



# Meta-University 2020

Online international youth event

for networking, capacity building and peer learning  
among stakeholders of the youth sectors

4 -5 November 2020

## Report

### Organised by:



### Partner organisations:



Activity in the framework of the project: VC 2606  
"Global Youth - Interregional Cooperation for Youth  
Participation and Global Citizenship".



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS  
ESTRANGEIROS



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# THE META-UNIVERSITY 2020

## A multilateral and multicultural event

### QUADRILOGUE REPRESENTATION



113 Civil society organisations (CSO)



18 International CSO



10 Government representatives



11 Intergovernmental organisations



9 Local and regional authorities



2 DAYS – 1 JOINT PROGRAMME

### PARTNERS' WEBINARS



5

### JOINT SESSIONS



8

### PARTICIPANTS



163

### GENDER BALANCE



65



98

### NATIONALITIES REPRESENTED



- |            |                |             |                 |                |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Albania    | Chile          | Israel      | Nigeria         | Slovakia       |
| Algeria    | Czech Republic | Italy       | North Macedonia | Slovenia       |
| Armenia    | Egypt          | Jordan      | Palestine       | Spain          |
| Austria    | Ethiopia       | Kenya       | Peru            | Syria          |
| Bangladesh | Finland        | Lebanon     | Poland          | Tunisia        |
| Belgium    | France         | Libya       | Portugal        | Turkey         |
| Bulgaria   | Georgia        | Mali        | Romania         | Ukraine        |
| Cameroon   | Germany        | Mauritania  | Russia          | United Kingdom |
| Canada     | Greece         | Mauritius   | Senegal         | United States  |
| Chad       | India          | Netherlands | Serbia          |                |

## From the “Universities”...

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The “Universities” are international residential youth events promoted by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe together with the partners gathered in the [Network on Youth and Global Citizenship](#).

**For one week, hundreds of youth stakeholders** (students, young people, youth workers, decision makers, experts from the field, intergovernmental organisations, members of parliaments, representatives from national governments and local and regional authorities responsible for youth-related policies....) **meet, debate, build their capacities and cooperate on youth policies.**

The Universities are framework events where different **youth-led and youth-oriented organisations have the possibility to run their own activities** (meetings, trainings, workshops...) **within a multilateral cooperation context that** engages all participants in networking, peer education and knowledge-sharing initiatives to address together the global youth agenda.

Over the last 20 years, the North-South Centre, together with the partners gathered in the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship, has organized more than 40 editions of the universities in different parts of the world: University on Youth and Development (UYD) in Spain, Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) in Tunisia, Latin American University on Participation and Citizenship (UPC) in Uruguay, African University on Youth and Development (AUUD) in Cape Verde and Kenya.

## ...to the Meta-University 2020

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Following the cancellation of the residential universities 2020 (UYD and MedUni) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the North-South Centre explored different online scenarios to keep working on youth cooperation and youth participation in these challenging times.

The North-South Centre (NSC) and its partners, acknowledged that the richness of the face-to-face intercultural encounters, the effectiveness of the non-formal education methodology, the mutual understanding flourished by experiential learning and the networking opportunities happening during informal moments at these events are the key elements of the Universities, difficult to be replaced by digital initiatives and online tools.

Therefore, instead of create an online version of the Universities (same structure, objectives and methodologies) it was decided to set up a new online event able to keep the spirit and the format of the traditional universities while exploring the possibilities of the digital youth work and addressing the pressing needs of the youth sector facing the pandemic.



The Meta<sup>1</sup>-University was conceived as a space to connect and re-connect different youth organisations at global level while reflecting about the recent critical circumstances, sharing the current challenges and drawing plans for the future. Considering the current pandemic crisis, which is challenging traditional spaces for dialogue and accelerating the process of shrinking space for civil society, the Meta-University represents a platform which ensures interaction and mutual understanding among players of the youth sector, reducing the side effects which might be brought to young people due to the disintegration of physical connections.

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<sup>1</sup> One of the etymological streams of the Greek word “meta” is connected to the concept of “in between”, an oscillation between future, present and past; it takes into account the “here”, it affects the “there” yet got inspired by the “elsewhere”.

## Programme and methodology

The Meta-University relies on the educational model developed in the previous Universities based on peer learning, global education and confidence building, but adapted to the digital setting, which enables different possibilities of participation.

A MULTILATERAL AND MULTILEVEL EVENT ALLOWING DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES OF PARTICIPATION

The programme was built together with partner organisations from different regions of the world, representing youth constituencies at different levels: youth-led organisations, governmental bodies, international umbrella networks, intergovernmental institutions.

### 4 macro areas

- The youth sector amidst Covid-19 pandemic <sup>2</sup>
- International cooperation and multilevel governance for Youth, Peace and Security <sup>3</sup>
- Youth for peace and strong institutions <sup>4</sup>
- Youth and international solidarity <sup>5</sup>

### 4 type of activities

- Workshops promoted by partner organisations
- Plenary sessions with guest speakers
- Expo area and networking spaces
- Connection café: facilitated informal intercultural dynamics for peer-learning

| 4th Nov 2020   |  | 5th Nov 2020   |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| 9.00 - 10.30<br>UNDP Tunisia & ONJ<br>SDGs camps sensemaking workshop  |  | 9.00 - 10.30<br>UNDP Tunisia & ONJ<br>SDGs camps sensemaking workshop  | 10.00 - 11.15<br>CNJC<br>#Unfollow gender violence in the Mediterranean         |
| 10.30 - 11.30<br>Connection café<br>An interactive plastic-free coffee break for peer learning   |  | 11.30 - 12.30<br>Connection café<br>An interactive plastic-free coffee break for peer learning   |   |
| 11.30 - 12.30<br>The youth sector, the Covid-19 pandemic and the shrinking of civil space<br>Moderated discussion + Q&A with the audience                |  | 12.30 - 13.30<br>Africa-Europe youth cooperation:<br>A multilevel coordination for a sustainable governance.<br>Moderated discussion + Q&A with the audience |   |
| 14.00 - 16.00<br>IFM-SEI<br>COVID-19 and Violent Extremism   | 14.00 - 15.30<br>CNG<br>Mediterranean resilient cities:<br>youth-friendly approach | 14.00 - 16.00<br>IFM-SEI<br>COVID-19 and Violent Extremism   | 14.00 - 15.30<br>CNG<br>Mediterranean resilient cities: youth-friendly approach |
| 16.00 - 18.00<br>Digital youth work: exploring possibilities, pursuing engagement, ensuring quality<br>Practical workshop in three modules               |  | 16.00 - 18.00<br>CIVICUS/ Digital Grassroots<br>Resetting Digital Rights Amidst the Covid-19 Fallout   |   |
| 18.00 - 19.00<br>Virtual Youth fair<br>Expo area to share good practices, discover new projects and follow-up ideas<br>(open until the end of the event) |  | 18.00 - 19.00<br>Music and youth workers: heal the world by connecting young people across regions<br>A final musical session for intercultural dialogue     |   |
| Partners' activity   |  | Plenary sessions   |   |
| Networking area  |  | Meeting point  |   |
| -Timetable following the Lisbon time -   |  |  |   |

*"It was quite an innovative solution for a conference to be actually implemented and adapted to new reality that has been imposed by Covid-19"<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>2</sup> in line with the [outcomes of the meeting](#) of International Stakeholders active in the field of Youth

<sup>3</sup> in line with the [results of the seminar](#) "Enhancing interregional and interregional and multilevel cooperation to support local youth engagement in peace processes"

<sup>4</sup> in line with the [CoE contribution to the SDG16](#)

<sup>5</sup> in line with the [#Solidaction campaign](#)

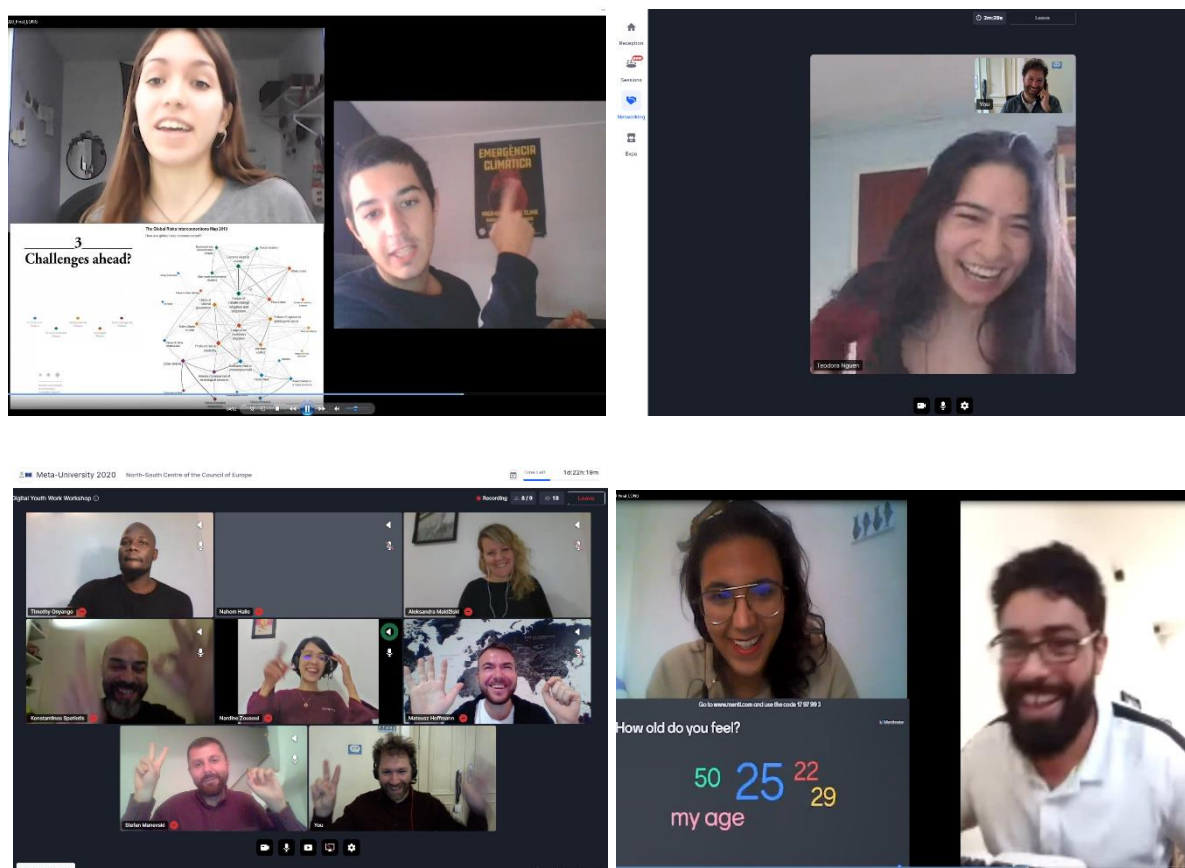
<sup>6</sup> From the final evaluation of one of the participants.



During the two-day programme, the participants had the possibility to:

- ✓ expand knowledge and build new skills by taking part in one or more of the five webinars promoted by partner organisations (IFM, UNDP/ONJ Tunisia; CNJC; Digital Grassroots, CNG);
- ✓ contribute to the developments of the global youth agenda by following the plenary sessions focused on current key issues of the youth sector;
- ✓ connect with other peers while enjoying informal gatherings such as online coffee-breaks, dynamic group chats, speed networking, musical sessions and other facilitated group interactions;
- ✓ mingle in the “virtual youth fair” to know more about the work of other organisations, exchange contacts and chat with the promoter of each stand;
- ✓ take the lead of the event by setting up new sessions to follow-up ideas or to address relevant issues not covered by the official programme of the event.

Under the guidance of the joint facilitators and taking advantage of the digital platform used, the event gave participants the possibility to video chat in private with everyone (including those attending other workshops), to visit the different rooms and to open break-out sessions. These features created a digital space where the dialogue flourished and networking was encouraged.



*“The organizers and facilitators managed to make the meetings enjoyable, they created a good mood among all”<sup>7</sup>*

<sup>7</sup> From the final evaluation of one of the participants.

# PLENARY SESSIONS

## The youth sector, the Covid-19 pandemic and the shrinking of civil space


| Guest Speakers:   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Mohamed Edabbar</b><br/>Global Focal Point, Children and Youth<br/>Constituency for Sustainable Communities<br/><b>UN Major Group for Children &amp; Youth</b></p>  | <p><b>Nika Bakhsoiani</b><br/>Coordinator of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)<br/>Working Group on COVID-19 Response<br/><b>Advisory Council on Youth - Council of Europe</b></p> |
| <p><b>João Pedro Videira</b><br/>Board Member<br/>for International Affairs and Cooperation<br/><b>National Youth Council Portugal</b> on behalf of the<br/><b>Youth Forum of the Community of Portuguese<br/>Speaking Countries (CPLP)</b></p> | <p><b>Mridul Upadhyay,</b><br/>Asia Coordinator<br/><b>United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)</b></p>   |
| <p>Moderator:<br/><b>Rares-Augustin Craiut</b><br/>Board member<br/><b>Conference of <u>International</u> Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe</b></p>   |   |

### Key messages:

- The pandemic profoundly affected grassroots realities that are particularly vulnerable, such as those in rural areas or in regions of the world where the internet connection is not strong.
- There has been a deepened digital divide across different regions of the world.
- Under the current circumstances it is more difficult to connect with the policy makers and make young people's voices heard.
- The pandemic has, nevertheless, pushed towards the development of new documents and material to be delivered to the stakeholders of the youth sector.
- The pandemic gave space to implement new participatory methods and to explore innovative responses, further developing the organisational capacities of certain youth organisations.
- It is now clearer than ever that the answer to the current situation must be international and unified, thus international cooperation has to be reinforced.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Young people need to be part of the process to overcome the situation, considering that they were hit hard by the pandemic under many aspects, such as housing, employment and education.
- ✓ Invest in media literacy, digital skills updating, critical pedagogy and transformative human rights education as means to develop critical consciousness and ensure space for civil society.
- ✓ Consider digital rights as human rights

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of civil society space in Europe</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on a Guide to human rights for Internet users</a></li> </ul> |
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## Africa-Europe youth cooperation: a multilevel coordination for a sustainable governance

| Guest Speakers:   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Carina Autengruber</b><br/>President<br/><b>European Youth Forum</b></p>  | <p><b>Bora Kamwanya</b><br/>Secretary General<br/><b>African Caribbean Pacific - Young Professionals Network (ACP-YPN)</b></p> |
| <p><b>Karen Kaneza</b><br/>Co-Chairperson<br/><b>The African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE)</b></p>                     | <p><b>Nafula Wafula</b><br/>Vice Chairperson for Policy and Advocacy<br/><b>Commonwealth Youth Council</b></p>                 |
| <p>Moderator:<br/><b>Rocio Cervera</b><br/>Deputy Executive Director<br/><b>North-South Centre of the Council of Europe</b></p> |  |

### Key messages:

- Africa-Europe cooperation is a transformative agenda than can change the narrative, shifting from a past of inequality and colonialism to a present of equality and collaboration.
- An Africa-Europe dialogue matters since nowadays young people are facing similar challenges and the same age discrimination, no matter where they live.
- Albeit objectives and concerns are shared, socio-political elements and governance structures vary between the two continents and must be considered to develop customised solutions.
- While grassroots initiatives and social movements have horizontal forms of internal governance, governmental organisations are more often based on vertical hierarchy: when working on multilevel governance at international level this is an important aspect to recognized and legitimised.
- There is a wide and common acknowledgement about youth Diaspora as a specific and valuable group of stakeholders able to address challenges in both continents and bridge them.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ More audacious investments are needed for to stream Youth in the policy-maker's agenda.
- ✓ Many recommendations were already written, it is now necessary to strengthen their implementation, involving in the monitoring and evaluation phases the actors who have written the recommendations.
- ✓ Accountability is key when implementing action plans involving many players acting at several level and regions.
- ✓ The co-leadership models should guarantee a balance of power allowing more space and means to grassroots youth representation.
- ✓ For young Africans, rediscover pan Africanism as a key point to re-imagine global citizenship.

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| <p>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">The Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES)</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">North-South Centre: Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Council of Europe policy towards neighbouring regions</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">External Relations of the Council of Europe</a></li> </ul> |
|--|--|



## Digital youth work: exploring possibilities, pursuing engagement, ensuring quality


| Workshop in three modules  |   |
|--|---|
| Module 1<br><b>Lessons and questions:<br/>Quality of NFE online?</b>             | <b>Stefan Manevski and Natalia Chardymova</b><br>Educational advisors<br><a href="#">CoE-Youth department</a>   |
| Module 2<br><b>From participation to involvement:<br/>“the Art of Hosting”:</b>  | <b>Timothy Onyango and Nahom Haile from</b><br>Trainers and board members<br><a href="#">Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA)</a>       |
| Module 3<br><b>Tools, methods and tips for<br/>effective online youth events</b> | <b>Mateusz Hoffmann and Aleksandra Maldžiski</b><br>Trainers<br><a href="#">Dypall Network</a><br><a href="#">(Developing Youth Participation at Local Level)</a> |

### Key messages:

- The digital phase pushed by the pandemic, has uncovered the potential of online events
- Different paths are being explored to guarantee also in the online setting a holistic approach, able to consider both the practical knowledge and the emotional dimension.
- Quality criteria for education and training in certain cases can be difficult to adapt in the online context: if the ones related to the needs assessment and evaluation are easier to adapt, others - such as the ones related to the collaborative processes - present still critical elements.
- If on one side online events and trainings are more accessible to young people from all over the world, on the other side it is now more difficult to maintain participants active and engaged online: it is essential to recur to a variety of methods combining “on screen” and “off screen” tools avoiding a pure online methodology.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Written communication in English is not the same as verbal communication and it could represent an obstacle for the active and meaningful engagement of many young people: it is important to facilitate written communication (i.e.: close-end questions and polls) to make participants at ease.
- ✓ The increased outreach guaranteed by online activities does not necessarily mean an increase of inclusiveness of the activity itself: it remains fundamental to engage everyone in the conversation and to capture the energy with questions that are relevant for everyone.
- ✓ To achieve good results, both in terms of engagement and outputs, attention to details and an accurate risk assessment are essential factors: checking that participants are able to navigate within a given tool or testing all the equipment before the event are simple and sometimes underestimated actions that can make the difference.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <br><b>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">Resource page on Digital developments in youth work training</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)1 on E-democracy prepared by the Ad hoc Committee on e-democracy (CAHDE, 2006-2008)</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Digital youth participation at local level: Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life applied to the digital environment</a></li> </ul> |
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## Music and youth workers: heal the world by connecting young people across regions

| Musical session played and facilitated by “Ubanda”                            |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Rui Afonso</b> (in Portugal)<br><b>Keith Ellis</b> (in the United Kingdom) | <b>Ed Wade-Martins and Abdoulie Seine</b><br>(in The Gambia) |

Ubanda is a musical collective set up specifically for the NSC Universities that connects the pedagogical, the social and artistic dimensions to youth work. Ubanda complements the work of the pedagogical team during the residential Universities by adding the musical and artistic dimension to the event.

This is an essential contribution to increase the creative aspect of the activities by tackling the Universities’ topics through a musical perspective.

This year, due to the specificity of the online format which did not allow Ubanda to jam online with all participants and create music, the artists wrote and pre-recorded four songs. The songs were streamed throughout the online event and were further explored during the Ubanda session, where the analysis of the songs was the starting point of an informal conversation with all participants.

The song “Reconnect” was specifically created for this event and became its soundtrack.

### Key messages:

- Cultural collaboration can ignite a transformative positive change in this complex world during these challenging times.
- Connecting people from all over the world in unity and creativity has always been the greatest value of art: in this sense, there is a tremendous - yet unexplored - potential for online participatory international music projects.
- It is challenging nowadays to remain connected and to collaborate far from each other, but when it is done together with people who share the same values, it then becomes a rewarding challenge.

### Musical video created for the Meta university (click on the image to access the music)

1 Pachamama



2 Re-connect at the Meta-University



4 Bitandi Wor



3 Run For The Hills



## The Connection cafés

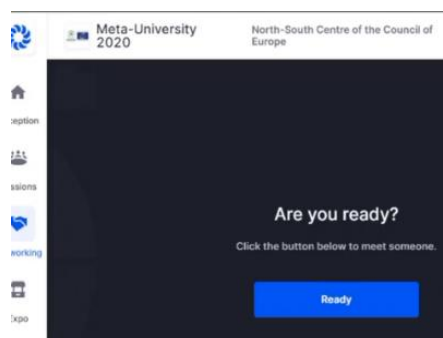
| Facilitators:   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Konstantinos Spatiotis</b><br>Trainer and Youth Worker<br>(Greece) | <b>Nardine Zouaoui</b><br>Digital Communication specialist<br>(Tunisia) |

The Connection cafés were daily informal moments to connect and cooperate among peers in an informal setting. The cafés were led by two experienced facilitators, who worked transversally to all the activities to keep the participants engaged and to foster a more cooperative and dialogical environment throughout the events.

Through creative and participatory dynamics, the facilitators set up a comfortable space for the participants:


- know each other on a more personal level;
- follow-up the discussion they had in their respective webinars;
- explore global education and intercultural dialogue in a virtual setting;
- share information and opportunities gathered in the different sessions;
- find new ground for future cooperation.

The team of facilitators of the Meta-university (echoing the Joint Pedagogical Team of the residential Universities), besides promoting peer-learning and knowledge-sharing through a non-formal education approach, were also supporting partners, trainers and participants in the different aspects of the events: from backing-up moderation of the sessions to the [production of a tutorial to help participants navigate the platform of the event.](#)



### Key messages:

- ✓ The current online dimension has given even more relevance to the globalization of facts and ideas, nevertheless local traditions and personal origins remain fundamental to maintain the personal dimension of the events and to keep working on intercultural dialogue.
- ✓ Online events risk to compartmentalise knowledge and experiences in each activity, losing track of the bigger framework where the activity takes place. Thus, it is necessary to connect the global youth agenda to personal interests balancing civic engagement and personal involvement.
- ✓ Similarly, to what happens in on-field activities, it is necessary to guarantee a safe space of interaction to foster open communication and prevent misjudgement among participants in an online format.

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| <b>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</b><br><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">CoE Recommendation CM/Rec (2011)4 on education for global interdependence and solidarity</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on intercultural integration</a></li> </ul> |
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# PARTNERS' WORKSHOPS

## National Youth Council (CNG) - Italy

**Title: *Mediterranean resilient cities: youth-friendly approach***



### Guest Speakers

**Enxhi Lipa (Tirana Youth Capital 2022, Albania)**  
**Ivan Neirotti (European Youth Capital, European Youth Forum)**  
**Prof. Antonio Acierno (University of Naples "Federico II", Italy)**  
**Prof. Inés Sánchez de Madariaga (GenderSTE, Technical University Madrid, Spain)**  
**Flavio Siniscalchi (Youth Policy Dept., Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy)**

### Moderator of speakers

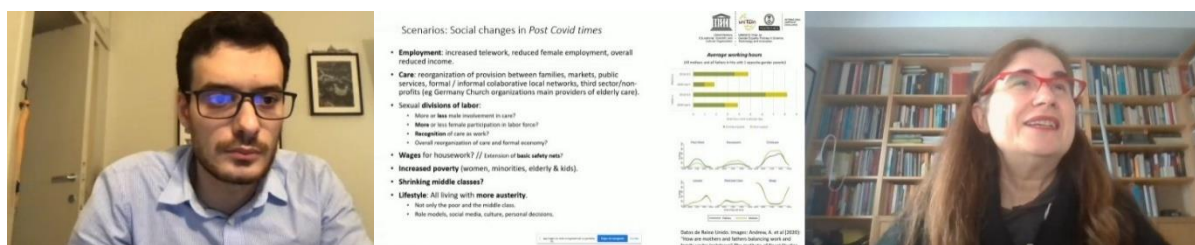
**Virgilio Falco and Giada Martin (CNG, Italy)**

### Facilitators with participants:

**Sara Massini (CNG, Italy) and Dario Coppi (Associazione Culturale 25, Italy)**

## Description

The workshop explored the topic of resilient cities and the role of youth in addressing pressing urban change, such as climate change, public space and governance. The activity advocated for youth-led solutions, promoting youth action and youth culture for sustainable urbanization in Mediterranean cities.



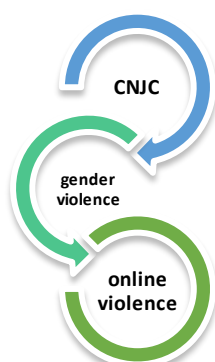
## Results

- ✓ Enhancement of the New Urban Agenda
- ✓ Acquisition by participants of knowledge and skills related to resilient cities
- ✓ Empowerment of youth in the creation of resilient cities and in addressing pressing urban issues
- ✓ Development of research and background material on the topic of resilient cities
- ✓ Connecting the discussed topic of resilient cities with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with SDG 11.3

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| <p><b>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">Recommendation 261 (2009) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on intercultural cities</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">European urban charter II – Manifesto for a new urbanity</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of citizens in local public life</a></li> </ul> |
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## Catalan Youth Council (CNJC), Spain

### Title: #Unfollow gender violence in the Mediterranean



#### Speakers:

Isaura González (CNJC, Spain)

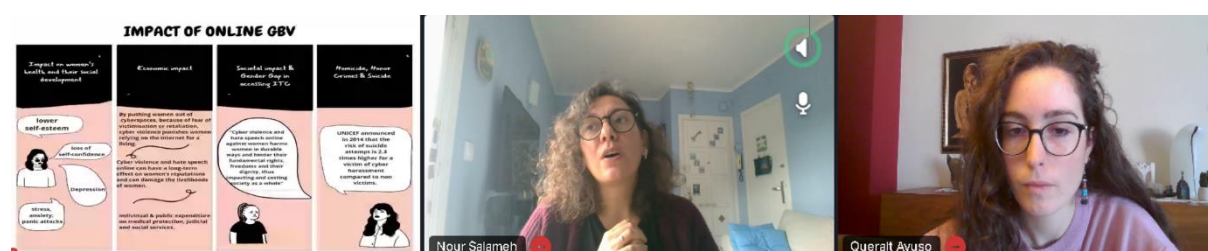
Nour Salameh (Gender Equality Programme of the IEMed, Spain/Syria)

#### Facilitators:

Queralt Ayuso and Julia Rosanna Sãjnchez-Valverde (CNJC, Spain)

### Description

The webinar aimed at raising awareness on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in digital spaces. By exploring root causes, presenting statistical data and debating around the different forms that GBV takes in digital spaces, the webinar tackled the problem of online GBV and its impact on young people across the Mediterranean region.



### Results

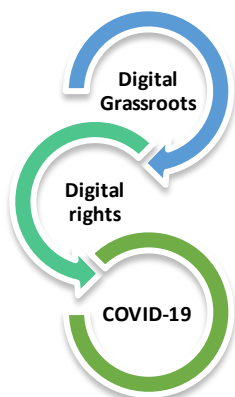
- ✓ Increased recognition of GBV as key topic of the youth agenda.
- ✓ Framing GBV within the bigger framework of Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ Presentation of the “Unfollow GBV” guide and relative awareness raising campaign.
- ✓ Networking among youth workers working on issues connected to GBV.
- ✓ Increased knowledge about how much GBV increased during the pandemic.

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| <p>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Gender Matters, a manual on addressing gender-based violence affecting young people</a></li> </ul> |
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## Digital Grassroots, Mauritius Island

### Title: *Resetting Digital Rights Amidst the Covid-19 Fallout*



#### Speakers:

Divij Joshi (Mozilla, USA)

Amarachi Azubuike (She Code Africa)

Nnanke Williams (Brooks and Knight, Nigeria)

Petra Molnar (Refugee Law Lab, York University, Canada)

Fahmida Faiza (Lighthouse Imperium Foundation, Bangladesh)

Temitay Ogunmokun (African Academic Network on Internet Policy)

#### Facilitator:

Tanya Nandin Lallamon (Digital Grassroots, Mauritius Island)


### Description

The webinar focused on the link between the measures to fight Covid-19 and the consequent repercussions upon certain human rights and freedoms, shedding light on four main aspects: onslaught on freedom of expression and access to information, invasion of privacy and personal data breaches, accelerating digital exclusion and undermining citizen participation. The workshop also aimed at transforming the role of young people from passive observers to active citizens, contributing to the development of a toolkit for young people to deal with the current health crisis while respecting fundamental values.



### Results

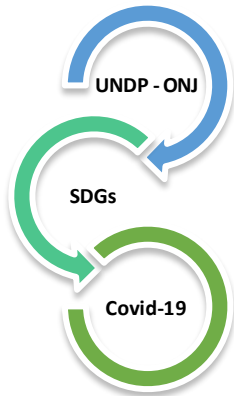
- ✓ Knowledge gained on digital rights.
- ✓ Acquisition of techniques to assess the necessity and relevance of exceptional protective measures.
- ✓ Adaptation of lessons learned in tools for young people to become empowered active citizens.
- ✓ Framing digital rights as human rights and as a tool to enhance democracy and youth participation.

|  |  |
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| <p>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ <a href="#">Joint Council on Youth, Report of the survey on the effects of covid-19 on young people and youth organisations</a></li><li>✓ <a href="#">Bookmarks, a manual for combating hate speech through human rights education</a></li><li>✓ <a href="#">Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data</a></li></ul> |
|--|--|



## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Observatoire National de Jeunesse (ONJ), Tunisia

### Title: *SDG camps sensemaking workshop*



#### Facilitators:

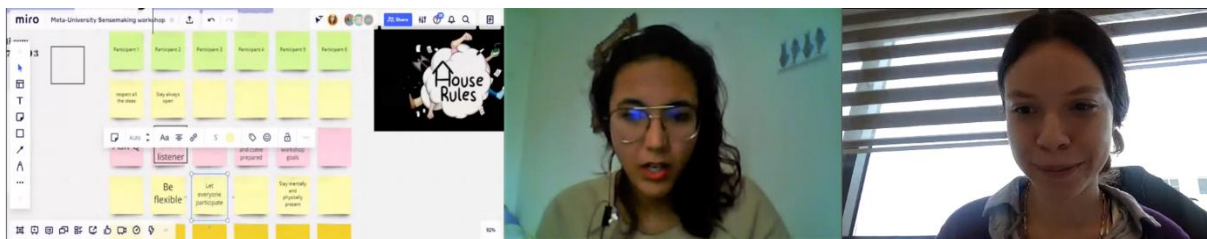
Hayfa Sdiri (UNDP, Tunisia)

Salima Ben Sassi (UNDP, Tunisia)

Rabie Lahbib (communication specialist, Tunisia)


### Description

Through the eyes of a young Tunisian, the workshop intended to understand the ways in which the pandemic has affected the progress on achieving the SDGs, recognizing youth as a fundamental actor in implementing SDGs and in progresses towards more peaceful, sustainable and secure societies.



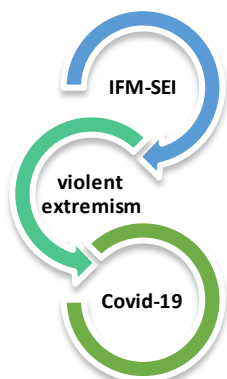
### Results

- ✓ Increased participants' knowledge on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.
- ✓ Shared reflection upon the impact of Covid-19 on the achievement of the SDGs.
- ✓ Raising awareness on the link between SDGs, global inequalities and the current health crisis.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#"><u>Resolution 2271 (2019) on Strengthening co-operation with the United Nations in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u></a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#"><u>Resolution 2272 (2019) on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: synergy needed on the part of all stakeholders, from parliaments to local authorities</u></a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#"><u>Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)4 on education for global interdependence and solidarity</u></a></li> </ul> |
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## International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational (IFM-SEI)

**Title: COVID-19 and Violent Extremism – Youth as stakeholders for conflict transformation and shaping peaceful societies**



### Facilitators:

Ruba Hilal (IFM-SEI, Germany/Palestine\*)  
Nadia Asri (IFM-SEI, United Kingdom)  
Federica Cicala (Oxfam, Italy)  
Ashley Pitschmann (Youth Policy Labs, USA/Germany)

### Description

Within the Trans-Atlantic youth project 'Amplify -Youth Voices', the workshop brought together the findings and learning of the youth when counteracting violent extremism and the harmful escalation caused by the COVID-19 virus. The workshop also explored answers and recommendations for shaping a new peaceful society using advocacy and youth work.



### Results

- ✓ Knowledge acquisition on the link between Covid-19 and violent extremism.
- ✓ Empowerment of participants to counteract escalation of violence caused by the pandemic.
- ✓ Interactive exhibition and "Idea buckets" for shaping a peaceful society.
- ✓ Recommendations for policy makers and society leaders on countering violent extremism.
- ✓ Increased awareness on the overarching agenda of "Youth, Peace and Security".

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>CoE<br/>reference<br/>documents</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">European Convention on Human Rights</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Youth sector priorities 2020-2021 – Priority 3 "Inclusive and peaceful societies"</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Action Plan "The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism"</a></li> <li>✓ <a href="#">North-South Centre – Report of the Lisbon Forum 2018 "Youth, Peace and Security in the Euro-Mediterranean region"</a></li> </ul> |
|---|--|

\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States

# OUTCOMES



## **Democratic participation for the Sustainable Development Goals**

The debate around gender equality, inclusive human settlements, human rights peace and security, which flourished during the webinars, explored new forms of democratic representation and meaningful participation for youth stakeholders to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.



## **Intercultural dialogue and International solidarity**

Participants from different continents (from Canada to South Africa and India) jointly explored the effects of the pandemic on the youth sector based on their different experiences and background. The intercultural dialogue occurred within a space offering a global perspective, gave visibility to issues particularly affecting young people in vulnerable situations, built empathy among peers and strengthened international solidarity.



## **Re-connection and Cooperation among youth organisations**

The space given to exchange good practices, to develop synergies, to find common challenges, but also to simply get in touch among participants, allowed to overcome the disintegration of the physical connection brought by the pandemic while enhancing the cooperation among youth stakeholders.



## **CoE values and online youth initiatives**

The online setting explored new models of civic engagement, challenged traditional resources of non-formal education while opening the doors to people that are usually cut off from physical events due to geographical or economical constraints. The Council of Europe resources disseminated during the event played an important role in this process by grounding pilot initiatives and newcomers to standards and tools (Framework of Competences for democratic cultures, Compass Manual, Istanbul Convention, European Court of Human Rights.) able to guarantee solid guidance in an extremely flexible digital scenario.

## KEY MESSAGES

*“We need to stop with excuses for doing nothing. We need to stop with empty words that at the end do not translate into actions. We need to act right now, our future is suspended and it is up to us to grab it and make it change”.*

**Joao Pedro Videira, National Youth Council Portugal**

*“The shrinking space is a dangerous tendency and it is coupled with the general backsliding of democracy. Critical pedagogy and transformative human rights education are what can rearm the society and equipped it with critical consciousness”.*

**Nika Bakhsoiani, Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe**

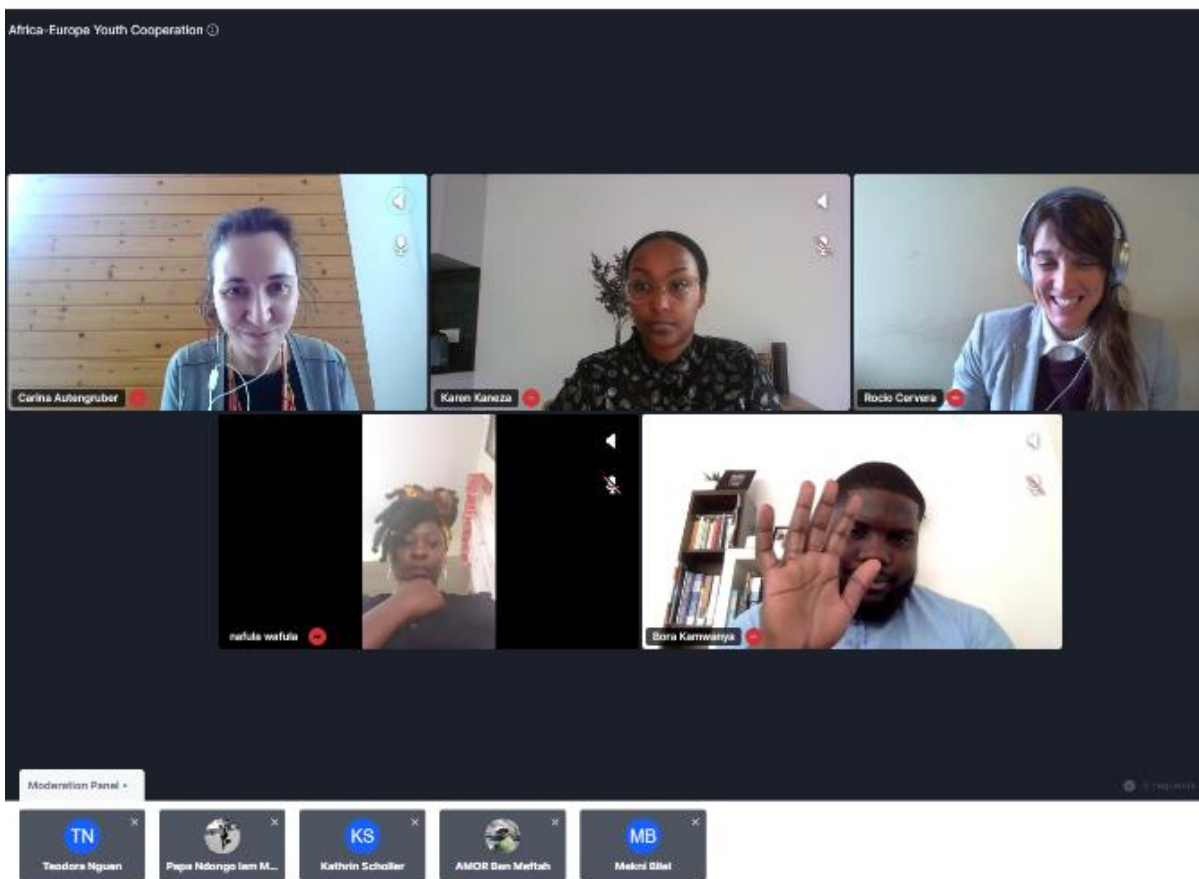
*“The more the world become a single global village, the more we need to act together: as the world shrinks in terms of globalisation and interconnectedness, the issues we are dealing with require the utmost cooperation by individual and countries”*

**Nafula Wafula, Commonwealth Youth Council**

*“We need to keep open, frequent and stable channels of communication to have fruitful interregional cooperation; but we need also to have shared responsibilities and address inequalities in order to make everyone able to collaborate on equal footing. In this way we are preparing the ground for a renewed Africa-Euro collaboration”.*

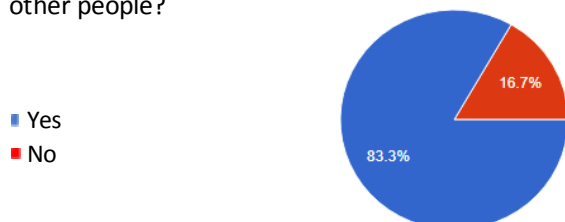
**Rocio Cervera, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe**

Meta-University 2020 North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

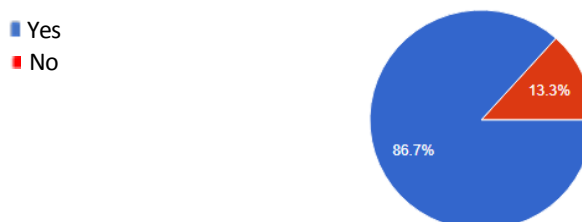


# EVALUATION\*

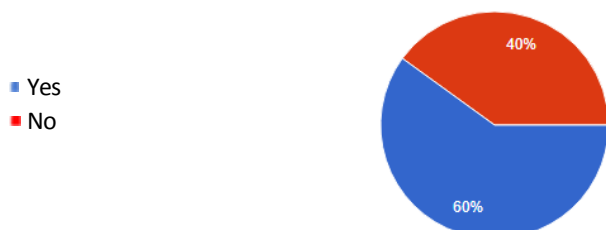
Did the event allow you to share and disseminate your initiatives (projects, publication, expertise) and to express your views on issues related to Democratic citizenship, Human rights, Intercultural dialogue and connect your inputs with the ones of other people?



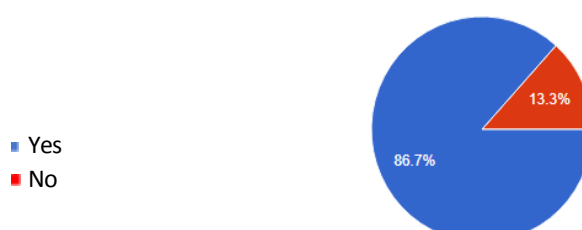
Do you think the event contributed to an increase in your competences and skills to better tackle the challenges of the youth sector and to play a greater role for the achievement of the Sustainable development Goals?



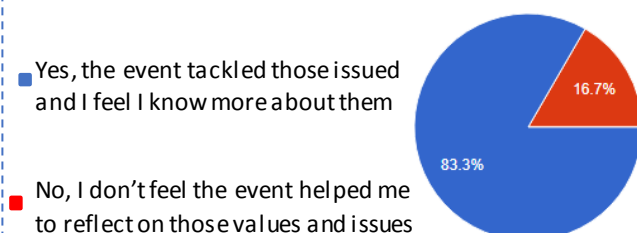
Did you have the chance to connect with other people, network with them, knowing more about their life, work and projects?



Did you get to know projects and experiences you consider good practices that might serve as references for the development of your future initiatives?



Do you feel you increased your knowledge and awareness about the importance of Democracy, Rule of law and Human rights to ensure youth participation and more inclusive and peaceful societies?



## PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK

*"Very pertinent and up-to-date contents of the joint sessions"*

*"it was very good getting a wider global perspective"*

*"There are still many gaps to explore (digital gap, language gap, connectivity gap...) that don't make it easy to participate"*

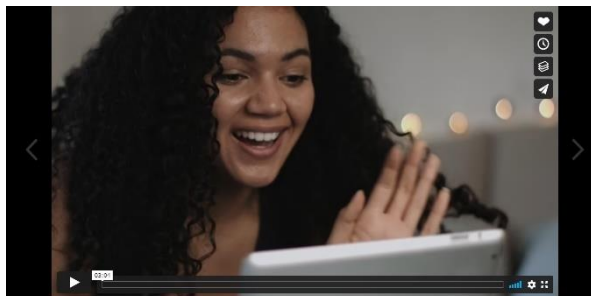
*"I really liked the good feeling and good mood of everyone!"*

\* Data elaborated from the replies to the on-line final evaluation form.



# VIDEO REPORT AND SOCIAL MEDIA CLIPPINGS

Some of the most relevant moments of the workshops, feedback by participants and interviews with partners and organisers were gathered in a video edited by Maysoon Khaled. The video is available in a short and in an extended version ([click on the image to access the videos](#)).



Meta University 2020\_Final\_SHORT  
More from Council of Europe OP Services



Meta University 2020  
More from Council of Europe OP Services

 **Nandini Tanya Lallmon**  
@Nandini\_Tanya

Thank you @NSCentre for the #Metauniversity platform to shed light on the human rights violations transcending virtual spaces to the real world during this pandemic period



8:18 pm · 5 Nov 2020 from Republic of Mauritius · Twitter for Android

**ConsellJoventutCAT** #JovesLlogateres @CNJCat · 30 Oct

Les violències de gènere fa temps que han traspasat la pantalla i són una realitat virtual a tota la Mediterrània.

En parlem a la Med-Uni 2020 del @NSCentre amb @oceannoura al webinar #unfollow gender violences

5/11 11:00-12:15

Inscriu-te a cnjccat



 **Brooks & Knights Legal Consultants**  
5 novembre alle ore 06:12

Brooks & Knights Legal Consultants is pleased to announce that our Senior Consultant, Nnanke Williams will be speaking as a panelist at the Meta-University 2020, an online international youth event, organized by the North South Centre and the Council of Europe, for networking, capacity building and peer learning among stakeholders of youth sectors. The webinar is holding today, Thursday November 5, 2020 at 4pm UTC (5pm WAT).

The session is titled: "Resetting Digital Rights Amid the COVID-19 Fallout, and will cover the adverse effect of measures taken by governments and technology companies in response to the Covid-19 pandemic on digital rights and freedoms and the role of public and private stakeholders in providing solutions.

Join us on Hopin via <https://lnkd.in/gDWRK7Q>

For more information on BKLC's services and our engagements in digital rights and youth sectors, please visit our website at [www.brooksandknights.com](http://www.brooksandknights.com).

#metauniversity #councilofeuropa #northsouthcentre #digitalgrassroots #digitalrights #covid19 #humanrights #youthdevelopment #bkcl

DALL'EUROPA E DAL MONDO, MONDO DEI GIOVANI, OPPORTUNITÀ

Meta-University 2020 – workshop "Mediterranean resilient cities: a youth-friendly approach"





**European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity - Council of Europe**  
*North-South Centre of the Council of Europe*

### **Youth Cooperation Programme**

Rua de São Caetano, 32  
1200-829 Lisboa Portugal  
[grazianotullio@coe.int](mailto:grazianotullio@coe.int)  
[nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int](mailto:nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int)

+351 21 358 40 30  
+351 21 358 40 54

[www.nscentre.org/youth-co-operation](http://www.nscentre.org/youth-co-operation)