



# North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



## Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre

### Implementation in 2011 and Programme perspectives 2012-13

#### 1) Objectives of the North-South Centre youth cooperation programme

- Strengthen the role of youth as a key actor in global and inter-regional development, particularly in Europe and Africa and the Mediterranean Region;
- Support the development of regional and inter-regional action plans and programmes on youth policies following a human rights based approach ;
- To implement the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Action Plan for 2012-2015;
- To promote dialogue and provide training and capacity-building for youth stakeholders at European, African, inter-regional and global level.

#### 2) Overview of the programme implementation in 2011

##### a) Euro-African Youth Cooperation

In the follow-up of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa-Europe Youth Summit, held in Tripoli (2010), the North-South Centre facilitated the process of transforming the political declaration adopted into an Action Plan for Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation for the period 2012-2015, including the establishment of an Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP). This Plan is a comprehensive guide for the strategic and sustainable development of this co-operation and reinforces its political relevance. The Plan focuses on three main areas: (1) capacity building; (2) advocacy and (3) the creation of an online resource centre. This strategy also calls upon the continuation and reinforcement of exiting co-operation instruments such as the *Joint Management Agreement* and the *partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth* and promotes the idea of introducing additional resources/instruments and mobilisation of new institutional partners in this field. This process was mainly developed during the *Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies* which was organised in on 10-13 April in Addis Ababa.

The strategic choice of organising the Africa-Europe youth leaders meeting in Addis Ababa, the headquarters of the African Union (AU), allowed for renewed and improved relations with the AU's Commission. In particular the AU Commissioner responsible for youth affairs and the Special Representative of the EU Delegation to the AU were both present at the meeting and highlighted the importance of this youth process and Addis Ababa as strategic location for future activities.

Important developments regarding advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the *African Youth Charter* and the strengthening of youth policies at sub-regional level in Africa took place in the context of the *Central Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter*, organised in Libreville, Gabon on 11-13 March. The meeting contributed, inter alia, to initiating a process towards the creation of national youth council in Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, two countries in Central Africa that still lack national youth platforms. These two meetings also served as important moments for the sub-regional and pan-African youth preparations towards the *Head of States Summit of the African Union*, which will take place from 23 June-1 July 2012 in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), under the theme “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”.

In 2011 the *Seed Funding Programme for Africa-Europe youth co-operation* was launched with over 200 project applications responding to the call. In the end, 23 projects that build on the capacity of civil society organisations were granted and implemented through the year. The Centre has seen unforeseen interest among civil society youth organisations in Africa and Europe and the NSC continues to receive a large amount of ad-hoc applications. The projects have been successfully completed, the project results show that the issue concerning youth mobility continues to be a serious obstacle for the implementation of exchanges and projects between young people in Africa and Europe, in particular the visas issue. This concern was strongly expressed in the Declarations of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits in 2007 and 2010.

The implementation of the Seed Funding Scheme in this period has allowed not only the support of good and inspirational practices but also to sustain the networking among youth groups in Africa and Europe and to strengthen emerging youth structures such as the *African Diaspora youth network in Europe (ADYNE)* and the *Trainers Pool for Africa Europe youth co-operation (TAEC)*.

The *3<sup>rd</sup> African University on Youth and Development*, which took place on 15-22 May in Cape Verde, was consolidated as an important annual key event for Africa co-operation and it contributed to strengthening partnerships among key actors for Africa-Europe co-operation in the youth field, as well as reinforcing relations with the authorities of Cape Verde. Three major youth training activities were held during the third African University on Youth and Development, which had global education as its central theme and was attended by 90 youth leaders from the different continents.

In the framework of the mapping of Africa Europe youth Cooperation, the Centre is currently producing a compilation of the political texts and declarations of the Africa Europe youth movement since 2007, covering the Youth Summits and the activities of the Africa Europe Youth Programme and preparing the launch of the web based resource centre for Africa Europe youth co-operation, which will be ready in 2012. A publication resulting from the Seminar with African Youth Diaspora and the MDG's ("From the Millennium Development Goals to the Millennium Development Wins") was produced also in 2011.

## **b) Global Youth Cooperation**

In the framework of the Joint Management Agreement, a cycle of three years of implementation of a global youth co-operation training scheme, organised in co-operation with the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO),

was concluded in May. Close to 100 youth leaders from all regions of the world were trained on global youth work and the final training course was for the first time organised outside Europe, in Cape Verde. From an educational point of view, the placing of the course in Africa brought much added value in terms of (very relevant) southern perspectives into the learning process of participants.

The *University on Youth and Development*, met for the 12<sup>th</sup> time from the 18-25 September, providing an opportunity for training, capacity building and for an intense intercultural learning programme to more than 340 youth leaders coming from organisations and youth movements from all over the world (close to 80 countries and more than 90 Nationalities from the different regions of the World). These youth leaders gather in the CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre) to discuss, train and be trained, as well as to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda. Fourteen parallel residential training courses and workshops were organised during this week by the North-South Centre, in co-operation with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other international youth organisations.

The 2011 edition of the University was devoted to the theme "Youth Volunteering for Global Development" in the framework of the International Year of Volunteers and the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The university endorsed the final declaration "Let's keep Volunteering for Global Development". The University was also the stage to further develop the advocacy agenda of the main youth platforms for the year 2012 in areas such as the preparations of the youth participation in the Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or the process leading to the European Youth Capital 2012 (Braga) that will include a substantial agenda of global and inter-regional youth cooperation. During the University, in the framework of the joint programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, a *seminar with African Youth Diaspora and the MDG's ("From the Millennium Development Goals to the Millennium Development Wins")*, a *Euro-Mediterranean Meeting on the Intercultural Indicators* and the *monitoring group meeting of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation* were held.

Also in the framework of the University the partners of *University on Youth and Development* (Spain), the *University on Participation and Citizenship* (Uruguay) and *African University on Youth and Development* (Cape Verde) agreed on the establishment of the *Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship*. This Networking process between the Universities partners will reinforce their pedagogical and political capacities, reduces their vulnerabilities and provide a joint strategic vision based on Global Education as content and as practice and in the strengthening of the Youth Rights agenda. A second meeting of this network was organised in November in Braga to work further on this strategy. The partners of this network are working on a strategic vision and action plan for 2015.

In the context of the University on Youth and Development, a series of media and social media tools were produced and systematized (videos, documentary with testimonies and life stories of young people and volunteering, an on-line social community etc). The report of the University is being prepared by the general rapporteur and will be available before the end of the year.

### 3) Programme perspectives 2012-13

#### a) Policy Development

One of the Centre's key follow-up activities from the Africa-Europe Youth Summit of 2010 will be the establishment of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform, to act as the governing structure of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation Action plan for 2012-2015. The mission of the platform will be to accompany all the stages of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation process, i.e. the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation process. The Centre will also coordinate practical support (through "seed funding") for the implementation of projects and exchanges reinforcing Africa-Europe youth cooperation.

The Centre will also develop a comprehensive web-based resource centre which will gather information about Africa-Europe youth cooperation, i.e. information about political and institutional frameworks, youth organisations active in this field in both continents, information about projects, inspirational practices, pedagogical resources, funding opportunities, etc.

Furthermore, at the level of the Council of Europe, the Centre will examine the possibilities to invite civil society and / or youth representatives from the South to Strasbourg, promoting their participation in CoE activities and improving the visibility of their aspirations at the various levels of the Organisation.

The Centre will further develop working relations with the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the UN System and other relevant regional and international organisations active in youth work and global solidarity with the aim of establishing sustainable partnerships.

#### b) Training and capacity-building

The Centre will continue to provide training and capacity building for youth leaders, trainers and youth organisations, at global level ("Global Education and Youth Training Course" at the University on Youth and Development once a year), and at inter-regional level ("Africa-Europe training course" at the African University on Youth and Development once a year) .

These courses represent a part of the wider set of activities encompassed in the yearly "University on Youth and Development" which takes place during eight days in September at the CEULAJ in Molina (Spain) and its sister universities (in Cape Verde and Uruguay). These Universities each bring together hundreds of youth representatives from all over the world to learn, discuss, exchange experiences and to reinforce the role of youth as actors in local, national and global development. The North-South Centre acts as the facilitator of the **Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship** and as the focal point between the numerous partners involved. The Centre will explore the possibility of setting up a similar university in the Arab region/South Mediterranean.

Regarding the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, the Centre will have a leading role in providing training and capacity building in the field of Youth Policies, particularly in Morocco and Tunisia in the framework of the Council of Europe South Facility (2012-14)

and in the euro-Mediterranean cooperation activities inscribed in the 2012 programme of the youth partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Furthermore, the Centre will continue to cooperate in the strengthening of a structured network for the young African Diaspora living in Europe and support its active participation in civil society organisations mainly through its partnership with ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network Europe.

### **c) Tentative calendar for the youth activities of the North-South Centre in 2012**

#### **February to December**

- Implementation of the “Seed Funding” for Africa Europe Youth Cooperation

#### **March**

- Formal launch of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (University on Participation and Citizenship, Uruguay)

#### **March - May**

- Workshop on empowerment and capacity building to youth organisations in the South Med region (Malta)

#### **May- June**

- 4<sup>th</sup> African University on Youth and Development (place tbc)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Leaders

#### **July**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Institutional Meeting Africa Europe Youth Cooperation
- African Youth Diaspora Training Course

#### **September**

- 13<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development (Spain)
- Global Education and Youth Training Course for Trainers

#### **October- November**

- Meeting of the Africa Europe Youth Platform/Forum
- Launching of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation Online Resource Centre
- North-African Sub regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter
- Symposium “Arab spring: Youth participation for the promotion of peace, human rights and fundamental freedoms” (Tunis/Malta)

### **e) Performance indicators**

- Improved quality and increased number of initiatives, partnerships and networks in Africa-Europe Cooperation, Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation and in global youth work.
- A Euro-Arab/Euro-Mediterranean co-operation youth programme is developed as a permanent feature of the North-South Centre programme.
- Progress is made in relation to the implementation and ratification of the African Youth Charter and other youth rights instruments at regional and international level.

- The seven priority areas of the Africa-Europe youth cooperation are progressively implemented as defined in the Africa-Europe Youth Action Plan for 2012-2015.
- The youth organisations and Networks of the African Diaspora participate in the main activities and spaces of participation for civil society in Africa and Europe.
- Over 1000 multipliers/participants and organisations directly benefiting and being involved in the programme, with an equal balance of participation of women (50%) and men (50%) in the activities.