

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



5th Seed Funding Compilation



English edition

North-South Centre:
Youth Programme 2014

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ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

This publication seeks to provide a visual record of the projects supported by the 2014 Seed Funding Programme. The Seed Funding for Africa Europe Youth Co-operation is a grant allocation presented in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission – EuropeAid Co-operation Office and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC).

— The compilation is a result of the analysis of various documents including the narrative reports submitted by the organisations following the project implementation.



FOREWORD:

The Importance of Seed Funding



Seed Funding is an important feature of the Africa-Europe dimension of the Youth Co-operation Programme of the North-South Centre, as it allows to:

- Empower organisations to take the first step in trans-continental co-operation;
- Better understand the reality (priorities, working methodology) and the challenges of youth organisations in both Africa and Europe;
- Improve our knowledge about the youth organisations active in the field of Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation;
- Contribute to the implementation of the Africa-Europe Action Plan 2012-2015, with the mainstream and outreach of the work from international to grassroots' level;
- Identify good practices, through the compilation of the reports/projects and giving visibility to the work developed.

— The number and origin of applications received prove the importance of this grant scheme. The results of the selection process show the diversity of projects as well as the common will of the youth organisations in fostering the co-operation.

— The applications and their quality posed many challenges in the selection process. This year the decision was to allocate higher grants to a smaller number of projects, when compared with 2013 round.

— Seed Funding can make the difference for a project to happen but the merit belongs to the implementing organisations. The commitment and the mobilisation of human and extra financial resources that the granted organisations were able to guarantee to make the projects a success was, as always, impressive!

— Thank you all for continuing to promote Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation!

Andreia Henriques
Programme Manager Youth Co-operation



Y Community

The North-South Centre and the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation

The objective of the Youth Co-operation Programme of the Centre in terms of youth is to provide training and capacity-building for young people and youth organisations as well as to facilitate their participation in decision and policy making, in the framework of quadrilogue initiatives. This work should be developed in close co-operation with youth organisations, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership and other relevant institutions working in the youth field.

— The Youth Co-operation Programme is composed of 3 main dimensions:

1. An **Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Dimension**;
2. The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship;
3. The **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation activities in the framework of the “Joint Management Agreement” (JMA)**, signed with the European Commission in November 2008 and renewed until 2015.

— The Seed Funding is an initiative framed within the third dimension of the Youth Co-operation programme. The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, a framework created by the 2nd EU-Africa Heads of States Summit and the Africa-Europe Youth Summits, recognises youth as a key actor in development in Africa and Europe. The strengthening of youth organisations and youth movements is critical for human development and in particular for developing youth policies that will allow sustainable co-operation among African and European youth.

— As a follow-up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits in 2007 and 2010, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been **developing and implementing a programme** in partnership with key governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, including the **African**



Union Commission, the European Commission, the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE) and African youth platforms such as the Pan African Youth Union (PYU) and the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA).

— The North-South Centre co-operates with the European Commission (Europe Aid, DG DevCo) in order to secure a sustainable process for collaboration which will provide important support of various (youth) structures, quality reassurance and funding for Africa-Europe youth work.

— In November 2008, the North-South Centre and the European Commission (EuropeAid) signed a **Joint Management Agreement (JMA)** for a period of three years (2009-2011) aimed at strengthening global education in the new Member States of the European Union and supporting Africa-Europe youth co-operation. In November 2011, this agreement was extended until 2012. A new JMA was signed in September 2012 for the period 2013-2015.¹

— Apart from the Joint Management Agreement, a series of Africa-Europe training activities have been implemented since 2009 in the framework of the EU-CoE youth partnership (DGEAC).

— Moreover, as a follow-up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits and in order to answer the priorities of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, this Africa-Europe Youth Programme aims to:

- Promote the **empowerment of European and African youth**;²
- Strengthen young people's capacity to disseminate information and to get involved in the **implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Strategy**;³
- Facilitate **encounters and exchanges between young Africans and Europeans**;⁴
- Help **map the existing African youth networks**.⁵

— This programme implemented by the North-South Centre includes activities such as:

- **Five sub-regional seminars** on youth policies and the African Youth Charter (finalised in December 2012);
- **Africa-Europe training courses** for youth organisations (10th edition in 2015), and training opportunities for **Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe** (5th edition in 2014);
- A mapping exercise of Africa-Europe youth co-operation/work, leading to the creation of an **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Online Resource Centre -AEYCO** (launched in May 2013);⁶
- Providing **Seed Funding** to pilot youth exchange projects (6th round in 2015);
- Establishment of the **Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP)** and institutional follow-up, monitoring and implementation with key youth actors from Africa and Europe, and representatives of implementing agencies and institutions of the Africa-Europe youth strategy (3rd meeting of AEYP in January 2015, held in Nairobi, Kenya);
- The **African University on Youth and Development** (6th edition in 2015, hosted by the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa).



OVERVIEW

1. Framework

➤ The **Seed Funding** programme is framed under the **JMA**, being financed by the European Commission and administered by the North-South Centre. Having at its core the principles underlined by the **Africa-EU Strategic Partnership** and being an outcome of the **JMA** in its mission of strengthening Africa-Europe youth co-operation, the Seed Funding seeks to promote youth exchanges between Africa and Europe, enabling networking and political participation of non-governmental actors.

Aim

Seed Funding aims to strengthen the role of youth organisations as civil society actors, increasing youth leaders' ability to organise and take action, and to enhance young people's voice and political participation in Africa-Europe

2. Grant Provision

➤ The programme consists in funding of initiatives and offers the possibility for youth leaders, experts and trainers to participate in Africa-Europe youth-related activities and projects.

➤ The grants are of a **maximum 2.500 EUR** per project/organisation and they should be allocated towards expenses associated **with international travel, local transportation, board and lodging, administrative costs, visa expenses and experts fees**.

➤ The following text is a list of the requirements that applicant organisations had to follow in order to be eligible for Seed Funding in 2014:

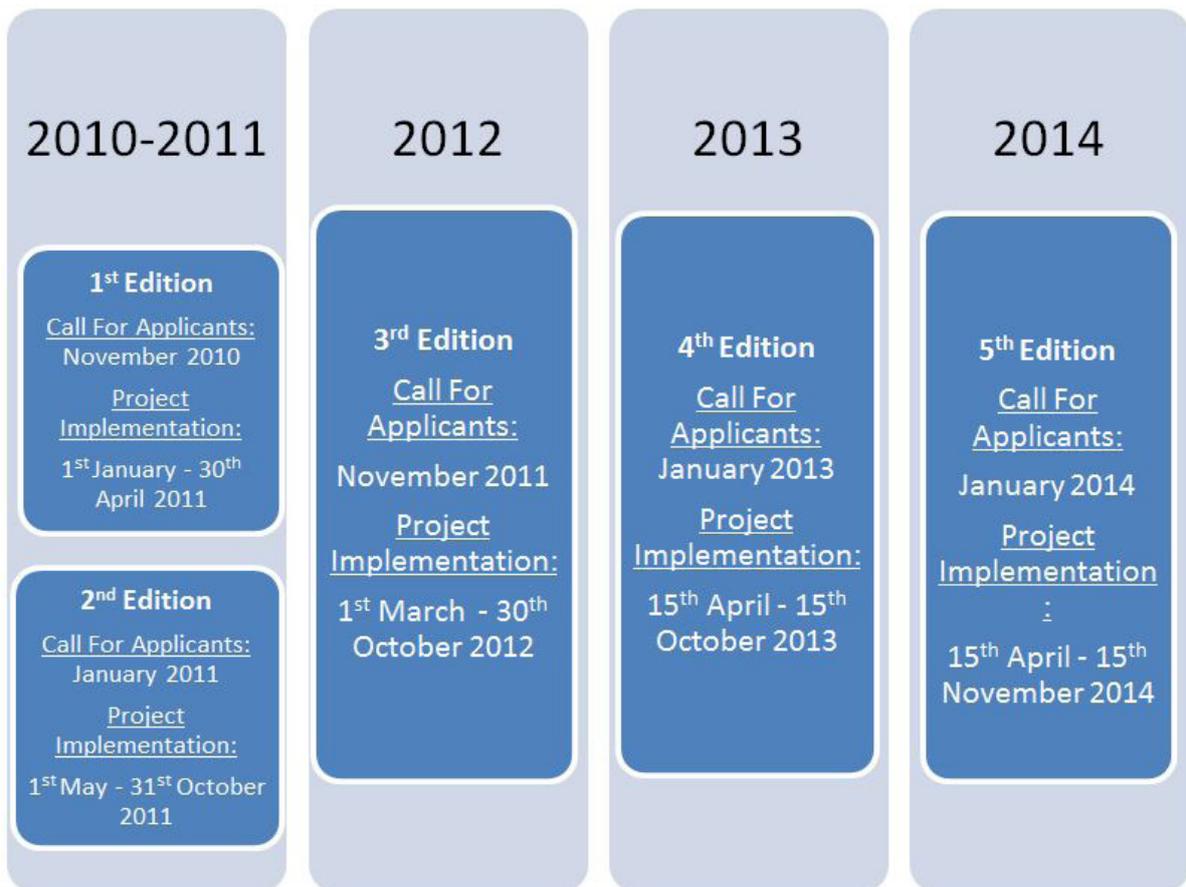
Eligibility Criteria

- The application should be submitted by a **youth organisation, network or non-state actor** at local, national, (sub)regional or international level that is **active in promoting Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation**;
- Applicant organisations must have a **bank account open in the name of the organisation**, since payments will be made through bank transfers only;
- **Priority** is given to projects presented by **organisations coming from Arica** and/or from the **African Diaspora Living in Europe** and to organisations/networks whose **projects** will allocate the grant to support the participation of **African youth** and/or **African Diaspora** in the project;
- Participants benefiting from the grant should be under **35 years of age**;
- **Innovative projects** with an **experimental approach** are encouraged to apply;
- Projects that respond to the **thematic priorities** identified in the **3rd Africa-Europe Youth Leaders' Summit** (30th March-2nd April 2014) – *Youth Leadership, Youth Entrepreneurship and Youth as Peace Builders*, are highly encouraged in this call as well as **follow-up initiatives of the Summit**;
- It is only possible to allocate **one grant per project**, even if submitted by different organisations;
- Projects already funded by the European Commission are not eligible for the seed funding;
- Projects must be implemented during the period **15 April-15 November 2014, with no possibility for postponement**;
- Applications can be submitted in **English or French**.

3. Trends

Seed Funding was officially launched in **November 2010**, with the announcement of a call for applicants for projects to be implemented between January and April 2011. The initiative was a natural outcome of the capacity-building activities the NSC had been promoting in collaboration with regional youth platforms.

As illustrated below, from 2010 to 2014, there were five editions of Seed Funding:



— Since its first edition in 2010, there have been **437 applications** from several countries in Africa and Europe. Between 2010 and 2014, the NSC provided grants to **54 different projects** in a total amount of **EUR 77.838**.

Year	Call For Applicants	Applications	Selected Organisations	Grant Allocated
2010-	1 st Call	19	11	EUR 15.500
2011	November 2010			
	2 nd Call	148	12	EUR 16.000
	January 2011			
2012	3 rd Call	160	12	EUR 15.800
	November 2011			
2013	4 th Call	70	11	EUR 11.000
	January 2013			
2014	5 th Call	40	9	EUR 18.538
	January 2014			
Total		437	54	EUR 76.838

4. Types of Projects

— Drawing from the analysis of past editions' selected projects, the initiatives that have been developed fall in the following categories:

- Training
- Exchange
- Meeting
- Workshop
- Development project
- Forum/Network creation
- Seminar
- Awareness raising event
- Documentaries

5. Funded Projects 2014

Overview

— The call for applicants of the 2014 edition of Seed Funding was announced on January 2014. By the deadline, 23rd February 2014, **40 applications** had been received from 28 different African and European Countries.

African Countries	
Sudan	2
Guinea Bissau	2
Cameroon	2
Ghana	2
Mozambique	1
Namibia	1
Senegal	1
Madagascar	1
Nigeria	1
Uganda	1
Algeria	1
South Africa	1
Sierra Leone	1
Kenya	1
Total	18

European Countries	
UK	4
Portugal	3
Belgium	3
Germany	2
Ireland	2
France	2
Slovenia	1
Greece	1
Cyprus	1
Austria	1
Hungary	1
The Netherlands	1
Total	22

Applications by Country

➤ Out of the 40 applications, **9 projects** were implemented **between 15th April and 15th November 2014**. The funding ranged between EUR 1.300 and EUR 2.500 per initiative.

Countries of Origin

➤ For the 2014 funding scheme, the 9 projects were implemented by organisations based in **9 different countries**, **5 of which were African** (Mozambique, Madagascar, Cameroon, Senegal, Nigeria) and **4 were European** (Belgium, Ireland, Slovenia Portugal).

Direct and indirect Beneficiaries

➤ In total, **319 young people** benefited directly from the 2014 funding scheme. As to geographic location, **197 of the funding beneficiaries were from African countries**, **122 from European countries**.

➤ The projects supported by Seed Funding had an impact in a large variety of countries, with participants coming from different regions of the world. While it is difficult to make accurate statistical approximations of how many people benefited indirectly from these projects, the North-South Centre estimates, based on the organisations' reports that close to **2000 people from Africa and Europe** benefited indirectly from the 2014 Seed Funding projects.



Campaign One world 1988

ONE WORLD



Ilustrafriendo 2009
@Miguel Prieto

SELECTED PROJECTS

Throughout 2014, 9 projects related to Africa-Europe youth co-operation were carried out with the support of the Seed Funding. The following is the summary of the analysis of the implemented activities, with a brief description of each organisation.

1. 1. International Falcon Movement

- Socialist Educational International

(BELGIUM/SENEGAL)

Project Title: Gender Leaders
Funding: 2.500 EUR
Date of Implementation: 5-9 June 2014
Internet address: www.ifm-sei.org



Context and Mission: The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International is an international educational movement working to empower children and young people to take an active role in society and fight for their rights. It is an umbrella organisation for child and youth-led movements all over the world, educating on the basis of our values of equality, democracy, peace, co-operation and friendship. The aim of this organisation is to ensure that children and young people are well informed about their rights and are empowered to ensure they are respected. To reach this goal, they organise a variety of activities including seminars, training courses, international camps and conferences.

Seed Funding Project: The project “Gender Leaders” was implemented to facilitate the participation of young African leaders in two important IFM-SEI events: a seminar preparatory

meeting and the International Committee Meeting. The organisation promoted the participation of young Africans in the statutory meetings, to have their contribution to shape the strategy and work plan of IFM-SEI and update other regions on the emerging regional co-operation process in Africa. At the preparatory meeting, the young Africans developed the programme for a seminar on gender equality and diversity and received a short training by the European region’s pool of trainers.



Participants: This project involved 50 delegates from Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

Activities: The African delegates were actively involved in the organisation and running of a workshop on a gender equality campaign for IFM-SEI, on developing a code of conduct for IFM-SEI about co-operation with other youth organisations of the region. In this framework, delegates compared processes in Europe, Africa and Latin America in order to learn from similar challenges.

Results:

- The decision to develop a code of conduct for IFM-SEI and to strengthen the campaign against sexism through the development of a short educational toolkit;
- The creation of a clear objectives-driven programme for the seminar on diversity and gender equality that took place in Senegal from 21-28 September 2014.

— **Impact on the organisation/community:**

The project inspired the idea for a global training for trainers in IFM-SEI, as the African participants valued very much the support of the Europeans who can benefit more regularly from training for trainers.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- European pool of trainers offered methodological support to the African trainers who have less experience in the planning of seminars ;
- Delegates learned about different youth platforms, the co-operation between those and the challenges they have to face.

2. SERVE in Solidarity (IRELAND)

Project Title: Recife: Youth Leadership Training Programme

Funding: 1.550 EUR

Date of Implementation: Ireland - April and May 2014 and Zambia - July 2014

Internet address:
www.serve.ie/about/



Solidarity in Action

— **Context and Mission:** SERVE is a development volunteering organisation committed to tackling poverty in the world. It works in solidarity, service and partnership with marginalised and oppressed communities, empowering them to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice. The organisation focuses specifically on programmes and projects that help communities enhance the lives of children and young people and recognise that gender equality is pivotal to achieving justice, equality and sustainable development.

— **Seed Funding Project:** The Recife Training project is a component of the “Global Youth Work Toolkit”, designed by SERVE. The programme’s aim was to provide participants with the basic skills and knowledge that could enable them to become youth leaders in their own community setting. The project was implemented to fight the absence of youth work in the communities in Zambia and Ireland and to provide an intervention at a critical stage in the transition to adulthood.

— **Participants:**

- 24 participants to Recife Youth Leadership Training;
- 52 young people in Cork were trained over the period of five days in Recife Youth Leadership Training;
- 18 young people in Zambia were trained as Youth Work trainers over two weekends;
- Young people from Cork and Belfast came together for a week of shared learning.

— **Activities:** Three trained youth workers facilitated Recife Youth Leadership Training in Belfast at a residential weekend and in Cork over the period of five days as non-residential. Then, in Zambia, young people were trained as Youth Work trainers over two weekends. Young people from Cork and Belfast came together for a week of shared learning. For most of the young people from Cork, this was the first time visiting the North of Ireland. They visited deprived areas of Belfast city and learned about the history and struggles of the communities.



— **Results:**

- 93 young people in Ireland and Zambia are now equipped with youth leadership skills and are now aware of how youth of the same age is living in Zambia and Ireland respectively;
- Enhancement of awareness between 76 young people in Cork and Belfast through the intercultural learning residential weekend, that was held in August, between young people in Mazabuka and young SERVE volunteers, who also took part in the training through intercultural learning and shared experiences;
- As part of overall programme, SERVE office in Belfast hosted Zambian youth group 'Barefeet' for one day and promoted their events.

— **Impact on the organisation/community:**

After three years of implementing SERVE's Global Youth Work Toolkit, SERVE has now made this resource available to be used by other youth organisations and it has proved to be relevant and successful in both European and African contexts.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

12 SERVE volunteers travelled to Zambia in June. Four of these volunteers were trained as youth work trainers and facilitated the training in Mazabuka alongside a Zambian youth work facilitator. The same training was undertaken in Cork and Belfast in Ireland.

**3. INSTITUT ZA AFRISKE STUDIJE
(Institute for African Studies) (SLOVENIA)**

— **Project Title:** Engaging young leaders in Africa-Europe Co-operation

Funding: 2.500 EUR

Date of Implementation: 23 May, 18-9 June 2014

Internet address: www.africanstudy.org/

— **Context and Mission:** The mission of Institute for African Studies is to meet the need of the second generation of migrants from Africa, who are expressing their interest for the country of their origins (ex: through volunteering in our

organisation). The number of young African migrants living in Slovenia is increasing and they expressed the need of a common space of encounter and dialogue (especially those living outside Ljubljana, more particularly those living in small villages).



INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

Centre for research, education, advocacy, diversity & dialogue, sustainability and global perspectives

— **Seed Funding Project:** The project organised an information day in Maribor to motivate people from that region to attend a 2-days training in Ljubljana for Young People of African Origin living in Slovenia (between 18 and 35 year-old). This training was also for Slovenians working with (or interested in) the African Diaspora, as a unique occasion for networking.

Two trainers came from Belgium (Karim Saafi, ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe) and from the Netherlands (Mesfin Aman, ADPC – African Diaspora Policy Center). During the training, exchanges of experience were encouraged and helped to map the challenges faced by the participants. Good practices from abroad were presented and a comparison was made between the local situation and other European Countries practices.

— **Participants:** 37 direct beneficiaries: young people of African origin from Maribor and Slovenians working with or interested to work with the African Diaspora.

— **Activities:** An information meeting took place in Maribor, one month before the event, to get in touch with as much young people from African origin as possible and making them come to Ljubljana. During the 2 days training in Ljubljana, the trainers provided the participants with a better understanding of the engagement of Diaspora organisations concerning co-development both in their countries of origin and their countries of residence and provided information about

Erasmus+, Africa-Europe youth co-operation, the European Youth Foundation, Council of Europe activities (in general and more precisely those focused on Youth/Diaspora), ADYNE, where to find funding opportunities for those kind of activities and how to make an action plan according to local needs.

— **Results:**

- Creation of a network between young people from Europe and Africa;
- Reinforcement of bonds between participants with different backgrounds/origins.



— **Impact on the organization/community:**

Gathering young-people from African background fostered the co-operation with different people living in the Balkan region (for example, Aleksandra Ilic, an NGO and social worker from Belgrade, which is focusing on African Diaspora and who will be the contact person to develop projects there). Cross-communities and intercultural dialogue activities were promoted. The purpose, after the implementation of this project, is to create a multicultural place where young people from different backgrounds could gather freely and implement activities.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- Extension of the knowledge of Africa-Europe

Youth Co-operation and therefore promotion of Youth participation in the Africa-Europe context. The project was based on intercultural experience: an intercultural meeting between people from African background and living in Europe that allowed exchanges of good practices and personal experiences.

4. Ebony African Cultural, Arts and Human Rights Organisation (HUNGARY/MOZAMBIQUE)

— **Project Title:** Mozambique-Hungary: Empowering Roots and Routes

Funding: 1.300 EUR

Date of Implementation: 15 May-15 August 2014

Internet address: www.ebony.hu



— **Context and Mission:** Ebony was established in 2002 in Hungary and is the largest African Diaspora organisation in the country. It is committed to the principals of the universal values, Pan-Africanism, humanism, civil and human rights, sustainable development, equality, right of education, dialogue between peoples and religions. Ebony provides a platform that enables People of African Descent (PAD), African Diaspora in Hungary, Europe and in a broader context in the world to connect more closely, to be able to act as a collective force, for the promotion of African heritage, culture and universal values such as human and civil rights.

— **Seed Funding Project:** The overall aim of the project was to raise awareness among youth in Hungary and Mozambique about the importance of keeping cultural roots and traditional values,

providing information about the possibility of international youth co-operation and encouraging international youth initiatives, as well as, disseminating information about fair trade, emphasizing on the importance of deepening and tightening the bonds between Africa and the African Diaspora communities.

➤ **Participants:** 27 young people from Mozambique, Hungary and Kenya.

➤ **Activities:** Two parallel trainings were organised and conducted in Budapest and in Maputo with the focus on Mozambican art, culture, traditions, fair trade, fundraising and volunteering. In Budapest, some member of the African Diaspora also participated in the programme and a Mozambican batik exhibition and an introduction of African gastronomy also took place during the training. Workshops on project planning and fundraising were organised at both venues with the same content. The participants at the two locations were encouraged to share their thoughts and contribute by giving inputs. The two groups communicated with each other by Skype. The representative of World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) also took part in a conference call, where further possibilities were explored. The training ended with a joint Africa-Europe action plan.



➤ **Results:**

- Draft of an Africa-Europe Youth Action Plan with inputs from all the participants;
- Strengthen partnership with Dhlambo art organisation;
- Start planning future projects with WFTO Africa.

➤ **Impact on the organisation/community:** As a consequence of the project, there will be new volunteers for Ebony and new press contacts, apart from the potential partnership with WFTO Africa.

➤ **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- To emphasize the youth co-operation between Africa and Europe, two similar activities took place in parallel within the two trainings in Africa and Europe, in the framework of the same workshop theme;
- Participants had real time communication via Skype, to create a unique whole training;
- Joint Africa Europe Youth Co-operation Action Plan was the main outcome of the training.

5. LIBERTY 32 (MADAGASCAR)

➤ **Project Title:** Inspire and be inspired: young agents of peace through voluntary work

Funding: 2.418 EUR

Date of Implementation: May – October 2014

Internet address: www.facebook.com/Liberty32.Madagascar



➤ **Context and Mission:** The mission of Liberty 32 is to promote volunteering, democracy, discipline, freedom, human rights and civic engagement. Moreover, the aim of the organisation is to contribute in rebuilding Malagasy political practice, social and economic growth.

➤ **Seed Funding Project:** in order to foster the patriotism of Malagasy people as well as promote volunteering, democracy and human rights, the project was structured as a training programme for members of Liberty 32 to educate them on the principles of peace building and conflict transformation, and to empower them about leader-

ship and volunteerism. The project offered the possibility to develop competencies of emerging young people involved in community works. The project was based on the idea that when learners are creators of their own projects, they act both as individuals and as members of teams.

— **Participants:** 3 European volunteers working with the United Nations (UN) in Madagascar, 15 selected participants and 6 trainers from Liberty 32.

— **Activities:** A call of interest inviting participants to present their prospective projects has been done. The selected participants benefited from a three days training followed by mentoring to encourage the participants to get more engaged at the local level. The mentoring programme has allowed the participant not only to take initiative, but also to learn how to engage with new ideas, allowing individual grow and the development of an organisational vision.



— **Results:**

- 7 small local projects have been fully realised and other 8 projects were starting to be developed after the training;
- 2 regions (Alaotra Mangoro and Bongolava), have been added to the intervention areas of Liberty 32;
- 6 trainers from Liberty 32 have developed their capacity through the learning-by-doing methodology.

— **Impact on the organization/community:** Within the organisation, young trainers from Liberty 32 fostered their capacity through the learning-by-doing methodology. As a result,

Liberty 32 and SFCG (Search For Common Ground, an international NGO working on peace education in Madagascar) are now growing partnership on youth engagement in civic education to implement peace in Madagascar.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- European volunteers, working with the UN in Madagascar, have been invited to talk and share their experience;
- A Malagasy-European, who has lived abroad for years before coming back to Madagascar, has also shared his experience about international engagement as volunteer and personal development.

6. AIESEC in Yaoundé (CAMEROON/GERMANY)

— **Project Title:** Rural Youth Gone for Green Entrepreneurship

Funding: 1.656 EUR

Date of Implementation: 5 June - 27 September

Internet address: www.facebook.com/aiesec.yaounde



— **Context and Missions:** The organisation aims to promote small businesses as a fundamental engine for the economic growth, also considering environmental issues as business opportunities. In Cameroon, small green start-ups play a positive role for the protection of environment and creating job opportunities for young people.

— **Seed Funding Project:** The “Rural Youth Gone for Green Entrepreneurship” is a project proposed by the organisation to organise a 4-days training seminar to fill the gap on entrepreneurship knowledge and promote the exchange of young



Cameroonians to Germany, related to youth entrepreneurship.

— **Participants:** 23 young women and 23 young men from Cameroon.

— **Activities:** The two main activities implemented during the project were the participation of an AIESEC Yaoundé member in an exchange programme in Germany and, after it, a 4-days seminar was implemented in Cameroon.

— **Results:**

- A young man from Cameroon succeeded to reinforce his entrepreneurial skills thanks to the exchange to Germany;
- 50 participants, mainly from rural areas, took part in the seminar.

— **Impact on the organization/community:** A young man from Cameroon succeeded to reinforce his entrepreneurial skills thanks to the exchange to Germany. When he came back he contributed with four experts to deliver sessions of the seminar.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- During the implementation of the project, inter-continental networking was promoted;
- The young Cameroonian who participated in the exchange also had the opportunity to establish contacts with business companies for further co-operation. All participants from Cameroon had the chance to discuss with experts that expressed availability for an eventual mentorship programme.

7. IUNA - Implementar uma Nova Atitude

(PORTUGAL)

— **Project Title:** PALOP -The Role of the Youth in the Diaspora

Funding: 1.300 EUR

Date of Implementation: 29-30 May 2014

Internet address: www.iuna.org.pt/



— **Context and Mission:** IUNA organisation was founded in 2010 thanks to the involvement of key people in the field of Lusophony that have witnessed the importance of Portuguese language in the world. The purpose of this organisation, through the +Lusofonia programme, is to improve the co-operation and understanding at the heart of Lusophone community and the dialogue with diverse cultural spaces, namely Europe. To reach this objective, a joint effort is required to promote the work of IUNA through the brand +Lusofonia.

— **Seed Funding Project:** The participants from the PALOP (Portuguese Speaking African Countries) who took part in the training course will act as trainers in the Europe-Lusophony Youth Forum. They chose three topics to discuss in the workshops that linked to their intervention in the promotion of strategic co-operation between Africa and Europe, focusing on the role of young people. These three themes were: Training and employability, Social inclusion, Teaching and academic mobility.

— **Participants:** The project brought together 32 university students and 10 youth leaders from the PALOP who are active in youth organisations or movements in Coimbra.

— **Activities:** The first two days of the event were dedicated to work in small groups. The leaders and experts were invited to prepare 8 workshops about specific topics related to current Africa-Europe initiatives, using different methods of non-formal education. A discussion was promoted about global matters to raise awareness about Youth Leadership and Youth as Peace Builders, in line with the 3rd Africa-Europe Leaders' Summit. On May 29th, IUNA organised a cultural and artistic event. After a multicultural dinner, participants had the chance to take part in dances, music and entertainment presented by the 10 organisations representing the PALOP. In the third day, a visit to Coimbra was organised by the Tourist Office of the Municipality of Coimbra.

— **Results:**

- Making a connection between young people and youth organisations, creating a channel of communication to carry on the outcomes and projects;
- Promoting urgent dialogue between young people from PALOP, young Europeans and young people from other Lusophones;
- Achieving one of IUNA's goals, that was to encourage the debate, in the perspective of the Europe-Lusophony Youth Forum.

— **Impact on the organisation/community:** This project allowed raising awareness among University students of the need to implement other initiatives about the topics debated and to foster the Africa-Europe dimension. A partnership was established between IUNA and the University of Coimbra that will lead to initiatives that bring together African, European and Lusophone University students. Other partnerships were developed with Casa da Lusofonia of the University of Coimbra, with the students from the Angolan province of Bié and with the Centro de Informação Jacques Delors in Lisbon.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- As a project of mutual learning, the "Role of the Youth in the Diaspora" contributed to promote dialogue between young people from PALOP, young Europeans and young people from other countries related with the Lusophony;

- The project allowed the strengthening of the Euro-Lusophone co-operation, focusing in particular about the political changes to raise young people's awareness on the role that they can play as active citizens in the process.



8. AICEM (ITALY/SENEGAL)

— **Project Title:** IDjam Rek: Non-Formal Education for Human Rights

Funding: 2.500 EUR

Date of Implementation: 14 -20 August 2014

Internet address: <http://aicem.it/>



— **Context and Mission:** AICEM is an organisation composed by young people that work to spread, both at home and abroad, the culture of participative co-operation, active citizenship, and social inclusion amongst young people and youth workers, through projects and activities.

Casamance conflict in Senegal, officially started in 1982, has so far caused four thousand deaths and nearly 11,000 displaced people. This internal conflict is the result of the contrast between the regular army and separatist rebels, members of the MFDC (Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance), an armed independent group. The main problems related to the conflict are: discrimination, lack of social and economic inclusion for the refugees, increase in poverty and youth migration. Young people are strategic actors in the future of any society and they need a better understanding of human rights to sustain a peaceful society.

— **Seed Funding Project:** The project consists in the development of a training course focused on peace, anti-discrimination, justice and human rights. “Djam Rek” wants to provide a common framework for anti-discrimination, peace building and conflict resolution in a context where people are still affected by the consequences of the Casamance conflict. This project is aimed to support population affected from the conflict and foster their tools to build peace.

— **Participants:** 23 young participants were gathered from Senegal and Gambia in Ziguinchor, Senegal.

— **Activities:** The Training course was the main action and focused on topics such as non-formal education, values and principles of human rights, human rights protection mechanisms at local and international level, peace building and conflict resolution, youth participation and active citizenship. The activities were run by an Italian trainer and the methodology used was the non-formal one. Through participative workshops, sharing exercises and visits to local realities (Maison de la Justice - Authority of the Ministry of Justice and the Plateforme des Femmes pour la Paix of Casamance), the participants had the opportunity to share experiences and learn about human rights, conflict resolution, participation, networking and non-formal education methodology. The training was hosted by the University of Ziguinchor, partner of the project and it involved youngsters

from different local youth organisations working in peace building and human rights protection fields, students of the University of Ziguinchor and a representative from the Gambia Youth National Council.

— **Results:**

- Making experience of the non-formal education as a learning and empowering tool;
- Improving partnership and communication between different cultures;
- Empowering the role of youth as active citizens, to get organised and take action.

— **Impact on the organisation/community:**

Participants gained valuable skills and competences, translating their learning into simple but effective actions. On one hand, they developed the skills and abilities necessary for the defence of Human Rights and, on the other hand, the training allowed to plan concrete actions for people to contribute to the peace process and to strengthen youth political participation in Euro-African Co-operation.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- Raising capacity building of young people and youth organisations in the field of active participation in policy making;
- Fostering young people awareness about respect of human rights and the interdependence between the North and the South.



9. Voluntary Work Camps Association of Nigeria - VWAN (NIGERIA)

— **Project Title:** You(th) Build Peace: youths as voluntary actors in local communities. Educate globally, act locally.

Funding: 2.400 EUR

Date of Implementation: 30 June-7 July 2014

Internet address: www.facebook.com/VoluntaryWorkcampsAssociationOfNigeria/



— **Context and Mission:** A decline of volunteering and civic engagement of youth in West-Africa, as well as in Nigeria itself has been noticed. Several causes have been identified such as a lack of resources, skills, knowledge, access to facilities and entrepreneurial skills. VWAN objective is to foster and develop the potential of Euro-Africa youth co-operation, considering it as a mutual platform for the exchange of good practices and the creation of knowledge.

— **Seed Funding Project:** "You(th) Build Peace: youths as voluntary actors in local communities" was organised to build an egalitarian society and fight degradation through worldwide voluntary service. This project addressed the needs of volunteer organisations working with youth to youth work practitioners to face the peace building challenges and to involve youth within their local communities in building global communities.

— **Participants:** 15 people were direct beneficiaries of the seminar, 12 from Africa and 3 from Europe.

— **Activities:** The main activity of the project was a seminar, aimed at building the capacity of youth workers to work with partners from European branches and African branches, with a special focus on the West African regional partners. The volunteer organisations had the objective to encourage youth work for the peace building challenges and foster youth participation, both working in their local communities and in building global communities. The methods implemented during the seminar were drawn from a range of best practices materials developed within Service Civil International (SCI) and peace building experience of VWAN. Participants were invited to focus on their needs and priorities through different activities that included: team building games, collaborative methods, role-play techniques, facilitating discussions, video screening, and use of individual exercises followed by a discussion. Participants also got involved in the implementation process as everyone had the opportunity to give his/her contribution. During the community action (practicing exercise), participants managed to set up a 2-hours workshop, during which the participants were given the task to exercise the skills and knowledge learnt and to implement their own activity (going through the complete project cycle: planning – implementation – evaluation).

— **Results:**

- Creation of 3 groups of interest and coming up with a proposal for future actions;
- Creation of a platform to share informative materials and opportunities, also as a space for the facilitators to support activists for the continuity of their ideas;
- Proposal of a workshop on "Merits of youth engagement for peace building in our local communities" as a follow-up;
- Another follow-up was the "Workshop on Advocacy for Peace (education)", to spread the idea of peace education and youth engagement;
- Another follow-up was the "Workshop on Inclusion" where three participants created an outline for activities to be held in urban centres of Nigeria and Cameroon for marginalised youth and children, to get familiar with youth programmes and civic engagement.



- Activities during the seminar were focused on intercultural learning and on creating common awareness on issues affecting North and South;
- Raising young people awareness on the connection between their local activities and the global dimension, promoting solidarity, participation, tolerance and inclusive growth.

— **Impact on the organisation/community:**

One of the outcomes of the seminar was that participants gained further insight and appreciation of the role of youth in peace building. Participants acquired valuable skills in non-formal education, peace building and learnt to facilitate peace education workshops, which they will integrate into their local work. The co-ordinating organisation, VWAN, could recruit new active volunteers during the community action, who will be engaged in upcoming programmes and events. VWAN was invited by a participant of the seminar, to hold a workshop in a University, to inform students about youth activism and possibilities to get further engaged. The co-operation with the hosting venue has been strengthened and it opens the possibility to future projects, in form of ad-hoc workshops on the value of volunteering for peace, to foster youth peace activism in the local community (a short term voluntary project is planned to be hosted in the venue next year, within the calendar of VWAN as the co-ordinating body). The practical experience has encouraged our Cameroonian partners (BERDSCO and Better World Cameroun) to consider applying for the International Co-ordinating Committee of Volunteering Organisations, to strengthen the international co-operation and exchanges.

— **Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Dimension:**

- Participants of the seminar have been selected from partner organisations in West Africa and Europe with which VWAN has a longstanding co-operation;

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PROGRAMME EVALUATION

➤ The Seed Funding has created interest among civil society youth organisations in Africa and Europe. The projects implemented by the organisations, with the support of Seed Funding, constitute inspirational practices to be shared with other organisations, which is also the ambition of this compilation.

➤ Successful stories aside, Seed Funding has encountered certain difficulties during the years of its implementation that have been evaluated in order to further improve the process, for both the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and future granted projects.

➤ One challenge identified in the overall process of the Seed Funding is the selection process itself. The total amount of funds in each round is just a small contribution for the funding needs of many projects. Moreover, the selection process is a demanding exercise. What needs to be pondered is the existing knowledge about some of the applying organisations, mainly since they derive from processes within NSC's Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Programme, and, at the same time, the importance of giving opportunities to unknown organisations/projects with high potential.

➤ For the majority of projects, the entire process has run smoothly and without complications, from the signing of the contract to the submission of financial and narrative reports on the implementation of the projects. However, communication with some of the granted organisations can be also challenging. In some cases, this can be explained by the profile of the organisation, situated in a remote area with limited Internet access and lack of other communication tools. Reporting is not always easy, especially in what regards financial reporting and justification of expenses of some projects implemented in Africa. The criteria for eligibility of invoices are clear but the reality of informal economy challenges the granted organisations while implementing the project.

➤ Through the different Seed Funding rounds, despite the successful implementation of most projects, the results showed that the obstacles to youth mobility continue to be a serious issue for the implementation of exchanges and projects between young people in Africa and Europe. A practical example of this is the issuing of visas, which remains problematic even though it was already tackled in the declarations of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits in 2007 and 2010.



➤ Despite these challenges, the Seed Funding has produced several positive outcomes, including:

- (1) Empowering youth organisations to take the first step to a transnational co-operation;
- (2) Creating better understanding of the reality and challenges of youth organisations both in Africa and Europe;
- (3) Mapping of youth organisations active and best practices in the field of Africa-Europe youth co-operation.

➤ The Seed Funding has been supporting projects involving participants from a variety of African and European countries, as well as the African Diaspora, thus allowing for regional and inter-regional exchanges between young people to develop joint actions, interactions and recommendations for a common future. Many projects had a multiplying effect, meaning that the results of the project reached large groups of indirect beneficiaries (through the involvement of local communities, schools and use of social media) and that it is challenging for all of us to measure the real impact of what we do!

FINAL CONCLUSIONS: *What's next?*

— As a general conclusion, it is possible to say that there was a balance between projects presented by youth organisations from Africa and from Europe (including with African diaspora background) and that capacity-building, training and exchange were the main focus.

— In 2015, the Seed Funding will continue as an important tool to promote Africa-Europe exchange and peer-learning as well as a unique opportunity to map out the needs and priorities of youth organisations working in Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation.

— Moreover, the Seed Funding will contribute to the outreach of the work developed at the level of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform and to the achievement of the 2012-2015 Action Plan.

— As in 2014, the 2015 call for applications follows the thematic priorities defined for the 3rd EU-Africa Youth Leaders' Summit (Youth Leadership, Youth Entrepreneurship and Youth as Peace Builders) and will serve as a contribution for the active participation of youth organisations in the framework of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership. We are pleased to share the name of the organisations and projects funded in the sixth round:

We wish all granted organisations in 2015 success in the implementation of their projects!

Servizio Civile internazionale - SCI	<i>Seeding exchange, picking knowledge: a peaceful world is possible!</i>
Association Actions Vitales pour le Développement Durable	<i>Climate Smart Agriculture Exchange on Youth Entrepreneurship</i>
World Esperanto Youth Organisation - TEJO	<i>Europe and Africa: what can we learn from each other about youth leadership?</i>
Asociación para la Cooperación al Desarrollo -Afric' Forum	<i>From conflict to coexistence: Youth leadership for non-violent conflict transformation and peace building through intercultural dialogue and communication</i>
VAS Österreich	<i>African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe</i>
The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award-Zambia	<i>TrainedOn: Youth as multipliers and educators</i>
Conexão Lusófona	<i>Conexão Lusófona: Guinea-Bissau</i>

NOTES

¹ For further information on JMA activities: www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth/AfricaEuropeCooperation/JMA/YouthJMA_en.asp

² As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and Social Development.

³ As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and Social Development.

⁴ As in 108, under civil society + 108. under the heading Monitoring, evaluation and review mechanisms.

⁵ As in the action plan of the joint strategy under the heading Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation.

⁶ Africa-Europe Online Resource Centre – www.aeyco.com.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Elaboration of the compilation and revision

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www.coe.in

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

