

**Centre Nord-Sud du
Conseil de l'Europe**



**North-South Centre of
The Council of Europe**

Report of Activities 2001

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Centre Nord-Sud du Conseil de l'Europe
Avenida da Liberdade 229-4° - 1240-142 Lisboa
(PORTUGAL)
Tel.: (351) 21 352 49 54
Fax: (351) 21 353 13 29 / (351) 21 352 49 66



Programme 1: Education and training for global citizenship

Introduction

The North-South Centre has established the World Aware Education Award and the Global Education Week as permanent features of its programme of activities. The **Global Education Week** is part of a **process** that aims at promoting networking initiatives both within Europe and between Europe and Southern countries. For this purpose, it is essential to link the Week to other quality initiatives such as the dissemination of examples of good practices, the **World Aware Education Award** and the network on **North-South School Links**. Progress related to these initiatives is summarized in project sections 1.1. to 1.5. below.

The Centre facilitated a number of spaces for youth organisations to strengthening their work both at the inter-regional cooperation level as well as at the Global level. In each of these processes the Centre has designed and provided a space for the political action and for priority setting and a space for training and capacity building.

The Centre has also been involved in the two major youth events of the Summer 2001. The **World Youth Festival 2001**, Panama, an initiative of the regional and international youth movements and the **4th Edition of the World Youth Forum**, a joint of exercise of the United Nations System with the Youth Organisations. These two events were highly important to give coherence and direction to the youth dimension of the programme of the Centre for the upcoming years.

Project 1.1: (GE/CP) The Global Education Week

The **Global Education Week**, organised in the third week of November, is part of a **process** that aims at promoting networking initiatives both within Europe and between Europe and Southern countries, building on existing national initiatives in order to increase global education provision in member states.

From January an appraisal of the GEW 2000 was organized. An evaluation and consultation process took place with all national contacts. Information obtained from the questionnaire led to the preparation of the international seminar and the GEW 2001. This Europe-wide consultation led to the choice of a common **theme: “Children and Youth Rights Now: For Our Common Future”**. The theme-choosing process of GE Week informed the choice of theme for the Lisbon Forum 2001, to ensure coherence.

Following the International GE Seminar, the **Global Education Week network has been extended to include national co-ordination structures in 30 member states** – a significant increase from 22 in 2000, and in line with targets to include all member states, and all educational sectors, by 2004.

In order to ensure that this and other targets are based on realistic assessment of the situation in member states, a rapid appraisal on **“Global Education - state of the art in the 43 member states”** was undertaken in summer 2001, and is available on the NSC website; which also includes links to national GEW national co-ordinators and plans for GE Week at national level.

Project 1.2: (GE/CP) The World Aware Education Award 2001

On the basis of the 1999 and 2000 experience, in co-operation with the Dutch Committee for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development (NCDO - NL) and KommEnt, Austria, the aim of the NSC is to award every year a prize encouraging partnership, networking and co-ordination between development NGOs, educational NGOs and educational institutions for projects focusing on education for sustainable development.

In 2001, following evaluation of the scheme by funders and the Global Education advisory committee, the Awards were broadened to include **youth-sector as well as school-based global education**.

In 2001, the NCDE (Ireland) became a new funding partner of the WAEA .

The ceremony to award the 2001 World Aware Education Award was held on 7 December 2001. The awards were presented by the Portuguese Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Dr. Luis Amado, accompanied by the Irish Minister of State, Liz O'Donnell. In 2001 seven projects were distinguished, from Austria, the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, U.K. Each one received the sum of 5000 euros, to help them continue their activities and networking initiatives.

Project 1.3: (GE/CP) The International Seminar on Global Education 2001

The North-South Centre organises an **International Global Education Seminar** to prepare the following Global Education Week. The seminar's results are disseminated through the seminar report available on North South Centre webpage. The seminar aims at facilitating the exchange of good practices.

The seminar took place in June 2001 in Strasbourg, with a focus on **Networking for increased and improved Global Education**, through Global Education Week. Participants included national co-ordinators of GE Week from 30 countries throughout Europe. Positive feedback by participants led to the establishment of the GE Week national co-ordinators network; the Centre is supporting this networking endeavour through web-based GE e-News.

Project 1.4: (GE/PP) Cultural and artistic events for global learning

For operational reasons, and based on the advise of the Global Education Advisory Committee, this project has been de-prioritised for the time being.

Project 1.5: (GE/PP) Gateway info project on Global Education around Europe

Drawing on this expertise of the Global Education Advisory Committee, and informed by the external evaluation, this project has involved:

1.5.1 GENE (Global Education Network Europe).

In June 2001, in Strasbourg, the **Inaugural Round Table of the Global Education Network Europe** was organized. GENE brings together NCDE (Ireland), KommEnt (Austria), BMZ (Germany), NCDO (Netherlands), DEA (U.K.) and the Swiss Foundation for Education and

Development. The project networks existing and emerging national structures for the support and funding of development education, to share strategies, increase effectiveness through international networking, and develop a common agenda for sharing learning with other member states. **Described by BMZ Germany as “exactly what the NSC should do..”**, this project has had one immediate outcome: the development of a publication **“Structures of support for Global Education in 7 member states of the Council of Europe: A comparative analysis”**, currently being written in partnership with KommEnt (Austria).

1.5.2 From Charter to Declaration: increased support for development education.

Building on the process of the GE charter, this sub-project has worked to test and develop consensus regarding levels of support for development education: particularly through work at national Global Education meetings in Germany, France, and Austria; working with the CLONG in the development of an EU development education declaration, which was adopted by the Council of Development Ministers of the European Union at their December 2001 meeting; See Interdependent 99 and 102 for further information. This Council resolution on development education and raising European public awareness of development co-operation *“Welcomes the Council of Europe’s development education work carried out by its North-South Centre which enables all Council of Europe Member States to be involved, including candidate countries for accession to the EU”*

1.5.3 Preparation for the Europe-wide GE Congress 2002

Through the above-mentioned national congresses, and working to identify partners, the process of preparation for the Europe-wide GE Congress 2002 has begun. One funding partner has been identified; others are being sought; it is planned that the Congress will take place in Maastricht in November 2002. The European Commission has been invited to participate as a partner.

Project 1.6: (GE/PP/YOUTH)

Summer University on Youth and Development + Training Youth organisations and Young Multipliers (Global Dimension)

From the 15 to the 23 of September the North South Centre organised the 2nd Summer University on Youth and Development. This event was produced in partnership with Youth for Development and Co-operation, the Spanish Youth Council and the European Youth Forum, and with the contribution of the Asia Europe Foundation and the Spanish Institute of Youth.

The University gathered over 100 young people, coming from 52 countries of all the regions of the world and was based in the following principles: to offer a space for solutions; to provide training; to work in partnership; to take advantage of scale economy approach; to gather different activities and methods under a common goal: “Globalising Social Development”; to create a political fact on the role of youth in Social Development; to implement visibility to actions of youth organisations; to generate a movement and a spin off effect.

During a period of over a week the Centre hosted in this University the following activities: the 7th North-South Training Course for Youth organizations; the Asia Europe Training Course for Youth

Leaders; the General Assembly of Youth for Development and Cooperation; the Working Group for Spanish Presidency of the EU of the Spanish Youth Council; the Global Cooperation Coordination Committee of the European Youth Forum; a Development Education Workshop; The Crossed Cooperation/Space of Euro-Latin American Youth Work; Workshops on Story Telling on Development; a Roundtable on Globalisation; a Global Forum on Youth and Development; Trainers by Trainers meeting; the Portuguese Speaking Youth Forum; an Info Market Youth and Development; and a permanent "Jaima Saharai" exhibition tent on peace and conflict resolution.

**Project 1.7: (GE/PP/YOUTH)
(Interregional Training Courses)**

1.7.1: Euro-Asian Training Course for Youth Organisations (GE/PP/ASIA)

This activity was successfully implemented at the 2nd University on Youth and Development in Mollina, Spain, from 16 to 23 September. The Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF) contributed with nearly 50% to the budget of this Course. The course gathered 25 participants and trainers coming from youth organisations acting in the ASEM countries. As a first experience of its kind for this course, the team of trainers, together with the Centre designed a very intensive module of youth and youth leadership training, including dimensions of Intercultural learning; Asia Europe Cooperation, Project Development and political action. The results of this training course are encouraging and the Centre will seek to include this training course as a permanent feature of its programme, continuing the good cooperation with the Asia Europe Foundation.

Also in the frame of the cooperation with the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF), the Centre hosted the second meeting of the Asia Europe Youth Cooperation Working Group on 9 and 10 May, which included a working lunch with the board of Governors of the Asia Europe Foundation.

1.7.2: Euro-African Training Course for Youth Organisations (GE/PP/AFR)

Planning for this project took place with the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries) youth platform. The project was funded by the government of Luxembourg, for implementation in April 2002

1.7.3: 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Training Course for Youth Organisations (GE/PP/MED)

The training course was successfully held in Barcelona from 18 to 26 February 2001. The Course trained 26 participants from 16 different countries in the Mediterranean Basin. Parallel to the course, 24 - 26 February, the Centre co-organised with the Government of

Catalonia a Youth Information Seminar on Youth Partnership in the Mediterranean Region with the involvement of over 70 national youth and youth serving organisations from Catalonia.

The holding of the course in Barcelona and the good cooperation with the Catalonian Government opens very good perspectives for future cooperation at the level of the Mediterranean Youth Work in the Mediterranean Region. The Generalitat of Catalonia already offered to host the Course next year.

**Project 1.8.1: (GE/PP/YOUTH)
Pool of trainers**

This project is being developed in parallel to the training programme and is setting up of a specialised database of trainers in North-south youth Work. The developments on this database will follow the developments in the overall database work of the North-South Centre. The Pool of trainers has been highly reinforced during 2001 due to the intense training activity of the Centre.

**Project 1.8.2: (GE/PP/YOUTH)
Training by trainers – developing an innovative pedagogical approach**

This meeting of trainers in North-South youth work was held in the context of the Summer University on Youth and Development, the 23 September. The participants in the meeting, the different teams of trainers of the Centre's training courses recommend to the Centre to have an additional meeting of this kind. Additional and urgent fundraising would be required for this project. Among the recommendations of the meeting it is important to highlight the need of the reinforcement of the Pool of Trainers as well as the production of a Pedagogical kit on Global and Inter-regional Training.

Project 1.9: (GE/CP/MED) Reinforcement of the mechanisms and practices for human rights protection in Palestine

The current situation in the Middle East does not favour projects on the ground in the very short term. In July 2001, a mission was carried out to the region which enabled the Centre to meet various political personalities and organisations from civil society and to identify new projects to be developed.

Programme 2 Policy dialogue for human dignity and democracy

Introduction

Progress in this programme sector is reported in the sections below. It should be noted that much of the activity developed in this sector during the first months of 2001 has been in the area of research and development for activities planned later in the year.

Project 2.1 (DD/CP) Lisbon Forum on Human Rights in the North-South Dialogue

The Forum on "The Children and Youth in Africa: Actors of their own Development", took place from 24-26 November 2001, in Lisbon.

Approximately 50 participants, representatives of governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, international organisations and African as well as European NGOs came to very concrete recommendations - designed to contribute to the Action Plan of the Outcome Document "A World Fit For Children" (special session of the UN on Children) – in the area of **Poverty**

Eradication, Promoting Healthy Lives, Providing Quality Education , Protecting Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence, Mobilising Resources and Monitoring.

Project 2.2 (DD/CP) North-South Prize of Lisbon

Ms. Maria Fernandes from the Centre for Human Rights of Rio Branco (Brazil) and Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga, former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross received the Lisbon North-South Prize during an Official Ceremony, on 26 November, at the Senate Room of the Portuguese National Assembly in the presence of the President of the Assembly, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Chairman of the Executive Council as well as international and national invitees.

Project 2.3 (DD/CP/AFR): Reinforcement of the dialogue between civil society representatives from Africa and Europe (follow up to the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum)

The North-South Centre and the European Commission organised the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum. The Centre followed and supported the Steering Committee in its promotion and construction stage in 2001 (meeting with the European Commission (Brussels, March 2001) : the Africa-Europe Forum took part in the preparation of the EU/ACP Civil Society Forum organised in July under the Belgium Presidency of the EU ; meetings with the OAU, Francophonie, UNESCO, UN, ACP/EU Joint Assembly. The Forum participated in the Regional Conference against Racism (Dakar, January) and in the preparatory meetings of the LDC Civil Society Forum (Cotonou, February- New York, March).

Project 2.4: (DD/PP/AFR) Great Lakes Civil Society

This project has not been developed.

Project 2.5: (DD/PP) Dignity International Initiative

World Social Forum - Porto Alegre, Brazil: In January, the North-South Centre sent a delegation of three persons, including the vice-chairman of the Executive Council, to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre where the Centre collaborated with the Centre for Dignity and Rights (CEDAR) on a workshop on economic, social and cultural rights. Preparations are underway for a seminar of the North-South Centre at the second World Social Forum from 30 January to 5 February 2002 with high visibility for the Centre. The NSC was also invited to the meeting of the WSF Steering Committee in October

2001. The World Social Forum has become one of the main civil society focal points for defining the global agenda.

In May, the North-South Centre was invited to participate in a closed International Consultation on "Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the Development Activities of the International Institutions" organised by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights and High Council of International Cooperation of France. The Centre also followed the proceedings of the UN committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights in Geneva in November 2001.

On 14 October, the Centre hosted at its premises a planning meeting of the partners for the "All Human Rights for All" Media Campaign in South East Europe to be carried out in partnership with the Balkan Human Rights Network and the South East European Network of Association of Private Broadcasters (SEENAPB). The first set of activities for this Campaign will take place from 14-19

January in Sofia beginning with a Roundtable followed by a human rights training course for the media.

From 2-5 December, the North-South Centre in partnership with Dignity International Asia committee organised a workshop on "Human Rights – Human Dignity: A Challenge for the 21st Century". The workshop was the first of a series of Dignity International regional workshops. Almost 100 participants from all parts of Asia were joined by activists from other continents including Africa and Europe. Participants shared experiences and considered how human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights can strengthen poverty eradication efforts. The role that the North-South Centre had played was particularly appreciated, as the Centre respected the existing initiatives and processes on the ground, and then strengthening these initiatives from a human rights perspective - raising awareness about human rights and bringing the experiences of Europe in this area and of other continents.

Meanwhile work is under way for the establishment of a Dignity International website which will include an on line advisory and resource centre for economic, social and cultural rights.

Project 2.6: (DD/PP) Interregional Conference on Human Rights and Social Cohesion

This expert reflection organised with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the General Directorate for Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe took place from 28-30 May 2001 in Lisbon. A report is available from the North-South Centre and will also be brought to the attention of the UN Commission for Social Development at its next session in New York, February 2002.

Project 2.7: (DD/PP/YOUTH) - Youth Partnership Committee

During 2001, the Youth Partnership Committee already met informally in Brussels on 15 and 16 May, the main points on the agenda being the implementation of the 2001 Programme and consultations in the 2002-04 Programme

Project 2.8: (DD/PP/YOUTH) - Regional Youth Barometers

A number of initial contacts were already made with some of the partners and potential partners in this long-term process (Youth and Sports Directorate of the CoE, European Commission, Foro Juvenil (Uruguay), Mediterranean Youth Forum...). Initial discussions started with some potential funding partners for such an exercise.

Project 2.9: (DD/PP/MED) Follow-up of the Middle East Contact Group

In July 2001, a mission trip was carried out to the region and has allowed to meet some political personalities and organisations from the civil society and to identify new projects to be developed.

The Euromediterranean Region

The workshop on "Regional Integration, Social Cohesion and the Fight against Poverty" scheduled for June 2001 and organised in close collaboration with our Egyptian partner "Centre for Research

and Development” of the University of Cairo is postponed to 2002. However, an enlarged Round Table of Experts from the European countries and from the Maghreb and Mashrekplace in Cairo the 10 and 11 november.

Project 2.10.3: Promoting human rights in the Euro-Mediterranean context

Expert workshops on human rights in the Mediterranean region, involving different quadrilogue partners from both sides of the Mediterranean. The discussions were to be informal in nature, but functional in their aims, drawing on existing instruments and seeking new possibilities for the application of rights. The activity has been postponed to 2002.

Project 2.11: Conference on Religion and Globalisation : perspectives for the new Millennium

The Conference, organised in collaboration with Lusiada University, took place in Lisbon, from 1-2 April 2001.

Programme 3 Multimedia strategy

1. Publications

- Launching of the new formula of the « Interdependent » at the occasion of its 100th issue (July): colour layout, increased number of pages (from 4 to 12 pages), integration of the TerraViva dossier coordinated by the programme coordinators of the North-South Centre. The following subjects were published: the youth events 2001, public aid to development, racism: and after Durban
- Agreement between the North-South Centre and the Production and Distribution division of the Council of Europe for the page setting of the « Interdependent », followed by a mission to Strasbourg by Ms Ilda Oliveira, Assistant in charge of the publications, in August.
- Online integration of the TerraViva dossier in Euforic website, the portal of development issues in Europe.
- Publication of the English version of the Civil Society Forum Africa-Europe
- Completion of a brochure about the ceremony of the North-South Prize 2000

2. Information System

- Training session provided by the service of Information Technologies (DIT) of the Council of Europe to optimise the use of e-mail system (Outlook) and of the internet
- Project Management of the integration of the North-South Centre in the Information technology (IT) system of the Council of Europe

3. Press Relations

- Work in close collaboration with the Press officer of the Council of Europe

4. Information – Documentation

- Contact with the Information and Documentation Division of the Council of Europe for the integration of the Centre's documentation resources within the general data base (WEBCAT) of the Council of Europe
- Contact with the Directorate of documentation and information management of the Council of Europe for the integration of the data base of contacts of the North-South Centre, essentially the subscribers to the « Interdependent », in the “Pride system” of the Council of Europe

5. Web site

- Project Management of the creation of the website « Dignity International »
- Contact with the web coordination team of the Council of Europe in prospect of the implementation of the new web site of the North-South Centre in 2002