities. The Executive Director of the Portuguese Speaking Countries Community as well as a representative of the Secretary of State for Sports and Youth of Portugal intervened in the opening ceremony of the seminar.

The North-South Centre organised the 4th African University on Youth and Development (AUYD) together with the Cape Verdean Youth Federation and the Portuguese National Youth Council, in Mindelo, São Vicente – Cape Verde, on 13-20 July 2012. In the framework of the University and funded by JMA the NSC organised in partnership with the European Youth Forum and the Pan African Youth Union, the 8th Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations. This training course was an opportunity to gather 27 participants from across Africa and Europe and was intended for capacity building of youth organisations as civil society actors in the context of Euro-African Youth Cooperation and for promotion of cooperation and development partnership between the North and the South. In addition to the Africa Europe Training Course, 3 more activities were organised by the partners (School for Young Leaders of the CPLP, Training on Cooperative Learning and Training on Youth Work). This edition gathered more than 100 participants (youth workers, trainers, youth leaders, institutional representatives), from 4 continents and 35 nationalities and had 3 working languages (English, Portuguese and French).

The NSC organised - in partnership with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other youth organisations - the 13th University on Youth and Development between 16th and 23rd September in Mollina, Spain (Centro Euro Latinoamericano de Juventud). This edition gathered around 180 participants coming from all over the world (50 countries) in 8 different activities. The Joint Programme was organised under the Youth Rights theme. The joint theme was defined last year by the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship as the joint topic for the sister Universities. The topic was addressed in the activities including a Roundtable that gathered experts from African Union Commission, Iberoamerican Youth Organisation and European Youth Forum.

The NSC together with the Network, organised the Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers that gathered 20 participants from all over the world. This training was a joint activity of the Global Education and Youth Programmes of the NSC and aimed at empowering young trainers to take an active role in the GE online training courses as well as to invest in key multipliers that can contribute for the development of the sister Universities.

c) Networking, Partnership development and sharing of Good Practices

The North-South Centre participated in the “University on Participation and Citizenship” (UPC), which gathered for the 9th time in Campamento Artigas in Uruguay from 28 February to 3 March. As an initiative from the civil society organisations specialised on youth issues in Latin America, the UPC is largely inspired by the founding model of the “University on Youth and Development” developed by the North-South Centre and its European partners in Mollina (Spain), an experience that demonstrated much potential, opportunities and innovative ways of working with youth issues. In this context the Centre organised with its core partners a preparatory meeting for the 13th Mollina University, as well as for a meeting of the “Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship” held in September.

On 1 June the Centre participated in another preparatory meeting of the 13th University on Youth and Development, in Mollina (Spain). The meeting gathered the main partners (INJUVE, CJE, EEE-YFU, YFJ, EIJ, Y-E-N, ADYNE and EFIL) and aimed at further advancing the preparations of the 13th edition.

In the framework of its partnership with Alliance of Civilisations of the Centre contributed to the AoC Summer School held in Coimbra, Portugal on 4-12 August, in particular the Executive Director, Denis Huber, participated in the Opening Session representing the NSC, main partner of the summer school together with the Rectorate of the University of Coimbra and the League of Arab States. The Youth Programme Manager, Andreia Henriques organised a workshop on youth empowerment.

A meeting of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship was organised in the framework of the 13th University on Youth and Development,. This meeting gathered representatives from NSC, European Youth Forum, African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe, Capeverdean Youth Federation, Latin America and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs, Latin American Youth Forum, Spanish Youth Council and National Youth Council of Portugal. It provided a unique opportunity to assess the work made over the last year, as well as to plan the next cycles of Universities and a strategy to reinforce the Network and the bridges between the Universities.

The Evaluation Meeting of the 13th edition of the University on Youth and Development was held on 21 November in the framework of the General Assembly of the European Youth Forum. This meeting provided an opportunity to assess the main achievements and to identify lessons learned as well as to prepare the next edition of the University in 2013 (22-29 September).

d) Production and sharing of Knowledge, Research and Publications

The North-South Centre distributed the publications produced in the framework of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Programme namely the “Africa-Europe Cooperation: Collection of the declarations and main documents adopted by the youth movement since 2007” and the report of the Seminar of the African Youth Diaspora “From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins”.

The terms of reference of the Online Resource Centre for Africa Europe Youth Cooperation were agreed in April. The results of the call for a contractor to develop this project were announced by the end of June (11 proposals were presented). The team further developed a methodological proposal and started to work at contents research level as well as IT development of the platform. A team meeting was held on 2-5 September in the NSC premises in Lisbon. A consultation process with the members of the Africa Europe Youth Platform took place between September and November in order to collect proposals and identify needs and expectations towards this online tool. A beta version was presented in the AEYP meeting in Addis Ababa in November and the Online Resource Centre is expected to be launched at the beginning of 2013.

A draft version of the report of the 13th University on Youth and Development was presented during the Evaluation Meeting held in Maribor, to collect feedback from partners and it is expected to be disseminated in the first trimester of 2013.

4. INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CO-OPERATION

4.1. The North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women

a) Policy Development and Advocacy

At the conclusion of the Conference dedicated to “Women as agents of change in the Southern Mediterranean Region”, which took place in Rome on 24-25 October 2011, the participants agreed to join forces and efforts and to create a women’s network for democratic governance and to launch “The North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women”. The “Euro-Med Network of Women” was launched by the North-South Centre in March and currently counts more than 600 participants. It is modelled on the innovative structure of the Centre, linking the governmental and parliamentary dimensions, local authorities and civil society, to constitute an embryonic form of enhanced co-operation between the Council of Europe member countries and the states of the Southern Mediterranean region, also involving the Union for the Mediterranean and its Parliamentary Assembly, to share ideas, information and best practices. The Network is managed by a Steering Committee composed of 10 members: 4 representatives of the quadrilogue coming from Southern Mediterranean countries, 4 coming from Northern ones, a representative of the country hosting the annual international conference and the Chair of the North-South Centre’s Executive Committee. The first meeting of the Steering Committee, held in Strasbourg on 24 April, launched the Network’s website (www.nswomennetwork.org) and allowed initial discussions in view of the Annual high-level conference of the “The North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women” held on 4-6 November in Istanbul (Turkey). The Network’s website contains useful information on women’s issues in the Mediterranean and a discussion forum, where a number of specific topics will be discussed within virtual working groups (such as “the political and economical participation of women” etc.) The Euro-Med Women Network platform is facilitating awareness on gender issues and women’s rights in the Euro-Mediterranean among its members through the constantly updating of its website by sharing news, initiatives and recently launched reports.

The NSC organised two activities in Strasbourg on 12 March in relation to the International Day of Women with participation of Ms Souhayr Belhassen (Tunisia), President of the FIDH and the North-South Prize laureate 2011, as a guest speaker: a conference-debate “Women and the Arab Spring” co-organised with the Directorate General of Administration and the 8th edition of “Dialogue de Strasbourg” under the theme “Women key players of the Arab Spring...and now?” co-organised with the City of Strasbourg. The Conference-debate was chaired by the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and other speakers included Mr Jean Paul Costa, President of the International Institute for Human Rights, Ms Serenade Shafik, Activist (Egypt), and Ms Khéloudja Khalfoun, Lawyer (Algeria).

The NSC contributed to the finalisation of the PACE Report “Equality between men and women: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring”, which was adopted by the Committee on Equality and Non-discrimination in Paris on 20 March and debated at the PACE plenary session on 24 April. Based on this report, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted its Resolution 1873 and Recommendation 1996 on “Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the

Arab Spring”. The Centre also participated in the hearing on “Women and the Arab Spring” which took place on the same day in Strasbourg.

The NSC attended the first meeting of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe (6-8 June), making a presentation and holding an exchange of views with the Commission in the morning of 7 June, in the framework of a session on coordination and joint planning at international level. The Deputy to the Executive Director introduced the Centre and its action on the empowerment of women, in particular the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women, launched at the Rome Conference “Women as agents of change in the Southern Mediterranean Region” in October 2011. Prospects for future cooperation between the NSC and the GEC were raised and discussed, in particular participation in the “Euro-Med Women Network” and contribution to its virtual working groups as well coordination and mutual reinforcement between annual conferences of the North-South Process and of the GEC.

b) Capacity Building and Training

The NSC partnered with the University Mohamed V-Agdal Rabat in Morocco for the organisation of the first “Feminist Summer School” which took place from 1-6 July in Rabat on the theme “*Gender equality in the reforms and revolutions of the North-African and Middle-East region*”. This summer school brought together some thirty-two researchers and a dozen PhD students working in Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, France and Canada, and was open to all students of the University Mohamed V-Agdal Rabat. The participants discussed topics related to gender issues as traditional and religious practices, socio-economic rights and health, political rights, migration practices, security and public and private space, as well as violence against women. As conclusion of the summer school, the participants, already members of the Euro-Med Network, agreed to share the researches on the network website.

Within the “North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women”, 9 lawyers from Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria were selected by the NSC through a call for applications and participated in a three-week *training on “International law on human rights and the protection of personal data”* from 9 to 27 July, organised by the International Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg.

c) Networking, Partnership Development and Sharing of Good Practices

On 7 July in Tetouan, Morocco, *the Conference on “the gender approach in the development of women in the Mediterranean”*, was organised by the Association “Voix des Femmes” in partnership with the North-South Centre and Women’s Tribune. During the conference, the participants made recommendations to improve the relevance of public policies, the socioeconomic status of women and women’s participation in public life. They agreed to launch as a main recommendation of the conference, the joint call “L’appel de Tétouan” with the aim of supporting the application of the principle of equality as stipulated by the recent Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco. The main partners and participants agreed that an annual follow-up of this appeal would be made in the framework of the Festival “Voix de Femmes” of Tétouan.

The International *Conference on “The Political and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women based on Women’s Stories”*, organised as annual event of the “North-South Women’s Empowerment Process” in Istanbul on 4 – 6 November, gathered approx. 150 participants from the North and South of the Mediterranean region, representing all parts of the “quadrilogue”. The

theme of the conference was chosen by joint agreement between the Turkish Parliament, the NSC and the PACE. The Conference mainly focused on the participation of women in the political and socio economic life, measures to fight violence against women and the empowerment of women through culture, media and arts. The Conference facilitated the sharing of experiences, based on the assumption that testimonies and exchanges between women from different walks of life create opportunities for empowerment. Representatives from COPEAM, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and the International Federation of Human Rights League contributed to this event.

In the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Programme of the North-South Centre, an exploratory meeting took place with Mr Mohamed Auajjar, former Minister for Human Rights in Morocco and Member of the High Authority for the Audiovisual Communication (HACA) on 24 August. The follow-up and the implementation of the main reforms launched in the context of the Arab Spring in Morocco, but also in Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria, was identified as the first common priority and complementary topic of work. With this regard, other fields of cooperation between the North-South Centre and the organisations he represents were also identified, including the gender equality.

The Deputy to the Executive Director met with Mr Benjamin Abtan, Secretary General of the EGAM (European Grassroots Antiracist Movement) on 24 August. Mr Abtan presented EGAM's Project involving EU member States, the countries of the Balkans and the South Mediterranean (Libya, Egypt, Tunisia) to strengthen the civil society and to share positive experiences and best practices in countering intolerance, sectorial and gender violence. Mr Abtan proposed to involve the NSC in this project (ex. support to a study visit Strasbourg-Brussels-Paris or and an event in Lisbon) and to send 5 participants to the Lisbon Forum 2012.

Exploratory contacts were developed and initiatives identified with the interested civil society actors and networks working on gender issues and Euromed cooperation, such as Erasmus Mundus EMA Women Network, COPEAM as well as national networks in Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. At the same time, cooperation and partnership with other CoE institutions working on gender issues, such as its CoE Committee on Gender Equality, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE and the Conference of NGOs, were reinforced in the framework of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women and its Euro-Med Women Network.

The Executive Director a.i. participated in the Fifth Annual Focal Points Meeting, held in Tunis, on 10-12 December. The meeting aimed in particular at reinforcing cooperation at the regional level and a follow-up on the regional strategies. It provided also an opportunity to discuss the organisation of the 2013 Vienna Forum (27 – 28 February). The North-South Centre informed about its activities in the Mediterranean and reiterated its interest to further enhance cooperation and partnership with the UNAOC, in particular in the framework of the UNAOC Regional Strategy for the Mediterranean.

d) Production and sharing of Knowledge, Research and Publications

One year after the conference of Rome and the launching of the “North-South Women’s Empowerment Process”, the North-South Centre is preparing a publication compiling the main

statements and recommendations. This publication will compile abstracts of the best practices and initiatives presented in the activities.

4.2. Strengthening Civil Society

The NSC was a partner of the Third South North Mediterranean Dialogue for a Common Vision of the Future dedicated to the question “Civil Society and Public Authorities: What Partnership” and organised in Tunis on 7-9 June by the European Movement International and the Tunisian Committee of the Mediterranean South North Dialogue. The NSC Chair was represented at this event by Mr Jean-Marie Heydt, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe and Member of the NSC Executive Committee, who spoke in the Opening Session and in Workshop 5 “How to Develop the Role of Civil Society”.

The NSC also sponsored the participation of eight civil society representatives to this Congress, from the Moroccan network of NGOs “Espace Associatif”, the Moroccan Centre for Civic Education, the Moroccan Association for Development & Alternative Diplomacy, the European platform of migrant youth organisations, the “Union des Jeunes Euro-Maghrebins”, the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe and from “Mauritanie Perspectives”, who actively participated in the Congress workshops dedicated to “mobility, education and training”, to “intergenerational cooperation” and to “Mediterranean Networks”, which are issues at the core of the mandate of the North-South Centre.

4.3. North-South Prize

The Award Ceremony for the North-South Prize 2011 took place at the Assembly of the Republic in Lisbon on 27 March. The North-South Prize 2011 was awarded to Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia, for the North, and to Souhayr Belhassen (Tunisia), President of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) for the South. The Ceremony was attended in particular by Mr Aníbal Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal, Mrs Maria da Assunção Esteves, President of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, Mr Jean-Claude Mignon, PACE President, Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Mrs Deborah Bergamini, Chair of the NSC Executive Committee and Mr Keith Whitmore, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The day before the ceremony, a public debate was organised with Mrs Souhayr Belhassen at the Catholic University of Lisbon.

The call for candidates for the 2012 North-South Prize was launched on 1 February, with a deadline expiring on 15 July.

Following the decision of the NSC Executive Committee of 2 November 2011, the Executive Committee held a discussion on the objectives, selection criteria and decision making process of the North-South Prize at its meeting on 29 June, based on the 2009 Guidelines, 2011 draft Resolution as well as the Think Tank proposals contained in its 2nd report to the Executive Committee. Following decisions of the Executive Committee, the Secretariat adapted the Guidelines for the Jury of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe, taking into account recent developments and the discussions held at the meeting and introducing a pre-selection by

the former Prize winners. The discussion on the objectives, selection criteria and decision-making process of the North South Prize will continue at the plenary meeting of the Executive Committee in June 2013. .

The Jury of the 2012 North-South Prize met on 14 September. An extraordinary meeting of the NSP Jury held on 7 December in Strasbourg took decision as regards the 2012 NSP winner for the North. The NSP Jury will meet again on 23 January 2013 with a view to a decision on the NSP winner for the South. The decisions on two winners will be made public as soon as the designated winners have confirmed their acceptance of the Prize and their commitment to attend the Ceremony in Lisbon in spring 2013.

4.4. World Forum for Democracy

Preparations of the NSC contribution to the World Forum on Democracy entitled "*Bridging the gap*", *Democracy: between old models and new realities* (5-11 October, Strasbourg) started in June and Mr Helge Lunde, the Director of ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network) visited the NSC on 10 July to coordinate the co-organisation of the workshop "Migrations: solidarity in crisis?", which was held on 10 October.

Moreover the Executive Director met the Algerian writer Boualem Sansal on the initiative of setting up a "global network of writers for peace" at Radio France in Paris on 30 August. Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, Director of Radio France, Jean-Marie Laclevetine, writer, director of collections at the "Editions Gallimard", Martin Schult, secretary of the "Friedenpreis" awarded annually by the German association of bookshops and editors and Michel Le Bris, writer, Director of the Saint-Malo "Etonnants Voyageurs" festival participated in the meeting. A group of prestigious writers from Europe and the Middle East, chaired by Boualem Sansal (Algeria) and David Grossmann (Israel), launched the **Strasbourg Appeal for Peace** in the framework of the 1st World Forum for Democracy.

In addition, the NSC contributed to the Forum by moderating one of the working groups of the Youth Assembly and by moderating the roundtable "Building Inclusive Democracy with Women" in the framework of the Civil Society Debate organised by the INGO Conference of the CoE on 7 October. Finally, the Chair of the Executive Committee of the NSC chaired a parallel workshop "Internet, new media and democratic (r)evolutions" and intervened as a speaker in the workshop "Becoming a citizen: education and democratic culture" on 9 October.

4.5. High level Conference 'Diversity in Europe: a Strength for the Future'

The Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the North South Centre, Mr Jean Marie Heydt, represented the Centre in the High level Conference 'Diversity in Europe: a Strength for the Future', held in Tirana, in 8-9 November. The Conference was organised under the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministries of the Council of Europe. Mr Hedyt participated as speaker in the session "Dialogue with Mediterranean Neighbours: Sharing best experiences towards open and sustainable democratic societies".

4.6. Lisbon Forum 2012

At its meeting on 26 March, the Bureau of the Executive Committee “agreed that the Lisbon Forum 2012 should follow-up on the 2011 discussion of the "Arab Spring", stressing in particular its youth dimension and a more active participation of young leaders and activists, including journalists, from the South Mediterranean countries, and entrusted the Secretariat to present a proposal to this effect at the next plenary meeting of the Executive Committee, in light of the discussions held during the meeting.”

Following its meeting on 22-23 March, the North-South Centre’s Think Tank came up with a number of recommendations regarding the Lisbon Forum and its 2012 edition. They are included in its second report to the Executive Committee (see document NSC/EC (2012) 2, paragraphs 23-30).

On this basis, and following additional consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal and the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations, a draft outline programme was prepared to the Executive Committee meeting in Strasbourg on 29 June (see NSC/EC (2012) 5 prov), which provided a provisional basis for the preparations of the Forum. The Executive Committee took note with satisfaction of the draft outline programme of the Lisbon Forum 2012 (NSC/EC (2012) 5 prov) and entrusted the Secretariat to continue the preparations of the Lisbon Forum 2012 on this basis.

The 2012 Lisbon Forum was a follow-up to the 2011 edition and had as a theme “**The Arab season: from change to challenges**”. It was held on 3 – 4 December within the framework of the new Programme on “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”, funded by the European Union and implemented by the Council of Europe. It was organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in partnership with Alliance of Civilisations of the United Nations, the host institution - Aga Khan Network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal. Relevant international actors actively contributed to the event in particular the League of Arab States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the International Federation of Human Rights – FIDH, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), as well as the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Committee of Regions and the Council of Europe bodies, such as the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Venice Commission.

More than 200 participants attended the Lisbon Forum 2012, representing a unique opportunity to gather together the representatives of the civil society, local and regional authorities, elected assemblies and governments – following the "quadrilogue" principle. Active involvement of the representatives of the new political order, youth, women activists and journalists/media professionals as well more interactive feature of the programme characterised this year’s forum. The Forum’s plenary sessions and workshops were followed though live streaming in more than 30 countries.

The Lisbon Forum 2012 took stock of changes since the beginning of the “Arab Spring” in January 2011, covering the whole region of the South Mediterranean, in particular Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, but also Algeria, Lebanon and Palestine. It also helped to improve mutual knowledge and understanding and to make recommendations that should support the transition processes. The workshops covered, in particular, the issues of constitutional and political reforms, democratization and the promotion of a culture of human rights, diversity and freedom of expression, proposing how to streamline the reform agenda in the Arab countries of

Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. The subjects discussed and the conclusions and recommendations formulated are at the heart of the Council of Europe mandate.

4.7. History Teaching

The NSC participated in the 19th Annual Conference of Euroclio (European Association of History Educators) held in Antalya (Turkey) on 1 – 7 April. It contributed in particular to the Workshop on “Responsible History Education in North-Africa and the Middle East” (4 April) and to the Plenary session on “History teaching for dialogue and multicultural challenges” (6 April). The Deputy to the Executive Director introduced the NSC action in the field of history teaching underlining in particular the synergy with the CoE activities in this field and the privileged cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations. Related activities of the NSC Education and Youth Programmes were mentioned and prospects for future cooperation outlined.

The mission contributed to strengthening the NSC’ relations with Euroclio, IRCICA, Turkey and Open Society Foundation. Euroclio expressed the willingness to deepen cooperation with the NSC in promoting responsible history teaching in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, based on the CoE approaches and expertise. IRCICA confirmed its willingness to continue cooperating with the NSC and the CoE in general. The Open Society Foundation expressed its interest in possibly contributing to the future Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship in general and a specific session in particular.

In cooperation with EUROCLIO, the North-South Centre initiated preparations for organising a workshop on history teaching in the framework of the 2nd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, to be held in May 2013. The NSC contributed to the Meeting of the International Task Force Group for the organisation of the Forum held on 8 December in Paris. The programme of the Forum as well as specific events within the Forum were discussed at the meeting. The Deputy to the Executive Director presented a proposal for the Workshop “Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges” to be organised in cooperation with Euroclio in the framework of the Forum on 30 May 2013. The proposal was discussed and accepted.

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

According to the budget approved by the Executive Committee in November 2011, the total of estimated receipts in 2012 amounted to € 1 363 000. Since January, the North-South Centre has been identified as one of the implementing actors of the agreement signed between the Council of Europe and the European Union entitled “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood” and is expected to receive a financial contribution between 2012 and 2014 that amounts to approximately € 175 000. Furthermore, as a result of the development of partnerships with other organisations, the Centre mobilised additional resources through “in kind” contributions or co-organised activities, which can be estimated up to date at € 25 000.

Regarding the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) signed with the European Commission, Action “Raising European Awareness of issues of global interdependence and solidarity” has now entered in the 4th year of implementation, following the agreement by both parties to extend the contract until 2012 and the approval by the EC of an additional funding of € 180 000 in 2012. In addition, the project proposal submitted by the NSC for a second phase of the JMA, that will run from 2013 until 2015 (€ 300 000 per year), was approved and has been signed by the two parties in Lisbon on 27 September, in the framework of the 2nd European Congress on Global Education.

On the expenditure side, 90% of the total funds available in the BL have been committed/spent to date. Concerning the programme budgetary line alone, 98% of the funds have been committed.

Furthermore, on 30 May, the 2011 Financial Statements and Budgetary Accounts of the North South Centre were signed and according to the opinion of the external auditor the results of the Centre’s operations and cash flows in 2011 were prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the transactions were made in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe and budgetary authorisations.

TABLE I – Breakdown of incoming resources

Obligatory contribution from member states	893 700,00
Voluntary contribution from Portugal for NSC’s rent	169 300,00
Contributions from the European Commission	280 000,00
Bank interest	20 000,00
TOTAL	1 363 000,00

Appendix I

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Government representatives		Other stakeholders		
1.	Azerbaijan		Parliamentary representatives	
2.	Cape Verde	23.	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ⁴	Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France)
3.	Cyprus	24.	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Roger Gale (UK)
4.	Finland	25.	European Parliament ⁵	Mr Miguel Angel Martínez (Spain) *
5.	Germany *	26.	European Parliament	Ms Michele Striffler (France)
6.	Greece *			
7.	Holy See		Representatives of local and regional authorities	
8.	Iceland	27.	Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe ⁶	Mr Jean-Claude Frécon (France)
9.	Ireland	28.	Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe	Dr. Herwig Van Staa (Austria) *
10.	Italy *	29.	Committee of the Regions of the European Union	Mr Jesús Gamallo Aller (Spain)
11.	Liechtenstein	30.	Committee of the Regions of the European Union	Mr Christophe Rouillon (France) *
12.	Luxembourg			
13.	Malta		Civil society representatives (4)	
14.	Montenegro			
15.	Morocco	31.	Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe	Mr Jean-Marie Heydt *
16.	Norway *	32.	Joint Council on Youth	Mr Giovanni Corbo
17.	Portugal	33.	CONCORD	Ms Rilli Lappalainen
18.	San Marino	34.	FIDH	Ms Sophie Bessis
19.	Serbia *			
20.	Slovenia	35.	Secretary General of the Council of Europe (or his/her representative)	Ms Snezana Samardzic-Markovic, Director of DG II
21.	Spain			
22.	Sweden	36.	European Union	Ambassador Luisella Pavan-Woolfe *

* Bureau member

⁴ Substitute member: Mr Carlos Costa Neves (Portugal).

⁵ Substitute members: Mr Charles Goerens (Luxembourg) and Ms Gabriele Zimmer (Germany).

⁶ Substitute members: Mrs Dubravka Suica (Croatia) and Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania).

Appendix II

ORGANIGRAMME OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE SECRETARIAT
30 November 2012

