



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

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2013 Report of Activities

Rua de São Caetano, 32
1200-829 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel.: +351 21 358 40 30
Fax: +351 21 358 40 72
www.nscentre.org

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2. ACRONYMS

ADYNE - African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe
AEYP - Africa-Europe Youth Platform
AEYCO – Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Online Resource Centre
AUYD - African University on Youth and Development
CoE – Council of Europe
EMWN Euro-Med Women Network
EU – European Union,
JMA – Joint Management Agreement
MedUni - Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship
NIYOA - Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa
NSC – North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
NSPEW North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women
PACE Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
PYU - Pan-African Youth Union
UYD - University on Youth and Development
YFJ - European Youth Forum

3. 2013 AT A GLANCE

An open ad hoc working party of the Committee of Ministers (GT- CNS) conducted a strategic reflection on the future of the North-South Centre, holding four meetings: on 17 January, on 21 February, on 22 March and on 19 April. The Executive Committee substantially contributed to this exercise. As a result of this work, the Committee of Ministers' Deputies endorsed the GT-CNS Report at their 1171st meeting on 29 May 2013 and invited the North-South Centre to implement the orientations identified in the report. The Committee of Ministers entrusted the Centre with a mission in the framework of the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy and in agreement and coordination with the activities developed by other sectors of the Organisation. In this context, the objective of the NSC is to contribute to democratic processes, mainly through education to global democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue. The main target is civil society, in particular youth and women. The Centre offers neighbouring regions and beyond a unique platform for dialogue and structured cooperation between all dimensions of the « *quadrilogue* »: the governments, the parliaments, the local authorities and the civil society. It acts to promote the principles and standards of the Council of Europe, through comprehensive multilateral actions of regional scope. The Centre continues to implement activities in the framework of the "Joint Management Agreement" signed with the European Commission in November 2008 and renewed until 2015, with the aim to develop a culture of global democratic citizenship. An extension of this programme to neighbouring regions could be considered as from 2014.

The Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee chaired the meetings of the GT- CNS meetings, and from 28 June he assumed the position of the Chair *a.i.* of the Executive Committee. He was elected Chair of the Executive Committee on 9 December 2013.

Two Bureau meetings were held in Spring 2013. At its meeting on 21 March, the Bureau approved the draft programme of activities for 2013 – 2014 (presented by the Executive Committee to the GT-CNS on 22 March), welcoming the comments from the PACE and the document presented by the Chair of the GT-CNS; had an exchange of views with the new Executive Director and discussed the implementation of the 2013 Programme of activities. At its meeting on 21 May, held in connection to the North-South Prize Ceremony 2012, the Bureau discussed new rules for the North-South Prize, formulating recommendations to the Executive Committee. The North-South Prize Jury met on 9 December in Strasbourg and selected the NSP winners for 2013: His Highness Aga Khan and Aga Khan Development Network, as well as Ms Suzanne Jabbour, President of the Executive Committee of International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

The Executive Committee held its 6th meeting on 28 June in Strasbourg. It took note of the GT-CNS report, its strategic priorities and its implications on the NSC Programme of activities 2013; adopted the revised Programme of activities 2013; entrusted the Secretariat to formulate a proposal of regulations for the North-South Prize, in light of decisions adopted at the meeting; approved the outline and the dates for Lisbon Forum 2013 and approved a draft response to two recent PACE recommendations.

The Executive Committee held its 7th meeting on 6 November in Lisbon. It adopted the biennial budget of the Partial Agreement for 2014-2015, postponed the adoption of the programme of activities for 2014-2015 to its next meeting in Strasbourg on 9 December and adopted the new Regulations for the North-South Prize. At its 8th meeting, the Executive Committee elected its Chair (Jean-Marie Heydt), its Vice Chair (H.E. Karima Benyaich, Ambassador of Morocco to Portugal), its Bureau; adopted the NSC Programme of Activities 2014-2015, evaluated the Lisbon Forum 2013 and its outcomes and put an end to the NSC Think Tank, expressing its appreciation for the quality work delivered by its members.

The Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe sent a letter to the Secretary General on 8 February announcing the withdrawal of Iceland from the NSC as of 31 December 2013.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra informed the Secretary General by a letter of 28 March of the accession of Andorra to the North-South Centre. The accession became effective on 15 April 2013.

General overview

The present report follows the lines of the revised Programme of activities 2013, adopted on 28 June in light of the GT-CNS Report. The activities marked in bold are part of the GT-CNS Report.

In the framework of the 1st Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship, the NSC organised three activities introduced by the GT-CNS Report:

Round table “New Media and Youth Participation” (2 July); Exchange of experiences with civil society actors on democratic transformations (3 July) as well as the report of the Round table “New Media and Youth Participation” (3 July). The report from Exchange of experiences with civil society actors on democratic transformations as well as the report of the Round table “New Media and Youth Participation” have been made available on the NSC website. Moreover the Lisbon Forum 2013 was held on the topic “Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean” (6-7 November). The Report of the Lisbon Forum 2013 is available on the NSC website in English, French and Arabic.

4. NSC WORKING METHODOLOGY AND PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

In line with the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy, the work of the North-South Centre develops through two lines of action:

- Political dialogue (and experience sharing) on democratic governance fundamentals with South Mediterranean institutional (and civil society) stakeholders;
- Awareness-raising and competence development on global democratic citizenship (for civil society stakeholders, in particular educators, youth leaders and women) in Europe and in South Mediterranean countries.

The North-South Centre brings together decision-makers and practitioners in working processes promoting democracy, good governance, human rights and responsibilities. Through international forums, national or regional seminars, workshops, residential and online training courses, it facilitates a multi stakeholder working environment resulting in recommendations, plans of action or pedagogical tools.

These working settings privilege cross-generational and cross-cultural dialogue as well as *peer* learning. They build on an inclusive and consultative process associating stakeholders and partners in the formulation and framing of the Centre activities and tools, (beneficiaries being full actors in the development of such activities and pedagogical tools).

As to its capacity-building activities transversal to its Youth and Women programmes, the Centre's work builds on the concept of global education, a pedagogical approach which methodology and competence framework aims at developing a participatory citizenship aware of global challenges and opportunities.

The knowledge sharing of the Centre activities' outcomes and of its pedagogical tools is facilitated through an interactive website and networking mechanism, as well as through conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses in Europe and beyond.

5. YOUTH CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

The objective of the Youth Co-operation Programme of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) 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 consists of 3 main dimensions:

1. A Euro Mediterranean dimension that includes a new capacity-building programme that will continue to be developed in 2014 focused on “Structured Participation in Democratic Processes”.
2. The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship that gathers the different Universities in a coherent and articulated system and brings together relevant youth organisations and institutions working in regional co-operation processes, global education and global youth work.
3. The Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation activities in the framework of the Joint Management Agreement (JMA) signed with the European Commission (2013-2015). This agreement includes the organisation of training activities, an Online Resource Centre (www.aeyco.com) a Seed Funding grant programme and the meetings of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform.

Euro-Mediterranean dimension

In light of the new mission, the NSC organised three activities, in the framework of the first Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni):

- Pilot activity on “Structured Participation on Democratic Processes” - Exchange of experiences with civil society actors on democratic transformations, conducted in co-operation with Forum Nazionale Giovani (FNG), with participation of experts from Serbia, Slovenia, Poland, Ukraine, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom and other NSC experts as well as all participants of the FNG activity (in total 35 participants). The main conclusions of the exchange, as has been proven by experience, is the importance of a solid structural base civil society organisations so they can effectively promote their agenda. Exchange of experience and best practice with national and international counterparts was highlighted as particularly important as a means to strengthen civil society. It was stressed that simple consultation of civil society is not enough, in order for their involvement to be effective, real participation in decision-making processes at national and local levels is necessary. Involving civil society, and especially youth, helps to open up the system and promote transparency. It is an essential element of “participatory democracy”.

- Round table on “New Media and Youth Participation”, conducted in coordination with EU-CoE youth partnership, with participation of experts from Belgium, France, FYROM, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and other NSC experts as well as all participants of the University (120 persons). During this round table the experts representing various dimensions of governance (“quadrilogue”) and the participants of the University addressed opportunities, challenges and risks brought by new media for the exercise of democratic citizenship by young people.

The main conclusions of the roundtable point to using new media as a tool for improving youth participation; the need to take legal and institutional measures and to support capacity building for effective youth participation and improved dialogue; the importance of ensuring the freedom of expression on line, while adequately responding to challenges brought by Internet, including cybercrime, terrorism and hate speech; to promote a system of self-regulation by users – a code of rules and its effective application; to encourage the use of the new media by organised civil society groups as a tool of contributing to designing, monitoring and ensuring the transparency of public policies; to improve dialogue and institute a clear framework for consultation with and co-participation of the civil society at the national and local levels.

- Joint Programme awareness raising session on Istanbul Convention (see below under Women section).

The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship

Created in 2011, the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship, facilitated by the NSC, has been providing an exceptional space for young people and youth organisations around the world to meet, debate, build their capacity and cooperate on youth policy related issues. Consisting of the UYD-University on Youth and Development (Spain), the University of Participation and Citizenship, the African University on Youth and Development and the new Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (Tunisia), the Network is facilitated by the NSC and includes, youth organisations and governmental institutions involved in the preparation, organisation and follow-up of the Universities. In 2011, the partners of the Network agreed on the joint theme for the 2013 round of Universities: “Democratic Citizenship”. The main dimensions of the debate were education, media and participation in decision-making processes.

Within this framework, the NSC organised, in collaboration with other partners, three universities in 2013:

- 5th African University on Youth and Development (AUJD) – Mindelo, Cabo Verde – 3-10 May
The 5th AUJD was organised by NSC, together with the Cabo Verde Youth Federation (FCJ), the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ-Portugal), the Youth Forum of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (FJ-CPLP), the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe (ADYNE), in partnership with the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA) and the United Nations in Cape Verde. It was supported by JMA between the European Commission - EuropeAid Co-operation Office and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Government of Cape Verde, the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and the Portuguese Co-operation Agency. In the framework of the University there was a roundtable on “Democratic Citizenship” and its conclusions were a contribution for the final declaration presented in Mollina, in the 14th edition of the University on Youth and development.

- 1st Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) – Hammamet, Tunisia – 1-8 July
The first MedUni was held at the International Cultural Centre in Hammamet and it was organised by NSC in co-operation with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia and in partnership with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership, the Italian National Youth Forum and other youth organisations.

The University aimed at promoting youth work and youth participation in the Mediterranean region, of fostering political mainstreaming of the youth related issues and youth policy development in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean and reinforcing the capacity-building of different “quadrilogue” actors in the field of youth at both regional and national levels. It also included a pilot-activity on “Structured Participation on Democratic Processes” that will be further developed in the 2014 edition of this University.

- 14th University on Youth and Development – Mollina, Spain - 22-29 September

It was jointly organised by NSC, the Spanish Government, YFJ, the Spanish Youth Council, the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other international youth organisations. Since its first edition in 2000, the University takes place once a year bringing together representatives of youth organisations and youth movements from all over the world who gather in CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre; Mollina, Spain) to discuss, train and be trained as well as to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda. A final declaration on the topic of “Democratic Citizenship”, based on contributions from the sister Universities, was presented in the closing session.

Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation activities

In the framework of the JMA signed in September 2012 between the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the European Commission for a period of three years (2013-2015), several activities in the field of the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation were implemented in 2013, in collaboration with various key institutions and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe:

- 4th round of the Seed Funding Grant

The programme is a grant allocation intended to promote Africa-Europe youth exchanges, networking and political participation of non-state actors. It aims at funding initiatives which provide the possibility for youth leaders, youth workers, experts and trainers to participate in Euro-African Youth activities and youth exchanges projects. The Centre received 70 applications from 32 countries (46 from Africa and 24 from Europe) and 11 projects were selected. Thematic priorities were identified in the call, accordingly with the thematic focus agreed in the framework of the Africa Europe Youth Platform (AEYP): Youth Employment and MDGs – Beyond 2015. In 2013, the grants ranged between EUR 800 and 1300 per project/organisation and granted projects were implemented throughout 2013 in various countries in Europe and Africa.

- The Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation Online Resource Centre (AEYCO)-

AEYCO Resource Center (www.aeyco.com) was launched in May 2013, in the framework of the 5th African University on Youth and Development and it aims to promote continuous update and monitoring, transparency, knowledge sharing, capacity-building and a community of practices for the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation process.

- 9th Africa-Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations in the framework of the 5th African University on Youth and Development - Mindelo, Cabo Verde – 3-10 May

It was organised by the North-South Centre in partnership with YFJ, PYU and NIYOA. During this training, 25 leaders of youth organisations from across Africa and Europe were trained. This edition focused on getting acquainted with the overall framework of the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation and the Africa-EU Partnership and with assessing the implementation of the thematic priorities of the co-operation.

- 4th Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe in the framework of the 1st Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) - Hammamet, Tunisia – (1-8 July 2013)
Organised by NSC in co-operation with the ADYNE, the course aimed at strengthening the role of young people particularly youth leaders and youth workers from the African Diaspora active in youth organisations in host countries or leading African Diaspora youth groups/movements.; It further aimed at empowering and promoting the capacity to organise, take action and foster their political participation in Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation and Global Youth Work. This edition focused on networking, advocacy and social media and counted with the participation of 15 young people.

- 2nd meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform - Brussels, Belgium October/November
Organised in partnership with the YFJ, PYU, ADYNE, NIYOA and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, it was a unique opportunity to follow-up the discussion in Addis Ababa (1st AEYP meeting, November 2012), to identify a concrete action plan for the reinforcement of partnership and to launch the preparations towards the 3rd Africa-Europe Youth Leaders' Summit (to be held in parallel with the 4th EU-Africa Summit, Spring 2014). The main outcome of the meeting was the setting up of a Steering Group that will coordinate the organisation of the youth summit.

Other activities

Conference “Youth of the Portuguese Speaking Countries”, organised by the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP)- 16-18 January, Lisbon-Portugal

“Non-Formal Education Meeting: the way towards active citizenship”, organised by the Portuguese National Youth Council – 27 April, Coimbra-Portugal

Related Statistics

- Network of Universities

Concerning the activities of the Network of Universities, the NSC estimates that a total of 440 participants were gathered for the three events:

- The 5th AUVD gathered 120 participants and had 4 activities/meetings.
- The 14th UVD gathered 200 participants and had 13 activities/meetings.
- The 1st MedUni gathered 120 participants and had 7 activities/meetings

- Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation activities

AEYCO - The number of unique visitors increased from 145 in April to 793 in August, reaching a total number of 5234 unique visitors in 2013. Similarly, the number of visits increased from 300 in April to 1451 in December, making a total of 8629 visits in 2013 and the total number of hits was 170,559.10

SEED Funding - In total, from the projects implemented by the 10 organisations, 270 young people benefited directly from the 2013 funding scheme. As to geographic location, 128 of the funding beneficiaries were from African countries, 20 from European countries and 122 from unspecified provenance. As for gender balance, 49% of the participants were male and 51% were female. The North-South Centre also estimates that at least 2327 people from Africa and Europe benefited indirectly from the 2013 Seed Funding projects.

Meeting of the Africa-Europe Youth Platform – In total, 29 participants took part in this meeting. As to geographic location, 9 participants were from African countries and 20 from European countries. As for gender balance, 16 participants were female and 13 were male.

9th Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations – In total, 24 participants took part in this training. As to geographic location, 11 participants were from African countries and 13 from European countries. As for gender balance, 13 participants were female and 11 were male.

4th Training Course for Youth Leaders African Diaspora Living in Europe – In total, 23 participants took part in this training. As to geographic location, 14 participants were from African countries and 9 from European countries. As for gender balance, 14 participants were female and 11 were male.

Follow-up activities

For 2014-2015, the main focus will be the further development of the Euro-Mediterranean dimension of the programme in cooperation with the Youth Department and the EU-CoE youth partnership and youth organisations. A first step would be the pilot training activity on Structured Participation within the framework of the 2nd edition of the MedUni.

6. WOMEN AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE PROGRAMME

NORTH-SOUTH PROCESS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND EURO-MED WOMEN NETWORK

Together with the role played by young people, the part played by women in the democratic development of societies is one of the critical issues of our times. Following the international conference organized in Rome in 2011 (24 -25 October 2011), the North- South Centre launched in partnership with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, **the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women (NSPEW)** with the aim to promote to the empowerment of women in the southern Mediterranean countries, with a particular focus on Morocco and Tunisia, beneficiary countries of the Council of Europe Policy towards its immediate neighbourhood.

The North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women integrated the recommendations adopted in the Conference of Rome as results in an action plan with the objective of providing a strategic framework to its work on women's rights made since 1994. The main recommendations included as results:

- 1- The creation of a Euro-Med Women Network to facilitate the exchange of best practices, initiatives on empowerment strategies;
- 2- Activities promoting Council of Europe's values and standards related to gender equality in southern Mediterranean countries;
- 3- Capacity building and training activities organised for young women from the targeted countries (Morocco and Tunisia) to support their empowerment;
- 4- The organisation of an annual international conference to identify new challenges and to monitors the results achieved;

During 2013, the North-South Centre focused its activities on the empowerment of women with the aim of contributing to the reinforcement of the role of women in political life and to enhance awareness raising and capacities of four actors of governance, the quadrilogue, on preventing violence against women. These activities have been organised within the framework of the new mission entrusted to the North-South Centre by the Committee on Ministers (May 2013).

Awareness-raising

Conference-debate “Women’s rights and religious freedom: incompatible elements?”

20 May 2013

In the framework of 2012 North-South Prize Ceremony Award, the NSC organised in co-operation with the Diplomatic Institute of the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in the Parliament of Portugal, a conference-debate on women’s rights and religion with the presence of Asma Jahangir and Monica Hausser, both 2012 North-South Prize laureates.

More than 60 participants from civil society, media, academia, diplomatic corps and academia attended the debate. The North-South Centre disseminated the debate through its social networks (Facebook and twitter).

The concept paper and the audio of the debate are available in the [NSC’s website](#). The conclusions of this debate have been presented in the framework of other activities on religion’s rights were the NSC has participated as the CoE Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (2-3 September in Yerevan).

Session on “North-South Centre’s contribution to promoting the principles of the Istanbul Convention” (CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) 03 July 2013

An awareness-raising session on the Istanbul Convention (CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence) was held in the framework of the 1st Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship “Democratic Citizenship” at the International Cultural Centre – Hammamet (Tunisia) from 1 to 8 July 2013.

This session attended by approximately 30 persons gave place to an in-depth discussion on the issue of violence against women, the mechanisms offered by the CoE Istanbul Convention and the ways in which these mechanisms can bring tangible results in practice. Brochures on the Istanbul Convention in Arabic, English and French were distributed among University’s participants.

A follow-up will be provided by the NSC in the framework of the session on the Istanbul Convention which will be organised by the NSC and the PACE in 2014.

Euro-Med Women Network: platform for sharing best practices and promoting dialogue.

Annually

The NSC has published, at least, a monthly newsletter since January 2013 to the more than 600’s Euro-Med Women Network members. The platform of the Euro-Med Women Network, weekly updated with news and initiatives, has received thousands of consultations since the beginning of 2013.

Online Debate on Women and Religion

6 May – 16 May 2013

The Euro-Med Women Network held an online exploratory debate on the topic of Women and Religion in the light of recent events that have been taking place throughout the Southern-Mediterranean. This exploratory debate was a follow-up of the workshop held at the Lisbon Forum 2012 on “The Arab Season: from challenges to changes” (3-4 December 2012), where participants engaged in debates on the discourse underlining the connection between restrictive interpretations of religion and a degeneration of women’s rights in a workshop dedicated to the centrality of women in the transition to democracy by giving a special focus to women and their role in the process of reforms launched after the Arab Season. The discussions held in the online debate provided a rich background to the potential discussions that will take place in the framework of the national workshops that will be organised in Morocco (28 March 2014) and Tunisia (17 March 2014). The conclusions from this online debate provided a rich background to the debate that will be held between the 2012 North-South Prize Laureates next 20 May 2013 in the framework of the North-South Prize Ceremony. Several young participants from Algerian, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia and from diverse expertise, opinions and background participated in the online debate. Their invaluable contribution provided rich discussions on key issues and questions pertinent to current context in the southern Mediterranean region. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network online platform](#).

Capacity-building

Training on "Religions and International Human Right Law"

From 8 to 26 July 2013

The NSC supported the participation of 7 young women from Morocco and Tunisia in the 44th Annual study session of the International Institute of Human Rights of Strasbourg (IIDH). The NSC received 47 applications and applicants were selected on the basis of their academic background, experience and involvement in human rights and gender issues. The evaluation forms received show an important positive feedback from the beneficiaries regarding the impact of the training. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network website](#).

Policy Development

National workshop in Tunisia “Participation of women in political life: key factor for dialogue and democratic consolidation”

Planned: 17 March 2014

The national workshop in Tunisia, initially planned for 2013, will be organised in partnership with the Centre of Arab Woman for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and in cooperation with Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe. The workshop will be an opportunity to bring together “quadrilogue” representatives from these countries in order to improve women’s participation in political life in the political context of Tunisia. The outcomes of the workshop will feed the international conference planned in May 2014 in Morocco. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network website](#).

National workshops in Morocco: “Enhancing access of women to political life in the Mediterranean: challenges and opportunities. The example of Morocco”

Planned: 28 March 2014

The national workshop in Morocco, initially planned for 2013, will be organised in partnership with the Moroccan association “Voix des Femmes of Tetouan” and with the collaboration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe. The workshop will be an opportunity to bring together “quadrilogue” representatives from these countries in order to improve women’s participation in political life. The outcomes of the workshop will feed the international conference planned in June 2014 in Morocco. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network website](#).

3rd International Conference of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women (NSPEW), Rabat (Morocco).

Planned: June 2014

The 3rd international Conference of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women, initially planned for 2013, will be organised in partnership with the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the collaboration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe as well as other civil society organisations from southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. The international conference, focused on women’s participation in political life, will provide to quadrilogue representatives the opportunity to analyse the recommendations realised by the participants of both national workshops in Tunisia and Morocco. The outcomes of the conference will identify new actions to be implemented in the framework of the NSPEW and the Euro-Med Women network. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network website](#).

2013 - NSC external contributions & partnerships

Colloquy on women in monotheist religions, 27 May 2013 (Paris) organised by the Observatoire d’études géopolitiques (OEG) in cooperation with UNESCO. For more information, visit the [Euro-Med Women Network website](#).

EURO-MED WOMEN NETWORK STATISTICS (January-December 2013)

Topic	Hits
Presentation of the project and objectives	4009
Documents of interest / Resource Centre	2597
Practical Information	1855
Official Partners	1601
Send us your news	1351
No Hate Speech Movement	969

More on the NSC Women Programme

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Intercultural_dialogue_en.asp

North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women and Euro-Med Women Network:

<http://www.nswomennetwork.org>

Intercultural Dialogue

Workshop “Intercultural dialogue through History Teaching: best practices and challenges” (30 May) and a Meeting of the Global Network of Historians and History Educators (31 May).

In the framework of the World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue 2013, (29 May - 1 June 2013) in Baku (Azerbaijan), the North-South Centre organised a Workshop “Intercultural dialogue through History Teaching: best practices and challenges” (30 May) and a Meeting of the Global Network of Historians and History Educators (31 May). These events, held in cooperation with the Government of Azerbaijan and EUROCLIO “the European Association of History Educators”, provided to the NSC the opportunity to follow-up the history teaching results. Both activities allowed an exchange of good practices and provided an opportunity to analyse challenges and obstacles in teaching history as a tool for intercultural dialogue. Multiperspectivity and inclusive history approaches of the Council of Europe were promoted and concrete recommendations for change were formulated and shared with the CoE History teaching division.

The meeting of the Global Network of Historians and History Educators permitted identifying the added value of the network and finding a new impetus, structure and priorities to its activities. In overall more than 60 participants contributed to the events, including high level officials (Mr. Mikhayil Jabbarov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan and Mr. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan) and key partner institutions in the fields of history teaching and intercultural dialogue (incl. EUROCLIO, IRCICA, UNESCO...) Participants originated from the CoE Member States (incl. Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine), CoE Neighbourhood countries (incl. Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestine) and other countries throughout the world.

The organisation of both events provided a good visibility for the NSC, member of the Task Force in charge of the conceptualisation of the bi-annual forums, and the CoE in general.

2013 - NSC external contributions & partnerships

CoE Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, 2-3 September in Yerevan

The NSC contributed to the 2013 CoE Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (2-3 September in Yerevan) through the participation of the Chair a.i. in the opening and of the Executive Director as moderator of the session on “Freedom of Religion in today’s world: challenges and guaranties”.

Hearing: “Identities and diversity within intercultural societies” of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 25 October 2013.

The NSC Executive Director contributed to the hearing “Identities and diversity within intercultural societies” of the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media held in the Assembly of Republic – Portuguese Parliament on 25 October (in view of the report and a PACE resolution on the subject).

7. GLOBAL EDUCATION

Global Education in the North-South Centre

The North-South Centre's awareness-raising and competence development activities in the field of global democratic citizenship build on the concept of global education, a pedagogical approach which methodology and competency framework aims at developing a participatory citizenship aware of global challenges and opportunities. Global Education defines a set of competences for citizens to acquire the knowledge and skills to understand, participate in and interact critically within our global society. It builds on recommendations and outcomes of expert conferences organised by NSC and on CoE core values: democracy, human rights and rule of law. Global Education is transversal to the Centre's awareness-raising, capacity-building and policy-making activities.

Awareness-raising

The North-South Centre has developed since 2000 a networking mechanism for practitioners from Council of Europe member states to share strategies and practices for increased and improved global education. This networking approach is supported by the Global Education Week, an annual awareness-raising kick-off event to encourage global education practice in formal and non-formal educational settings in Europe and beyond. The Global Education Week is coordinated with the assistance of the Global Education Week Network coordinators from CoE member States and supported by an interactive webpage, and Facebook page as well as an electronic newsletter.

This networking process is annually evaluated during the Global Education Week evaluation seminar, a meeting for the network to share strategies for increasing and improving global education. During this seminar the theme of the Global Education Week for the following year is chosen.

Global Education Week - 16-24 November 2013

The 15th annual European Global Education Week (GEW) took place on 16-24 November under the motto "Go for a sustainable life style!" encouraging awareness-raising actions and performances in schools; organisation of training courses, thematic conferences, seminars, workshops; campaigns; talk shows; and youth exchange programmes to tackle the issue of sustainability.

The compilation of international GE practices covering different dimensions of GE (conflict prevention, gender, human rights, intercultural dialogue, peace education and sustainable development) are accessible from NSC webpage.

In 2014 the Global Education Week will take place from 15 to 23 November under the theme of Food Security.

GEW network seminar – Brussels, 25-26 November 2013

The seminar gathered 25 participants. National coordinators assessed the GEW, in particular: GE pedagogical tools & support mechanisms; communication strategy; successful activities and constraints; target groups and interaction between different target groups; advocacy and outreach; institutional support; and interaction with local actors such as local authorities, local media, and local business. The theme of 2014 edition Food Security was chosen.

Capacity-building

The Global Education Guidelines, a pedagogical handbook for educators to understand and implement global education, complemented with the global education on-line training courses, offered three times a year since (Spring, Summer and Autumn) covering the Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue dimension of GE, and the global education & youth residential training for trainers, constitute the NSC capacity-building dimension in the field of Global Education.

The four-week on-line training courses involve 10 hours of learning per week, reading course material, on-line discussions and participation in interactive exercises. The courses include coached interactive individual and group exercises, a discussion forum, a glossary and a virtual library. They target practitioners in the field of education and development, teachers, social and youth workers, as well as policy-makers, civil servants and local and regional authorities.

The residential training for trainers focuses on competences' development of youth workers/trainers and tackles issues such as the conceptual and methodological approach of GE, e-learning, and the different dimensions (pedagogical, logistical, political and financial aspects) that should be considered when designing, organising, implementing, empowering and sustaining a global education activity.

Global Education Guidelines

Versions: English, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Slovenian and Spanish versions available on-line on NSC website and in paper.

In 2013 the GEG has been translated in German and Arab.

In 2014 the GEG will be translated in Bulgarian, Greek and Montenegrin.

On-line training-course-courses

3 courses on Intercultural Dialogue (February; August; November 2013)

2 courses on Human Rights Education (March and October 2013)

A total of 1434 applications were received for the 5 on-line courses of which 1129 for the Intercultural dimension and 305 for the Human Rights dimension. A total of 266 participants took part in the 5 courses. (171 for the intercultural dimension and 95 for human rights dimension) of which 168 (63%) were from Europe; 71 (27%) from Africa and 27 (10%) from other regions.

A call has been launched in 2013 on NSC website for the creation of a third topic, Democratic Citizenship which pilot course is planned for 2014 completing a cycle of 6 yearly e-courses, two courses for each topic, Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights, and Intercultural Dialogue.

Residential training for trainers GE & Youth – Mollina, 22-29 September

This training course gathered 23 participants (5 from Africa, 13 from Europe, 5 from other regions) and had two main aims: to empower young people to further support the implementation of the GE online training courses of the Global Education Programme of NSC-CoE, as well as to develop competences of participants that are or will be actively involved in the implementation of the Universities.

The evaluation reports of the e-courses are accessible on-line.

Policy framework

The NSC awareness-raising and capacity-building activities in the field of GE are accompanied by set of national and regional seminars for the promotion and institutional recognition of GE, within the frame established by the strategic recommendations of the 2nd European Congress on Global Education (Lisbon 2012). These seminars gather formal and non-formal educators, guests from Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians, local authorities, academia and media representatives.

From the 1st January to 31st December 2013, one GE Kick-off seminar in Montenegro and two regional seminars, for the Visegrad countries and for the South-East Europe and Mediterranean countries, analysed from a national or regional perspective the Lisbon Congress recommendations in the following areas: 1) national strategy development and implementation; 2) curricular reform; 3) continuing professional development of educators; 4) quality support and monitoring; 5) campaigning and outreach.

Kick-off seminar: GE policy development in Montenegro

Podgorica, 31 May 2013

The seminar was co-organised with Forum MNE, Montenegrin Youth Organisation, and attended by 46 participants. GE fundamentals and its inclusion in the curricula in the light of Montenegrin educational reform were discussed through three workshops: GE and formal education, GE and non-formal education and GE and media.

Regional Seminar: GE policy development in the Visegrad Countries

Budapest, 5-6 September 2013

The seminar was co-organised with HAND-Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid. 67 participants assessed through workshops how global education has developed in the five areas of work covered by the Lisbon Congress recommendations. They measured the outcomes of the GE national strategies adopted by the Czech Republic and Slovakia and lessons to be learned, and identified issues to be prioritised until the 3rd GE Congress in 2015. Guest speakers from Austria and Finland shared respectively experiences in the field of GE policy-making and GE conceptualisation.

Regional Seminar: GE policy development in South East European and Mediterranean countries
Ljubljana, 4-5 December 2013

The seminar was organised in partnership with SLOGA-Slovenian Global Action, under the motto “TIA – There Is an Alternative”. The seminar, involving 73 participants, opened the discussion on the role of global education in the context of crisis and broadened the debate within the five areas of work covered by the Lisbon Congress recommendations. Guest speakers from Austria, Croatia, Romania and United-Kingdom shared inputs about campaigning & outreach; sustainability through education and changing the development model; the global teacher; and the GE concept.

In 2014 the regional seminar for Baltic countries and the kick-off seminars in “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Croatia are planned.

2013 - NSC external contributions & partnerships

- Andorran High level meeting “Competences for a culture of democracy and intercultural dialogue: a political challenge and values” (Andorra, 7–8 February);
- British Council “Rethinking European Schools for the Future-Connecting Classrooms Europe” (Lisbon 18-19 March);
- Anna Lindh Foundation Mediterranean Forum: “Citizens for the Mediterranean” (Marseille 4-7 April) & drafting of ALF Handbook on Education for Intercultural Citizenship for Educators in the Euro-Med region;
- European Development Education Multistakeholder group meeting (Dublin 16 May);
- UNESCO Technical Consultation on Global Citizenship Education (Seoul, 9-10 September). Session on Conceptual, Definitional and Measurement Issues and drafting of the outcome document Global Citizenship Education: an Emerging Perspective;
- CoE Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat: drafting report on identities and diversity presented at the parliamentary hearing (Lisbon Assembly of the Republic, 25 October). The NSC Secretariat has in particular advised on the issue of competencies to engage in intercultural societies and global citizenship;
- CoE-EU Youth partnership: follow-up to the Intercultural Competences Indicators meeting.

Statistics (netstats.coe.in, January-December 2013)

WEBSITE

Downloads	Full download	Partial download
Global Education Guidelines (GEG)	16 800	20 507
GEG/Italian	8 783	10 182
GEG/French	6 334	51 836
GEG/Portuguese	5 922	53 705
GEG/Spanish	4 954	49 602

Webpages

	Hits
Global Education programme webpage	6 154
Global Education Guidelines webpage	2 700
Global Education Week webpage	2 188
Global Education on-line training courses webpage	2 132

PUBLICATIONS

Global Education Guidelines hard copies (en/fr/pt/sp): 3880 copies distributed (2011-13)

More on the NSC GE programme

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/ge_EN.asp

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/ge_FR.asp

Global Education national & regional seminars

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA_Education_EN.asp

Global Education on-line training-courses

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GE-Guidelines/GlobalEducation_on-lineTC_intro_en.asp

Global Education Week 2013

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/GEW/0GEW2013_en.asp#TopOfPage

Global Education Congress website - <http://www.gecongress2012.org/>

8. MAIN FLAGSHIP EVENTS: NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE AND LISBON FORUM

North-South Prize

- The 2012 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe was awarded to Dr. Monika Hauser (Italy) and Mrs Asma Jahangir (Pakistan). Monika Hauser is the director of the women's aid association Medica Mondiale and has developed since 1992 a remarkable work for the defence of women's rights and integrity especially in war and post-war crisis zones. Mrs Jahangir is a leading Pakistani lawyer, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan and recognised human rights activist, who spent her career working both in Pakistan and internationally to prevent the persecution of religious minorities, women, and exploitation of children.

- The Ceremony of the North-South Prize 2012 took place in Lisbon on 21 May, in the Portuguese Parliament. The high-level participation included the President of the Republic of Portugal, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the President of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic, as well as a significant number of official representatives and the diplomatic corps. In the framework of the Ceremony, a debate on the theme "Women's rights and religious freedom: incompatible elements?" was organised on the 20 May, open to the general public. Both laureates presented their experiences and views on the subject. The event was organised in co-operation with the Diplomatic Institute of the Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs and with the support of the Portuguese Parliament. More than 60 participants from civil society, media, academia, diplomatic corps and academia attended the debate. The North-South Centre disseminated the debate through its social networks (facebook and twitter). For more information: Resources (concept paper, audio).

- At its meeting on 6 November in Lisbon, the Executive Committee will consider the draft regulations for the NSP, prepared by the Secretariat in light of EC decisions of 28 June.

- The NSP Jury met in December 2013 in Strasbourg to select the Laureates for the 2013 North-South Prize.

Lisbon Forum 2013

The Lisbon Forum is the major annual event organised in light of the new re-focused mission of the NSC. The Lisbon Forum 2013 was held on 6-7 November on the topic “Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean” in the framework of South Programme (“Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”). It was organised in cooperation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

The Forum provided parliamentarians, governments, local officials as well as representatives of civil society from the North and the South, an opportunity to meet, interact and discuss about the ways and means for establishing democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean region, ensuring a right place to the civil society. It also highlighted the importance of partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe for the Southern Mediterranean and the role the North-South Centre can play in the neighborhood policy of the Council of Europe. The Forum formulated operational conclusions and proposals to different structures of the quadrilogue, the implementation of which should be followed in the future.

The online live streaming allowed more than 500 people to follow the debates online. Several international media followed the debates, including The Guardian, Le Monde, Live Tunisia (TV), Associated Press, RFI (radio), MAP (Maghreb Press), LUSA (Press agency), SOL and Espresso (newspapers), SIC and RTP (TV and Radio). Several videos (short interviews at the Lisbon Forum) were posted on YouTube. The RFI programme “L’Europe et les printemps arabes, trois ans après” was broadcasted on 10 November (see link below). For more information on the conclusions, report and programme of the Lisbon Forum 2013, visit the NSC’s website.

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20131110-1-europe-printemps-arabes-trois-ans-apres>

9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In 2013 the North-South Centre had to adjust its programme implementation and operational expenditure, including Human Resources, to a challenging context framed by the withdrawal of five member States (Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Sweden), the starting of a 2nd Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission signed in September 2012 for a period of three years, and the approval in May 2013 by the Committee of Ministers of a new mission¹.

The annual operating revenue was 848 576€ (see Table I below). From 2013 to 2014 there was a reduction of 311 000€ in obligatory contributions due to the withdrawal of the above mentioned five member States from the Partial Agreement. The budget reduction had impact mainly on operational expenditure than come down to 477 420€, 58% of the 2012 total (822 964€).

TABLE I – Breakdown of incoming resources

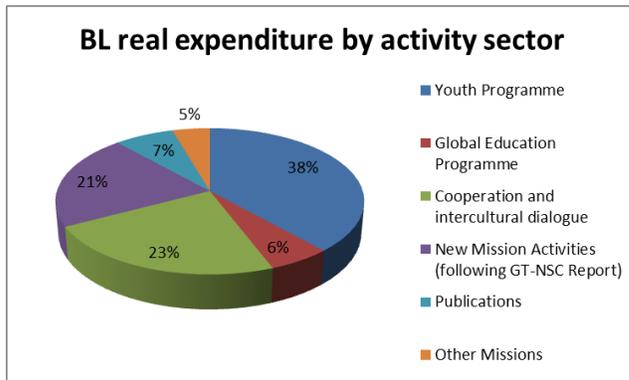
Source of funding	€
Obligatory Contributions	582 000
Acession Andorra	7 075
Voluntary Contribution - Portugal	20 000
Contributions from the European Union	240 000
Sundry expenses	-499
Total	848 576

In terms of Programme expenditure the reduction was less significant. The total operating expenses were 353 461€, less 67 894 than in 2012.

The BL alone, represents an actual expenditure of 89 783€, split among the different activity sectors (see Table II below). There was a balance of 15 700€ at the end of the financial year due to the cancelling and postponement of four activities foreseen in the framework of the new mission which also explains a budget surplus of 22 986.32€ at the end of the year that consequently returned to the member States.

¹ GT-CNS(2013)4finalE / 14 May 2013

TABLE II – BL real Expenditure by activity sector



The Joint Management Agreement (JMA), signed with the European Commission in September 2012, entered in the 2nd year of implementation with a total expenditure of 266 660€.

Furthermore, on 23 June 2014, the external Auditor “Cour des Comptes” gave his opinion on the 2013 Financial Statements and Budgetary Accounts of the North South Centre according to which the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the Centre as at 31 December 2013. The results of its operations and cash flows were prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the transactions were made in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council of Europe. The Auditor made no observations on the financial statements and on the management of the Centre in respect of 2013 that would justify the preparation of a report to the Committee of Ministers.

10.ORGANIGRAMME

