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2011 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Executive Summary:

2011 was a significant year for the North-South Centre with the key highlights being:

- the adoption of a new statutory resolution for the North-South Centre by the Committee of Ministers, in a general context marked by historical events in the Arab region;
- The adoption of a Recommendation on Education for Global Interdependence and Solidarity by the Committee of Ministers;
- The setting up of the new Executive Committee of the North-South Centre and the launching of a new Strategy for 2011 – 2013;
- Major events, such as the Rome Conference "Women as Agents of Change in the South of the Mediterranean Region", the Lisbon Forum 2011 "The "Arab spring": a major step towards making human rights real", and the North South Prize Award Ceremony 2010.

This document contains an overview of the main work and achievements of the North-South Centre in 2011. This new format of reporting is a follow-up to the request of the former statutory bodies for the Secretariat to strengthen its efforts in providing more streamlined, concise, and result-oriented reporting.

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1. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The most significant political development for the North-South Centre in 2011 has been the adoption by the Committee of Ministers, on 5 May, of a [new statutory resolution](#) confirming its relevance and importance in a new political environment, marked by important changes and new challenges in Europe, and by revolutionary events in its Southern neighbourhood. The Resolution also introduces important changes in the Centre's operation, which from now on will be managed by a single statutory body comprising all member states plus the other "quadrilogue" stakeholders of the North-South Centre. It entered into force on 1 June 2011.

The main lines of the Centre's new statute are the following:

- the Centre keeps its present legal nature, and continue to function as an enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe;
- an invitation is made to all member States of the Council of Europe as well as to the European Union to join the Centre as soon as possible;
- the Centre mainly acts as an interface between the Council of Europe and countries in neighbouring regions which are interested in cooperating with the Organisation, by offering them a platform for structured co-operation at different levels (governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, civil society);
- the two statutory organs of the Centre are merged into a new "Executive Committee", which is now the single decision making body of the North-South Centre; through this important structural change, the "quadrilogue" functioning of the Centre is preserved, while full participation of all member states in the decision making process is ensured;
- the relationship with the European Union is reinforced, through the introduction of the EU Committee of Regions as a new stakeholder of the North-South Centre;
- the priority areas of the Centre are confirmed (education, youth, intercultural dialogue), with an increased focus on the promotion of Council of Europe principles and values beyond the European continent.

The statutory resolution has strengthened the Centre's remit, given greater weight to its political role, defined its priorities and made major changes to the way it operates. The first step was the constitutive meeting of the new Executive Committee which took place on 24 June in Strasbourg. During this meeting, the new Executive Committee and its Bureau were constituted (see appendix). Ms Deborah Bergamini (Italy) was elected as Chair until the spring meeting of the Executive Committee in 2013. A first discussion was held on the strategy for the North-South Centre for 2011-2013. The first meeting of the Bureau of the Executive Committee took place on 16 September in Strasbourg. It was followed by the 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee on 2 November in Lisbon during which [the strategy document](#) for 2011-2013 was endorsed and the programme and budget for 2012-2013 were adopted.

2. GLOBAL EDUCATION

a) Policy Development and Advocacy

After a three year long consultative process with the Steering Committee for Education (CDED) and key stakeholders (quadrilogue) in the global education field, the Recommendation on Education for Global Interdependence and Solidarity was successfully adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 2011. This recommendation is a new and unique European framework for the Centre and its partners in the field of global education and uses the Global Education Guidelines (2008), the Maastricht Declaration (2002) and the European Consensus on Development Education (2007) as its basis. Furthermore, the Recommendation is complementary to the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights which will require increased collaboration and coherence with the headquarters. An action plan for the recommendation will be set up in the framework of the European Congress on Global Education in September 2012, 10 years after the Maastricht Congress and the last year of implementation of the Joint Management Agreement 2008 - 2012.

The second regional seminar on global education, held in Prague on 24-25 March for the central European countries, allowed key actors from the national seminars from the Visegrad countries to come together, share good practices and develop a regional cooperative approach for global education. The meeting underlined the importance of establishing/reinforcing national multistakeholder working groups on global education. The national and regional seminars have strengthened the knowledge and confidence-building on this issue among key partners, i.e. government ministries and agencies, civil society, and politicians. However the presence and input from local authorities is still missing to a large extent. The launching of the Czech national strategy for global development education 2011-15 during the meeting, also gave a strong impetus to further co-operation between the Visegrad stakeholders for the development of national strategies/action plans. The third and last regional seminar dedicated to EU countries in South East Europe (SEE) and the Mediterranean (Med) took place in Jablje, Slovenia on 17-18 October 2011. With the theme “National Identity in the Context of Global Citizenship”, the seminar’s objective was to address the concepts of global education, global citizenship and national identity throughout the region of Central and South Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean EU countries and to increase the understanding of the subject. 77 representatives from ministries, governmental agencies, NGOs dealing with Global Education / Development Education (GE/DE), national local authorities and foreign experts gathered to work on preparing a comparison of best practices in the SEE-Med region to firmly establish GE/DE on the Education agenda.

On 30 August, a public hearing on development education took place at the European Parliament, following a joint initiative of the Committee on Development and the Sub-Committee on Human Rights. The North-South Centre was represented by its Executive Director, who shared with the participants the latest developments about NSC work, in

particular the recently adopted Recommendation on Education for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, and the preparations of a pan-European Conference on global education. This hearing, building up on the results of the DEAR (Development Education and Awareness Raising) study, could lead to a report commissioned by the European Parliament in view of a European strategy for Development Education. The event was attended by the EU Development Commissioner Andris Pielbags alongside MEPs, representatives of member states and participants in the multistakeholder group on global / development education of which the NSC is part of. On this occasion a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the NSC and the GENE (Global Education Network Europe).

The North-South Centre and partners pursued the preparatory process of the European Congress on Global Education to be held in Lisbon in 27-28 September 2012. The Congress concept paper was drafted, a core working-group composed of the NSC partner organisations (among others CONCORD, GENE, European Youth Forum, Portuguese Institute for Aid Support, Portuguese platform of NGOs and representatives from JMA regional seminars) was constituted, and a website was designed. The Congress shall assess the progress of global education since the 2002 Maastricht Congress which established a strategy for the promotion and support of Global Education in Europe until 2015. It aims at setting up a road map or action plan to reach the “Maastricht 2015 target”, taking stock of the policy-making and capacity-building initiatives developed since Maastricht, and in compliance with the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The core working-group had its first meeting in Warsaw on 15 December following the Global Education Week network seminar.

b) Capacity Building and Training

Throughout 2011, an inter-regional capacity building programme/proposal for the period 2011-13 on global education has been developed, targeting youth leaders and aimed at expanding its outreach in terms of geographical scope and number of participants. The proposal is based on the successful e-learning and residential training courses that the Centre has conducted in recent years. This proposal has been discussed with various partners and potential collaborators, in particular with the Spanish speaking communities which have shown great interest.

In the context of the Joint Management Agreement 2008 - 2012, the Centre has implemented three e-learning courses on global education/human right education in 2011: training 157 educators/multipliers from all regions of the world. The course focused, *inter alia*, on developing skills and competences for organising GE activities, improving team work as well as global education strategies and advocacy. In addition, an evaluation meeting was held with the Network University (main implementing partner for the e-learning courses) in April, assessing the 2009-11 cycle of courses and discussing further developments and improvements of the e-courses' content in accordance with

participants' course evaluations. The meeting resulted in the agreement of improving the statistics of participants; finalization of an alumni survey that can measure mid-term impact; introductions of new themes such as intercultural dialogue (2012), active global citizenship (2013); developing a training for trainers course.

c) Networking, Partnerships and Good Practices

Important progress has been made during the enlargement period of the Global Education Week (GEW) Network. Three recent NSC member States have formally nominated national coordinators for the GEW, namely, Azerbaijan (representative from the Ministry of Education appointed in May 2011), Montenegro (representative from the Ministry of Education and Sports of Montenegro appointed in January 2011) and Serbia (representative from the Ministry of Sport of Youth and Sport appointed in September 2011). Morocco has indicated that a nomination will follow. The Centre is therefore currently preparing a scheme for the integration of the new GEW national coordinators to facilitate their participation. The GEW is at this time composed of 40 national coordinators and 4 representatives of international organisations/networks.

Furthermore, during the course of this year, efforts have made to coordinate the thematic working groups and implement the decisions taken at the last GEW evaluation meeting in December 2010. The main areas of work have been the following: a compilation of good practices on GE; setting up an action plan for disseminating and promoting the Global Education Guidelines (GEG); quality criteria for the GEW work and updating of the Guidelines; and the use of ICT tools, GE newsletter and webpages. Furthermore, the interaction between the GEW and the alumni from the GE e-learning courses will be improved through a Facebook page 'Community of Global Educators' which has been set up in October.

The 2011 Global Education Week took place from 12-20 November 2011 under the theme *Act for Our Planet!* This decentralised event was relayed on the North-South Centre's GEW webpage which offers to users Global Education background information and methodological support. The event was coordinated by the NSC in conjunction with the GEW network which coordinators liaised at the level of national activities organised during the week. The information has been posted on the GEW webpage which is updated regularly according to the network coordinators' feedback. Awareness raising activities such as debates, contests, round-tables, film festivals, exhibitions and cultural events organised either in formal or non-formal education settings, or in partnership with local authorities and local and national media, tackled issues varying from globalization, sustainable development, human rights, immigration, fair trade, peacekeeping and conflict resolution, gender, global environmental issues, intercultural learning. The NSC Facebook and Twitter pages have also reinforced the sharing of information and good practices. The Global Education Week network evaluation seminar took place in Warsaw on 12-13 December in the framework of the "European Development Days" (EDD) organised by the EU Presidency.

The call for applications for the World Aware Education Awards 2011, launched in October 2011 through the NSC website and newsletters, resulted in 26 applications from Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, and several international organisations. Projects were selected by an international jury composed by the Council of Europe confederation of International NGOs; the European Youth Forum and the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), accordingly to NSC selection criteria and scoring grid. The three laureate projects were *Gender & Media (Eesti People to People)*; *Sustainable development in cultural diversity: a Europe-Asia bridge for youth empowerment (ESTYES)*; *Historiana–Your Portal to the Past (EUROCLIO)*. All information about the laureate projects is available on the NSC website.

While the World Aware Education Awards (WAEA) 2011 laureate projects have been presented during the GEW network seminar, GEW network seminar participants and WAEA laureates participated in the Global Education conference organised by the Polish EU presidency on 14 December and to the EDD opening the following day. The proximity of these three events allowed an optimal sharing of expertise between the GEW network members, the WAEA laureates and the stakeholders met during the Polish EU presidency GE conference and during the EDD.

d) Production and Sharing of Knowledge, Research and Publications

The Centre is continuing the dissemination and translation of the Global Education Guidelines (GEG) which currently exist in English, French, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish while the Italian version has been finalised and the Polish version is ready for the final proofreading. The dissemination is currently being pursued among English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish speaking partners. In total, approximately 1900 copies have been distributed since October 2010, the last re-edition of the GEG and 4,408 users have downloaded the English electronic version of the Guidelines, 3,035 have downloaded only the first chapter, and 1,530 users have downloaded the French version of the Guidelines on the NSC website since January 2011. For the same period, the Global Education programme webpage had 6,610 hits¹.

¹Data collected on 13 January 2012

3. YOUTH

a) Policy Development and Advocacy

In the context of the regional youth platforms the North-South Centre (NSC) has facilitated a process of transforming the political declaration adopted in the second Africa-Europe Youth Summit in Tripoli (2010) into an Action Plan for Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation for the period 2012-2015 and the establishment of an Africa-Europe Youth Platform (AEYP). This Plan is a comprehensive guide for the strategic and sustainable development of this co-operation and reinforces its political relevance. The Plan focuses on three main areas: (1) capacity building; (2) advocacy and (3) the creation of an online resource centre. This plan also calls upon the continuation and reinforcement of existing co-operation instruments such as the JMA and the Youth Partnership and promotes the idea of introducing additional resources/instruments and mobilizing new institutional partners in this field. This process was mainly developed during the Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies which was organised in on 10-13 April in Addis Ababa, in the framework of the EU-CoE Youth Partnership.

Important developments regarding advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter and the strengthening of youth policies at sub-regional level in Africa took place in the context of the Central Africa Sub-Regional Seminar on Youth Policies and the African Youth Charter, organised in Libreville, Gabon on 11-13 March. The meeting contributed, *inter alia*, to initiating a process towards the creation of national youth councils in Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, two countries in Central Africa that still lack national youth platforms.

These above mentioned meetings also served as important moments for the sub-regional and pan-African youth preparations towards the Head of States Summit of the African Union, foreseen on 23 June-1 July 2012 in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), under the theme “Accelerating Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development”.

The University on Youth and Development held in Mollina (Spain) on 18-25 September served also as an important space for strengthening the political action and advocacy for youth organisations in global and interregional youth work. This year’s edition was devoted to the theme “Youth Volunteering for Global Development” in the framework of the International Year of Volunteers and the European Year of Volunteering 2011 and brought together more than 340 youth participants that endorsed its final declaration: "Let's keep Volunteering for Global Development". Participants at the University came from over 80 different countries and well over 90 different nationalities were represented. The University served also as a stage to further develop the advocacy agenda of the main youth platforms for the year 2012 in areas such as the preparations of the youth participation in the Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as well as the European Youth Capital 2012 events (Braga), which will include a substantial agenda on global and inter-regional youth cooperation within its programme.

b) Capacity Building and Training

During this period, the Seed Funding Programme for Africa-Europe youth co-operation was launched with over 200 project applications responding to the call. In the end, 23 projects that build on the capacity of civil society organisations were granted and are currently being implemented. This funding scheme has seen unforeseen interest among civil society youth organisations in Africa and Europe and the NSC continues to receive a large amount of ad-hoc applications. Most of the projects pertaining to the first call have been successfully completed and the project results show that lack of youth mobility continues to be a serious obstacle for the implementation of exchanges and projects between young people in Africa and Europe. In particular, the handout of visas is still a problematic issue. This was discussed in the Declarations of the Africa-Europe Youth Summits in 2007 and 2010.

Within the framework of the Joint Management Agreement, a three-year implementation cycle of global youth co-operation training scheme, organised in co-operation with the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO), was concluded in May. Close to 100 youth leaders from all regions of the world were trained on global youth work and the final training course was for the first time organised outside Europe, in Cape Verde. From an educational point of view, the placing of the course in Africa brought much added value in terms of (very relevant) Southern perspectives which greatly enriched the learning process of participants. Due to the positive response and the added value, the global youth course will in all probability, rotate amongst the 'sister' Universities on Youth and Development in the future. This course and two other major youth training activities were held during the third African University on Youth and Development, which had global education as its central theme and 90 youth leaders as participants.

This year the University on Youth and Development (18-25 September), provided an opportunity for training, capacity building and intense intercultural learning to more than 340 youth leaders coming from organisations and youth movements worldwide and who gathered at the CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre) to discuss, train and be trained, as well as to take political action with regard to the main issues on the global agenda. Fourteen parallel residential training courses and workshops were organised during this week, in co-operation with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other international youth organisations.

Within the framework of the joint programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and during the University seminar for the African Youth Diaspora and MDG's ("From the Millennium Development Goals to the Millennium Development Wins"), a Euro-Mediterranean Meeting on the Intercultural Indicators and a meeting of the monitoring group of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation took place.

c) Networking, Partnership development and sharing of Good Practices

The 3rd African University on Youth and Development, which took place on 15-22 May in Cape Verde, was consolidated as an important annual key event for Africa co-operation and it contributed to strengthening partnerships among key actors for Africa-Europe co-operation in the youth field, as well as reinforcing relations with the authorities of Cape Verde. A meeting of the various partners of the three Universities (Spain, Cape Verde, Uruguay) was organised in September in Mollina, to further consolidate the future strategy of the universities.

The strategic choice of organising the Africa-Europe youth leaders meeting in Addis Ababa, which also happens to host the headquarters of the African Union (AU), allowed for renewed and improved relations with the AU's Commission, in particular with the AU Commissioner responsible for youth affairs and the Special Representative of the EU Delegation to the AU, which were represented at the youth leaders meeting. Both the AU Commission and the EU delegation highlighted the importance of the youth process and encouraged its partners to use Addis Ababa as a location for future activities of the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation scheme.

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

During the Mollina University, the partners from the University on Youth and Development (Spain), the University on Participation and Citizenship (Uruguay) and the African University on Youth and Development (Cape Verde) agreed on the establishment of a Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship. This Networking process between the partner Universities will reinforce their pedagogical and political capacities, reducing their vulnerabilities and providing a joint strategic vision based on Global Education as content and as practice and thus strengthening the Youth Rights agenda. The partners of this network are working on a strategic vision and an action plan for the period until 2015.

d) Production and Sharing of Knowledge, Research and Publications

Within the framework of the youth mapping schemes, the Centre is currently producing a compilation of the political texts and declarations made by the Africa-Europe youth movement since 2007, covering the Youth Summits and the activities of the Africa Europe Youth Programme and thus preparing the launch of the web based resource centre for Africa Europe youth co-operation, which will be published in early 2012.

The Centre has finalised a publication resulting from the Seminar for the African Youth Diaspora and the MDG's ("From the Millennium Development Goals to the Millennium Development Wins").

In the context of the University on Youth and Development, a series of media and social media tools were produced and systematized (videos, documentary with testimonies and life stories of young people and volunteering, an on-line social community etc). The report of the University has been produced by the general rapporteur and will be available at the beginning of 2012.

4. INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND TRANSMEDITERRANEAN CO-OPERATION

a. Intercultural dialogue (including its religious dimension)

The activities carried out during this period regarding the religious dimension of Intercultural Dialogue have given the North-South Centre (NSC) the opportunity to follow-up some of the recommendations of the 2010 Lisbon Forum on “Freedom of expression, conscience and religion”.

The workshop on “Dialogue between and among world’s religions” organised by the North-South Centre within the framework of the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 8-9 April, provided an opportunity to bring together experts on freedom of religion to present their experience regarding co-operation between religious organisations with the aim of promoting dialogue and better understanding. On this occasion, religious leaders participating in the workshop were also able to present other initiatives made at local, regional and international levels. The 2010 Lisbon Forum conclusions were presented to the 500 participants of the Baku Forum.

The North-South Centre held an exploratory workshop entitled “Teaching Intercultural Dialogue and Religious Diversity around the Mediterranean” on 16-17 May. The workshop was held in co-operation with the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI) (Germany) and the Swedish Institute (Alexandria, Egypt) and in partnership with the Anna Lindh Foundation, European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO), the European Wergeland Centre (EWC), the Institute for the Study of Muslim Cultures and Civilisations (ISMC), ALESCO, the EMUNI University and the Alliance of Civilizations. Teaching intercultural dialogue and religious diversity have been identified as central tasks for national educational systems in Europe and the workshop was an opportunity for European and Mediterranean stakeholders to exchange information and develop ideas and activities to help educators. Important principles for establishing projects of co-operation were agreed and some initiatives for joint work were identified. In line with this event’s conclusions a conference was organised in November in Alexandria, Egypt, by the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Swedish Institute of Alexandria, in which the NSC participated.

The North-South Centre contributed actively to the 4th EuroDIG meeting (European Dialogue on Internet Governance), which was held on 30-31 May in Belgrade (Serbia). In particular, the Executive Director participated in the 5th working session under the theme “Freedom of Expression and hate speech – the dilemma of reconciling freedom of expression with combating racism” presented the conclusions of the 2010 Lisbon Forum. The conference brought together more than 500 participants – a hundred of them participating from 12 regional remote hubs across Europe - from the private sector, governments, international organisations, youth, media, civil society and the academic

and technical communities to discuss public policy issues and challenges related to the Internet.

The North-South Centre also contributed to 2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, held in Luxembourg on 28 – 29 November. This third edition of the Exchange was dedicated to the topic of “The role of the media in fostering intercultural dialogue, tolerance and mutual understanding: freedom of expression of the media and respect towards cultural and religious diversity”. The North-South Centre contributed in particular to the workshop on the place, image and discourse of women with religious and non-religious convictions in the media and to the workshop on the role of education to the media and to religions and non-religious convictions.

The NSC participated in the 2nd Mediterranean Citizen's Assembly "Crises and changes in the Mediterranean: citizenship in movement" held on 2 - 4 December in Tunis.

The North-South Centre participated in the 4th Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations, which took place in Doha, Qatar, from 11 to 13 December 2011. The Executive Director of the North-South Centre was one of the speakers of the round table on youth and development and the NSC also participated in the workshops on history teaching and intercultural education.

b. Women as agents of change in Mediterranean societies

The issue of women’s rights and role in the Mediterranean region has been at the heart of the thematic priorities of the North-South Centre since the launch of its Transmediterranean programme in 1994. The NSC organised the conference on “ Status and political participation: women as actors of Change in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”, which took place in Lisbon in April 2009, in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and with the support of the Luso-American Foundation. One of the main recommendations addressed to the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre was to propose programmes of parliamentary co-operation promoting the participation of women and men in the political, social and economical life.

In the continuity of its long standing commitments, the North-South Centre organised a second conference for political decision-makers and participants from Euro-Mediterranean countries in order to discuss the progress made regarding the situation and the role of women in the Euro-Mediterranean region in light of recent developments in the Arab countries. This conference, which took place in Rome on 24-25 October 2011, was organised with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Italian Parliament, under the theme “Women as Agents of Change in the South of the Mediterranean Region”. The Conference brought together representatives of international organisations, parliamentarians, civil society, journalists to discuss the role of women as agents of political, economical and private changes as well as the role of media as

instruments for the promotion of the role of women. **The conclusions** of the conference will lay the basis for a comprehensive set of activities to be implemented by the North-South Centre up from 2012 and identified as the “North-South Women’s Empowerment Process”.

c. North-South Prize

The Award Ceremony for the North-South Prize 2010 took place in Lisbon on 29 March (Assembly of the Republic) and the prize winners were Louise Arbour (Canada) and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva (Brazil). The Prize was awarded by the President of the Republic of Portugal, in the presence of the President of the Assembly of the Republic, the Secretary General and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Chair of the Executive Council of the North-South Centre and many other personalities. The event attracted a large media coverage and was a successful visibility and awareness-raising moment for the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre. In Portugal: 24 editions on TV channels, 23 newspapers (with 44 digital teasers online), 8 radio channels (with 15 different interventions), the national press agency (Agência Lusa) covered the event with 4 different articles and a large digital coverage was made on internet. At international level, both Brazilian TV and press covered the ceremony. A great number of articles were produced (France, Spain, USA, Canada, South America), as well as in national press agencies (France Presse, EFE, Agência Brasil, Angola Press, Xinhua and Prensa Latina).

The call for nominations for the 2011 North-South Prize was launched at the end of January, with a deadline of 15 July 2011. A total of 75 nominations were received, among which almost one third were presented by the North-South Centre stakeholders or previous North-South Prize winners. The jury of the Prize, which was made up of the members of the Bureau of the Executive Committee, met on 16 September in Strasbourg. On 2 November, the Executive Committee of North-South Centre confirmed that the Council of Europe North-South Prize 2011 would be awarded to Boris Tadic, President of the Republic of Serbia, for the North, and to Souhayr Belhassen (Tunisia), President of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) for the South. The Award Ceremony for the North-South Prize 2011 will take place in Lisbon on 27 March 2012.

d. Lisbon Forum

The Lisbon Forum 2011 was held on 3 – 4 November 2011 on the theme "The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal human rights real", bringing together some 200 participants from over 50 countries. The event benefited from the financial support of the European Commission and the government of Liechtenstein. In addition to the co-organisers, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the host organisation, the Aga Khan Development Network, many relevant international players participated in the forum, such as the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Union for the Mediterranean, the African Union,

UNESCO, the International Federation of Human Rights and the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network. It provided a unique opportunity to gather together government representatives, parliamentarians, local and regional elected representatives and members of civil society, in accordance with the "quadrilogue" principle that governs the functioning of the North-South Centre and thanks to the synergies developed with the annual meeting of the "focal points" of the Alliance of Civilizations at global level.

The discussions aimed both to identify common features that could be deemed characteristic of the "Arab Spring" and to determine the specificities and the differences between the countries that had experienced major political upheavals since early 2011. Particular emphasis was placed on three countries, regarded as positive examples of change: Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The plenary sessions made it possible to examine the political developments that had caused differing degrees of disruption throughout the Arab world, the relationship between democracy and development, the role of women as agents of change, the importance of citizenship for upholding and promoting human rights and the role of the media and of the social networks during and after the revolutions. Specific workshops were held to analyse in greater detail the situation in the three above-mentioned countries and consider the outlook for co-operation between these countries, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Alliance of Civilizations.

The conclusions of the Lisbon Forum 2011 “identified a number of “key elements which could form a foundation for future action” of the NSC.

5. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

According to the budget approved by the Executive Council in November 2010, the total of receipts in 2011 amounted to € 468 500. Since January, the Centre received a financial support from Azerbaijan (€ 000), a contribution from Liechtenstein (€16 000) and €15 000 from Luxembourg related to a contribution from 2010. In addition the Centre received € 500 in fees from participants attending training courses. These additional receipts have increased the budget to € 491 401 (Table I). Furthermore, as a result of the development of partnerships with other organisations, the Centre has been able to mobilise additional resources through “in kind” contributions or co-organised activities, which can be estimated at €309 582 (Table II).

Following the adoption of a new statutory resolution, and given the fact that the former Committee of Representatives of Members ceased to exist, the 2010 financial statements and budgetary management Accounts of the North-South Centre were for the first time approved by the Representatives of the Member States within the North-South Centre Executive Committee, by written procedure. Albeit, different views have been expressed on the use of the 2010 net surplus (€46 442,93), it was agreed to follow the recommendation made by the Budget Committee during its September meeting and give apportionment of the surplus among the Member States. At the same time, the Chair encouraged those Member States which are in a position to do so, to relinquish their share of the surplus, as indicated in the appendix to resolution NSC/EC(2011)13, at the disposal of the Centre to finance future activities².

Concerning the projects run in 2011 with the financial support of the European Commission, 86% of the funds available for the third year of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) and 95% of the total of the funds allocated in the special account for activities under the Euro-African dimension of the COE/EU Youth Partnership were spent. The request for an extension of the JMA programme in 2012 and the payment by the EC of an additional contribution of €180 000 received the approval of DG DEVCO D-2 Civil Society and Local Authorities. In addition, the project proposal submitted by the NSC for a second phase of the JMA, that will run from 2013 till 2015 (€300 000 per year), has entered into the phase of the decision making process by the relevant EU decision-making bodies after being accepted by the Director of DG DEVCO D-2.

On the expenditure side, 99 % of the total funds available in the BL were spent, including the funds on the programme budgetary line alone (article 0000264), resulting in a estimated underspent in 2011 of €12 456.

² As a consequence, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Serbia and Switzerland accepted to leave their share at the disposal of the Centre, which represented a total amount of €12 529.

TABLE I – Breakdown of incoming resources

Obligatory contribution from member states	879 200,00
Voluntary contribution from Portugal for NSC’s rent	169 300,00
Contributions from the European Commission	400 000,00
Bank interest	8 400,00
Voluntary Contributions	34 501,00
TOTAL	1 491 401,00

TABLE II – Breakdown of External support via “in kind” contributions or co-organised activities

Type of Support	Organisation / Entity	Amount
in kind / co-org	IPJ - Instituto Português da Juventude	795,00
in kind / co-org	Portuguese Parliament	2 400,00
in-kind / co-org	a)Italian Parliament, b)Italian Ministry of Equality, c) PACE	21 500,00
in kind / co-org	Partner organisations of the University on Youth and Development	108 000,00
in kind	Spanish Government (INJUVE)	124 420,00
co-org	University on Youth and Development – partners contribution	47 000,00
co-org	Agha Khan Development Network	4 547,00
In-kind	Fundação Bracara Augusta - 2012 Braga Youth Capital	880,00
	TOTAL	309 542,00

Appendix 1

COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

*

Bureau

member

³ Substitute members: Mr Michael Connarty (U.K.) and Ms Maryvonne Blondin (France).

⁴ Substitute members: Mr Charles Goerens (Luxembourg) and Ms Gabriele Zimmer (Germany).

⁵ Substitute members: Mrs Dubravka Suica (Croatia) and Mrs Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania).

Appendix 2 - ORGANIGRAMME OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE SECRETARIAT DECEMBER 2011

