

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



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16 Edition

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1. *Rapporteur's foreword*

'Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.'

Dear reader,

You are most welcomed at Mollina home! Feel free to feel at home while reading this report and don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened! Wonderful memories come up to my mind while looking back at the 16th University on Youth and Development and a strong desire to time travel back to Mollina starts to embrace me. Even if the UYD journey is over now, the memories I have gained over there still travel through my mind. Fortunately, I had the privilege and honour to write this short report which seeks to offer the reader a live insight into the 16th University on Youth and Development.

Once I learned that even the smallest act can turn someone's day around. And I can truly say that the UYD was filled with small and diverse acts that enriched our experiences and taught us a series of lessons:

1. You should always follow UBANDA!
2. Again, follow the music!
3. Be patient while you are in a queue for dinner or lunch!
4. Before coming to Mollina, train your memory, because you'll have to learn 200 new names from more than 50 countries, with more than 40 languages! That's a challenge!
5. Brace yourself! You shall cry, laugh, sigh, and feel empathy and joy! It's a roller coaster of emotions!
6. Be careful what you do! Katschikula is watching you!
7. Hakuna matata!

Through this short report, you shall discover testimonials from the participants, partners, speakers and organisers of the UYD. You will get the chance to see the variety of 'hats' and responsibilities one can have during the University but also the reasons behind the commitments of these people to make it happen in Mollina. You shall also follow my steps during the University to see with whom I talked and to whom I listened. It is indeed a great challenge to be the Rapporteur of such a great event with such a big number of participants. Nonetheless, it is a great honour and chance to approach people who are change makers in their countries and learn from them a great deal of life lessons. Most importantly,

witnessing the synergies that were being created in Mollina has equally been a most enriching experience. When you see European, African, Latin American, Asian youth getting together, discussing about their concerns and partnering to find solutions together, that is a sign that you are in a place where youth perfectly know what their role is and why they need to play their role in society.

It would suffice to have a look at Mollina to help you visualise a future society of co-operation, understanding of otherness and hopefulness. Yet, the challenges are out there and young people have all the abilities to cope with them.

If you have been in Mollina, you have a Mollina identity, you speak the language of non-formal education and you have definitely made tons of friends with whom you share a home: the Mollina home!

2. The University on Youth and Development and its 16th edition

What is the UYD?

The UYD is an activity organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) in partnership with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) and other international youth organisations and youth serving organisations.¹

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) to discuss, train and be trained as well as to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda.

The University is the eldest sister of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (together with the three others that have been organised in Tunisia, Cape Verde and Kenya and Uruguay) that is facilitated by NSC.

In 2015, the University on Youth and Development celebrated its 16th edition, under the joint theme “Youth.org: actors for change!” and renewed hopes and aspirations, objectives and challenges have been shared between partners to reinforce this space as the home of the Global Education and of the Global Youth Movement.

Main goals of the UYD

The overall objectives of the University are

- to promote youth work development and youth participation as well as political mainstreaming of youth-related issues and youth policy development;
- to reinforce capacity-building of civil society organisations;
- to foster youth cooperation and Global Youth Work;
- to promote human rights, intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship as essential dimensions of global education.

The 16th edition of the UYD: Youth.org: actors for change!

The 16th edition of the UYD was held from the 20st to the 27th of September 2015 in Mollina (Spain) under the Joint Theme “Youth.org: actors for change!”. All activities that took place at the University had this overarching theme as a starting point and the Joint Programme was built around this theme and was inspired on the concept note that the partners of the Network drafted. During this edition, the organisers aimed at renewing the hopes and aspirations, objectives and challenges shared between the partners and at claiming once more this space as the home of the Global Education and of the Global Youth Movement.

The University gathered over 250 participants, including trainers, participants from youth organisations, and experts from sister organisations, institutional representatives, partners, joint programme and logistics team.

3. The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship

The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship: celebrating 4 years of existence

The University of Youth and Development in Mollina is the oldest sister of the Network of Universities which was created in 2011 and includes:

- the University on Participation and Citizenship (UPC)²;
- the African University on Youth and Development (AUJD)³ and
- the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni)⁴.

Since its establishment, the Network provides 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.

The educational model developed in these Universities has been enhanced by its various partners and largely inspired by the Global Education Guidelines, systematised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and by the new framework provided by the Council of Europe Recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity (CM/Rec(2011)4, Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 May 2011).

Committed to further strengthening the interregional and global youth cooperation and the impacts of its activities, the partners engaged in this network decided to develop a coherent and articulated system for the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship.

The establishment of this Network is expected to bring added value to the political support and funding of the Universities as well as to strengthen the impact of the work of the Universities and its partners in youth development.

Network meeting in Mollina



The meeting of the Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship took place on 24th September 2015, at CEULAJ, in Mollina, Spain, in the framework of the 16th University on Youth and Development.

The University in Mollina provided a unique opportunity for the partners of the Network to meet. This meeting took place on the 25th of September and had a twofold aim: a) to share and assess the work developed in 2015 and b) to reflect about the future and plan the next cycle of the Universities for 2016 (including decision on the joint theme for 2016).

The meeting was attended by representatives of partners involved in the sister Universities, including institutions and youth organisations.

The need to rethink the purpose of the various online tools of the Network of the Universities as well as to create more online interaction among the participants, led to the creation of a new blog of the 16th UYD, to increase the online visibility of the University and offer a space for participants to interact through posting short articles regarding their experiences during the University. (<http://www.universityuyd.com>)

This year, the partners have decided to replace the usual Declaration of the University with a final video that serves as an advocacy tool both for the partners and the participants.

Last but not least, the attending partners decided on the 2016 topic of the Network of Universities, namely “Connecting identities!”.

More info at: <http://www.nscentre.org> and www.uyd.me

4. Welcome to the Mollina HOME!!

Humans are hardwired for stories. And youth stories give you strength, energy and motivation to continue the journey towards a better society. This report embodies the story of Mollina home and its ‘residents’.

The Mollina home has been built over the past 16 years with hard work and determination by a connected community of actors of change. This year’s programme featured 230 participants coming from more than 80 countries.

The University is not only a knowledge-transfer place but also a peer-learning hub, where capabilities and informal know-how meet. It is a friends-making and friendly place, where the best gets out of you, where you get inspired and where innovative ideas are born.

These young people made a strong commitment to the youth work, to their communities and to themselves. It is this sense of responsibility that keeps the myriad of youth sparkles alive. They shed light on people surrounding them and they pass on their willingness to be agents of change.

Home sweet home!

Once I arrive at the Malaga airport I meet Paco, our driver from CEULAJ. He was waiting for me and two other persons. I was curious who they were. We hold a paper with the name

and logo of the UYD and we search for the other two people. The first one arrives and we introduce ourselves. Hector Anablón, comes from Chile, he is a participant in the 4th Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers and he represents the FLACJ. Then, I look for the second one. Out of the blue, I see a happy-go-lucky person holding a white goat under his arm. I wonder if he really is the person we are waiting for. He approaches and we shake hands. I say hi to Katsikoula, the little white goat, and I find out that Brais Fernandes is part of the Joint Programme team and he is already accustomed with the University. He tells me he already feels at home; and Katsikoula too. He also gives me a brief account of the story of the annual encountering of the UYD mascots: Katsikoula, Alain, Roger and Ela. 'Carmen Fisher, the Joint team coordinator is in charge of bringing the rest of the mascot team', he tells me..

On our way to CEULAJ, I sit next to Katsikoula and I listen to the conversation of the other two passengers, Hector and Brais. They both share impression on the situation of youth in Spain and Latin America and Hector says that '*la juventud hoy en día es como una olla bajo presión y solo necesita despertar-se*' (youth nowadays are like a pressure cooker and all they need is to wake up). I notice how ardent they are to share their opinions and experiences on the role of youth and youth organisations despite their tiredness and the long journey they had to undertake in order to arrive in Mollina. The spirit of Mollina starts to arise!

Flash memories come up in my mind and bring a big smile on my face because the UYD taught me about dedication, passion, friendship, young spirit, hard work, fun activities, sensitivity. I still recall: listening to the YEN participants playing the piano in the main hall next to the Ipacarai room; watching the YEU participants working hard for their digital tools exposition; observing the CJE having their sessions and presenting their work on human rights education; witnessing the TED talks debates of the EEE and enjoying intercultural theories in practice; watching with great attention at the SPDWD show exposing various issues women are facing today; looking at the GE ToT participants working together for the reporting of the Joint Session ; observing the passion of the CNJ participants in trying to promote the recognition of non-formal education in their countries; listening carefully to the debate on SDGs, organised by the Young Socialists in the local school with young pupils drinking tea under the Jaima with the participants and enjoying a nice discussion about tea-making in Western Sahara; hearing people singing in the background 'Bella Mama' and 'Hakuna Matata' while I do the interviews.

Ceulaj HOME: an informal setting



When you enter CEULAJ, you enter a space of a unique spirit: the spirit of the UYD! CEULAJ has been the meeting place for hundreds of young people within the framework of the University on Youth and Development. It is the perfect avenue where trainings, seminars

and any other youth activities can take place. It is 'a resource and activity centre that is ideal for youth training and information activities and for encounters and experiences between youth organisations and public youth institutions.' One can also read on the CEULAJ website that 'every year the complex, attached to the Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE), is visited by thousands of young people from various countries, as well as by specialists, professionals and politicians working in the field of youth. Most of the activities carried out at CEULAJ are on a national or international scale. They notably include the activities of INJUVE and of the Ibero-American Youth Organisation (OIJ), aimed at bringing young people in Latin America and Europe closer together and promoting understanding and cooperation between them.

Meeting the partners

Two days before the Opening ceremony of the 16th UYD, the partners are meeting in order to discuss the final details regarding logistical matters, joint programme, materials, activities and so forth. Everyone introduce themselves and we get a better understanding of the flow of the week. The activities organised by the different partners are in different formats: trainings, formats or consultative meetings. I also learn that there are three different kinds of partners. First, there are partners who organise activities during the UYD, such as YEU, YEN, CJE, CNJ, IUSY, EEEE, NSC. Second, there are partners who provide trainers for the activities, such as INJUVE, YEJ and FLACJ. Third, there are the partners of the Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship, such as the Pan African Youth Union, NIYOA, LAS, Anna Lindt Foundation and so forth.

Meeting the trainers and facilitators

The gathering of all the pedagogical teams of the University takes place two days before the opening of the University. This is a moment when the trainers and facilitators from all the

activities get together and meet with Rocio Cervera, the Youth Co-operation Programme Manager and the Joint Programme coordinator, Carmen Fischer, who explains them the flow of the week. They introduce themselves and the activities they are going to develop during the one-week event. I observe the diversity and the richness of their background as well as the various trainings they are going to organise. Some of them are new in Mollina, some other are pretty familiar with the University. Yet, they all seem excited and motivated to meet the participants. The countdown begins.

During the trainings and in-between breaks I got the chance to talk to the trainers and grasp some of their first impressions. For instance, while I walk with the YEN group to the hall next to the plenary where the participants will perform, Natalia Militello (trainer from YEN) gives me an account about the connection she has established with her participants: 'after a reflection moment a participant said that if all this was compared with a car, the trainers would be the drivers. I answered that, in that case, the participants would be the engine.' Eugenio Brigneti, (trainer from IUSY) tells me that 'Mollina has a University and non-formal education.'

Meeting the Joint Programme team

One day before the opening of the University I observe the various meetings of the Joint Programme team who are getting ready before the University starts. They are discussing the theme of the University: Youth.org: actors for change! and they try to adapt it to the programme. They talk about technology as a 'tricky tool' and the overuse of internet by young people. Stefan states that 'people tend to write on the online space the things they would not necessary say in person, for instance acting against hate speech online but not in real life. The internet is a space where people are most safe to speak their mind.' Carmen adds that the internet can become 'a prison to their mind' whilst Brais says that he is 'very cautious towards the use of internet'. Stefan reflects on the role of youth organisations in promoting the use of internet and the kind of change internet can bring about. Fareeda contends that 'change is the underlying aspect of the University and it can go in any direction. Each individual has their own agenda for change.' Brais intervenes: 'what matters is change for the change's sake and most of all the seed of intention. Thus, youth.org represents the propitious moment to change this paradigm.'

This brainstorming has a meaningful place within the University since it brings together the diversity of perspectives on the issues discussed during the one-week event and the arguments and counter-arguments that contribute to the creation of a real debate with

people who have long-standing experiences and solid position on these respective matters. While they are arranging everything before the welcome evening, Fareeda and Mary are asking me 'Do you think this is the right height for the little candles? Are the cardboards enough?' I sense they are nervous and excited at the same time. They put a lot of hard work in rendering the chill-out space into a proper space for the participants. Brais brought joy during the whole week. He also brought his creative spirit and love for good authors, such as Eduardo Galeano- who has become one of the motifs of the 16th UYD. You would always see Brais either reading Galeano's book- 'The book of embraces' or writing down paragraphs from it. Carmen Fischer, (the Joint Programme Coordinator) was the one who emboldened her team and all the participants in fun activities, where they could mingle and further discover each other. Stefan is the calm and analytical voice of the joint programme team. While having dinner, we discuss the issue of unorganised youth and he notes that most of them have 'individual CVs, with no community link whatsoever, and they generally don't leave anything behind them.' I notice their sense of involvement to the fullest with the participants during the joint programme evenings. The members of the Joint Programme team are:

- Carmen Fischer, from Austria
- Brais Fernandes from Galicia (Spain)
- Faareda Atwan, from Egypt
- Mary Waveru, from Kenya
- Stefan Manevski, from the Former Republic of Macedonia

Meeting the Joint Programme Team assistants

And a special note should be made about the UYD mascots. Katsikoula, Alain, Roger and Ela are part of the processes and give a special colour to the University. They are always present where the main activities take place at CEULAJ.

Meeting the participants

Meeting the participants and discovering their stories is one of the most enriching part of the University. Their journey to the University is filled with life stories that have enriched and stimulated our conversations. Sana Afouaiz, from the SPWDP training course tells me about her motivation in working for young people: 'There is a lack of opportunities for African diaspora and this motivates me every day to do something because I believe in equal opportunities and the African who come in Europe come for an objective and Africa is losing them. We look for a way to link them back with their home countries. It doesn't mean that we want them to go back to Africa but to be part of the change and development in

Africa. This is a big challenge.’ Dario Coppi, from the training course NFE- (Valid)ation posits that ‘non-formal activities are already taking place in other sectors, the idea is to create a common language on this topic.’

Follow UBANDA!

Ubanda represents another dimension of the Joint Programme and the members of the Ubanda marked their presence during the various joint moments of the University (Welcome evening, opening ceremony, Joint programme evenings, local community party, closing ceremony, during breaks and other musical moments). UBANDA’s music brought the University to another level. Even though the members of the Ubanda team came from two different countries, their music was on the same note of joy and togetherness! One key piece of advice from the Joint Programme team to the participants: ‘Follow Ubanda’s music and you’ll get in the right place!’

The Ubanda was composed of:

- Keith Ewen Ellis, from UK
- Caroline Anne Woodward, from UK
- Rui Alonso, from Portugal
- Helena Madeira, from Portugal

The Media Team



The main task of the media team was to ensure the visibility of the University through video-making, online content on the new blog of the University, press releases, creating some graphics and designing an online campaign under the topic of the ‘Youth.org: actors for change!’. I have fresh memories about their

enthusiasm about the University. Luca, our photographer tells me ‘

The four members of the media team were:

- Mariano Schuster, from Argentina -Media team coordinator
- Hilaria Espin, from Spain -Media team Community

- Luca Scognamillo, from Italy- photographer
- Javier Castillo, from Spain video maker

The coordination Team

If you see someone cycling and running from one place to another in CEULAJ, that must be Rocio, the Youth Cooperation program manager. She is the key person in Mollina and while we have a walk in CEULAJ, I have a talk with Rocio who tells me 'participants are surprised to see that there are so many people at Ceulaj. Whenever I pass by I hear some participants chatting about this'.

We also talk about her motivation to work in the field of youth work and non-formal education. She tells me that both her parents are teachers and she did not want to become a teacher as well even though everybody in her family expected her to become one. Rocio tells me 'I did not want to work in the formal education system. So, I decided to study international relations and international cooperation, which brought me to work in the youth field. Here, I discovered another kind of education, that was different and more meaningful for me.'

Her right hand, Neli Hristozova, from Bulgaria is also a key person behind the organisation. On the blog of the UYD, Neli writes about her feelings about the University: 'being part of such an intercultural group reminded me again how big and diverse our earth is. Each one of us comes from different cultural background, and each one of us has different life experience, therefore we perceive the world differently. We have different understandings not only about politics, religion, ethics, but as well about the simplest things in the daily life. Being aware of that, we should try to not only express our opinions, but to open our minds to other possibilities.' After discussing with them, I can truly say that no matter the 'hat' one wears in the University, the feeling of oneness and community is omnipresent.

The coordination team is very diverse and it is composed of:

- Rocio Cervera, from Spain, Youth Cooperation Program Manager
- Neli Hristozova, from Bulgaria was part of the general coordination team
- Bennedikt Wiedenhofer, from Germany, was a volunteer and part of the general coordination team
- Narimen Beneddine, from France, Women Empowerment Program Manager
- Camilla Del Latte, from Italy, part of the general coordination team
- Nuno Loureiro, from Portugal, was part of the coordination team and he was in charge with transfers
- Mario Rodrigues, from Portugal, part of the general coordination team.

World peace day!

This year, the Opening day of the 16th UYD coincided with the official UN recognised World Peace Day. On 21st September, the UYD participants honoured this day by using the peace symbol for the annual group picture.. In addition, most of the participants wore peace bracelets which symbolised spreading the message of peace through young people. It was great walking around and seeing people chatting during breaks and proudly wearing their peace bracelets. Even though it was the first day of the University, people seemed to know each other for ages and a friendly atmosphere quickly was installed.

Sustainable development goals

The topic of the SDGs has also been a leitmotif of the University this year. The adoption of the post-2015 development agenda was held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York, which coincided with the last few days of the University. Thus, the 16th UYD was a propitious momentum to discuss the post-development agenda and the role young people should have in raising awareness on the SDGs and playing an active role in the monitoring and evaluation process within the post-2015 development agenda. For this reason, one of the Joint session workshop focused specifically in this topic. 'The SDGs were a central theme in many of the UYD's workshops and Joint Sessions; us participants of the 'Training for Trainers on Global Education' workshop got the chance to go over each one of them and discuss on the way these global sustainable goals are related to our regional, national and local realities', says

Juventud necesaria- Needed Youth

The Spanish Youth Council launched the campaign "Needed Youth" - "Juventud Necesaria" all over Spain and on Friday, 25th September 2015 the 'Needed Youth' van stopped in Mollina visiting the UYD. After having travelled thousands of kilometers across Spain, the 'Needed Youth' team arrived in Mollina in order to underline the role of youth in having a sustainable society. More importantly, the campaign raised awareness on several issues in Spain with regard to youth unemployment, migration and brain drain which have a negative impact on the Spanish society.

Here you can have a look at their campaign.

Sharing is caring!

On 22nd September, the partners, participants and trainers shared stories and tools in the youth field. They organised four shared workshop on four distinct topics and the participants took part in the workshop they were interested the most. Ubanda helped the workshop organisers gather the participants and start their activities.

1. Western Sahara - 40 years waiting!

CJE facilitated a workshop on the situation in Western Sahara where they showed a video from the Western Sahara short film contest that explains the situation in Western Sahara and the actors involved especially Spain, Morocco and Western Sahara. After the sharing workshop the participants went in the Jaima, which was installed inside CEULAJ and the



participants could drink a tea prepared in a Saharan way by Embarcalina, a participant from the Spanish Youth Council training course.

2. Digital Storytelling: putting youth work at the heart of the storyteller

This workshop has been facilitated by Laura Lopez, from the European Youth

Forum and it consisted of screening stories from the YFJ Digital Storytelling workshop which took place in April, this year. It invited the participants to reflect upon the value of youth work and it also comprised a presentation of the method of Digital Storytelling and its use by youth organisation. The workshop also served as an opportunity for participants to self-reflect on the work of their own organisation, their added value and impact, and communicate tools in order to reach out to a larger public in view of gaining recognition.

3. Social Teahouse

This shared workshop sought to present the Social Teahouse, a social entrepreneurial idea from Varna, Bulgaria. This project seeks to create a space where young people, raised in orphanages can start their professional path and receive the mentorship and support, which they need to overcome the lack of good education, social skills and trust towards society. The Social Teahouse has developed a three-year mentorship programme and they convinced the Municipality of Varna to provide them with a building in the hearth of the

city/ Now they are currently looking for public support so that their idea and the dreams of so many children and young people they work with, can actually come true.

4. Online tools for better organisational management

This workshop presented the various online tools that YEU- Enter the net group came up with during the first two days. It is imagined as a space where the participants will get to know different organizational realities and try to find online tools that will come useful to improve the work in the organisations.

The University online/offline

The UYD obviously took place at CEULAJ, in Mollina but also on the online space. The University on the online space offered the participants a way to express themselves and share their experiences during the one-week event in Mollina. This space offered the opportunity to have another perspective on the UYD and informed the participants about the other activities taking place in parallel. After arriving back home from Mollina, it was great to witness how an online community was on the verge of being created and the different ways the alumni of the Network of the Universities were interacting online and sharing ideas and opportunities. This clearly shows the impact of the University on youth especially on the online spaces, namely social media.

The University has been present in the digital space and the Media team had the task of spreading the word to the entire online community about the UYD. Let's have a look at some of the online testimonials and see how the participants have explored this tool to express their impressions about the University.

1. From participant to trainer within the Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship

The first time I met Malek Ben Ammar was in Tunisia, this June, when I assisted in the organisation of the 3rd Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship. He was part of the Joint Team in Hammamet and now he is part of the pedagogical team of 4th Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers, organised by the NSC.

On the blog of the University, Malek tells his story within the Network of Universities of Youth and Global Citizenship: 'I come from Tunisia and this is my third participation in the university on youth and development. I came to this center 2 years ago as participant in the

Training of trainers on Global education and I come back this year to the same working room again not as a participant but as a trainer. I took part also on the last 3 editions of the youngest sister of the UYD, the Mediterranean university on youth and global citizenship in Hammamet as coordinator of logistic team and member of the joint program team in 2014 and 2015.'

Malek also talks about his personal and professional development following his experiences with the Network of Universities: 'the Network helped me to develop my personal and organizational capacities and opened my eyes to get to know more about the local realities and issues that young people are facing in the four corners of the world. At the same time, taking part on the Network of Universities reinforced my capacities and brought up to me the idea of starting the process of the creation of the Tunisian Youth Council, which will play the role of an organizational umbrella and structure the participation of young people in the democratic process in my country. The Network of Universities is playing a big role in the growth of my learning capacities and I hope each of the participants will take a piece of Mollina Home.'

His story is only one example of how the University can change your personality and your professional path. It is the space where you can enhance your qualities and capabilities.

2. From Ceulaj to UYD local coordinator: Chemi Diaz Vergara



Another success story is the one of Chemi Diaz Vergara, who is a Mollina local and part of the coordination team of the UYD. One the blog of the 16th UYD, he states that 'It is always an honor for me to welcome in Mollina to groups of young people that encourage multicultural dialogue and the youth development, and I think this is also very important for the

young people of Mollina.' He further talks about his background and the links he has created with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe through the University 'I have been working in the Ceulaj for 8 years and I have always been waiting anxiously for the UYD to come. With the UYD I feel human kindness, support and the will to build a better world.

The UYD people believe that things can change, not as a utopia but as a reality. For this reason, when the North South Centre of the Council of Europe asked me to participate as coordinator, I said yes without any doubt. Yes, I want to be part of this great human beings group, I want to do my bit, as an actor for change. I want to fight for the youth.

3. A space to discuss about 'education about, through and for Human Rights'

Giorgiana Garnelo y Calvo, from Mexico is a participant in the training course on 'Human rights education' organised by the Spanish Youth Council, the INJUVE and the Council of Europe. On the blog of the University, she offers her impressions on the training course and the things she learned during the University 'Human Rights Education is a unique experience that every teacher should know and live...

In this course, we have used emotions as a part of the education process. This was the part more revealing of all, because we found out that human rights cross everything and are present in every aspect of life. We also highlight the responsibility of the teacher as a human rights defender.' For her, the main outcome of her training was: 'Education about, through and for human rights'. Georgiana adds that: 'the training was not the end, but the beginning of a change cycle for all the young people participating in this University'.

4. A global journey to Mollina

Prakash Bista, from Nepal is a participant in the 'Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers' and he gave a brief account about his journey to Mollina. Bista is currently involved in building schools in remote villages in Nepal and his story has touched most of his colleagues and trainers: 'growing up in one of the most remote districts in Nepal, I faced so many challenges to education. I started school at the age of 8, the school I was attending shut down because of civil war in my sixth grade and both of my parents unfortunately passed away in my 12th grade of schooling in the capital city. Since then, I am involved in building schools with innovative models in our remote villages in Nepal. So far, we have two elementary schools with almost 240 students from different backgrounds.'

He further explains how he found out about the University and his feeling before coming to Mollina: 'this summer, I was invited to an education and leadership conference in New Delhi, India, where I came to know about 16th University of Youth and Development. I applied to 'Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers' program from Nepal and to my delight I got accepted. I was happy, anxious and a little overwhelmed at the same time. Immediately after coming to Mollina, Spain, I was so surprised to see the diversity of participants the program had.

Almost all 23 of the participants came from different countries. This was the most diverse group I had ever seen in a training or a conference in my life. Many team building activities the trainers used helped us to get connected to each other in the very first day. Five trainers we had, who also came from different countries, not only helped us understand the concept of global education, but also used different strategies and methods like group work, role play, simulation etc. to make us better leaders and trainers to youths in different parts of the world.

Keynote speakers and hands-on practical sessions further stimulated our thinking. Besides our training related sessions, we had very good opportunities to bond with participants of 8 other training courses as part of 16th University of Youth and Development. Group bonding activities, musical activities and thought-provoking sessions after dinner at 10 pm every day were also our interesting learning experiences.'

5. A space to discuss about the psychological and emotional violence against women

Luisa Bunescu, from Romania, is a participant from the training course on Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes, organised by the NSC. She also posted on the UYD blog her impressions about the SPDWP training course and the various 'violences' women are facing in our societies.

Luisa starts her article saying that 'violence against women is a multi-faceted phenomenon, although during discussions and campaigns most of us focus on physical gender based one. I believe that the psychological and emotional violence inflicted upon women all around the world should not be forgotten; on the contrary it needs to be more and more acknowledged as it is more pervasive and dangerous than the physical one. It makes a woman, especially a young one feel unworthy and incapable of achieving something on her own. It makes her believe that her own condition is one of a dependent, that she is a stain and a burden.'

For Luisa, 'gender based violence remains a sad reality around the world. It goes beyond scars and bruises on a woman's body, leaving behind profound emotional and psychological wounds. Our generation needs to keep fighting for women's empowerment.'

Online action

This year, the partners of the UYD have decided on replacing the annual written declaration with a youth-friendly tool that would give a voice to the UYD participants. In order to

produce this online action, a petit comité has been created composed of Laura Lopez (YJF), Aomori Matsumoto (FLACJ), Hilaria Espin (Media team), Alvaro Diaz Cuevas (CJE), Suha Ismail (I-dare). The petit comité has undertaken a brainstorming process and conceptualisation for this online action which had an advocacy purpose. The members of the petit comité met regularly during the one-week event.

This new tool consisted of an online campaign which was shot during the one-week event. Through this video, Mollina participants advocate for their causes and commit themselves to tackle a variety of issues (youth representation, child abuse, lack of access to culture, discrimination, women political participation, access to education, youth unemployment, etc.) once they return to their home countries. This campaign has been a wonderful exercise to reflect on the added-value of the University for the participants whilst they go back home and make use of the tools they learned about during the UYD.

Here you can have a look at the [video](#).



4. This year's edition theme and the Joint Programme

A. This year's edition theme

This year's edition of the UYD coincided with various key events taking place worldwide, including the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the International Peace Day and the European Year for Development. This has called for special attention to the work of youth organisations and their role in reaching the sustainable development goals as well as being part of the global change-making actions. The need to recognise young people and youth organisations as impact-makers and most of all, change-makers has been also emphasised during the one-week event in Mollina through this year's edition theme: Youth.org: actors for change!

The 16th UYD offered an informal social space of amazing possibilities to share, discover, create and recreate. One of the key moments of the University has been the Joint Programme, where all the participants gathered and enjoyed a space and a moment of

sharing. The Joint Programme provided opportunities for participants to share cultural expressions, good practices and proposed different activities inviting all of us to discover the joint theme through different perspectives and approaches. The joint moments were an opportunity for a joint reflection, in an enlarged setting (with various groups of participants involved) and for a discussion on the topic with inter and intra-regional approaches.

B. Joint Programme

The Joint moments represent the common space where everybody is present and all the eyes of the University meet. In this part, we shall have an insight into those special common



moments.

The opening ceremony was a special moment where the guests and organisers spoke to the participants. Their touching and inspiring words and thoughts went straight to the participants' hearts and provided food for thought for the rest of the week. The opening ceremony

contains a series of symbols, emotions, music, and literature.

Ubanda gathers the people for the opening ceremony in the Ipacarai plenary room and when everybody is almost settled I discreetly notice curious eyes or rising heads to see what is going on.

Carmen Fischer, the Joint Programme Team Coordinator takes the floor, welcomes the participants and explains the flow of the week to the participants. The core partners welcome the participants as well.

Niall Sheerin, the Deputy Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, welcomes the participants and partners on behalf of the NSC and he expresses his gratefulness towards the various teams who made the University on Youth and Development possible this year. As a representative of the NSC, Mr. Sheerin underlines the values of the NSC especially promoting the North-South interdependence. He acknowledges this is his first time in Mollina and he is glad that more than 200 participants from 80 different countries gathered in Mollina this year. He is also confident that 'youth are going to secure the future of the planet'. Finally, Mr. Sheerin formally declares the 16th University on Youth and Development open.

Rocio Cervera, the Youth Co-operation Programme Manager of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe takes the floor and she says that, unfortunately, some people could not get the visa and come to Molina and many people had to travel many kilometres to attend the University. She then introduces the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship and she puts forward the human links between the various Universities belonging to the Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship. Afterwards, she introduces two of those human links: Fenice Canestrini and Mary Wambui Waweru.

The former, Fenice Canestrini, is a former trainee of the Youth Co-operation programme of the NSC and assisted the Centre with logistics during the 3rd Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship and now she is a participant in the 4th Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers. Fenice talks about the challenges of intercultural dialogue when working in a different environment while struggling with language barriers. She also appreciates the privilege of 'wearing two different hats' within the Network of Universities, one as an organiser/trainee and the second as a participant.

Mary Wambui Waweru, is a former board member of the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa brings in the African experience share about her experience with the African University on Youth and Development that was born in 2009 and is part of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship. Mary adds that 'I look forward to take part in the next University this year'. Last year, Mary Wambui Waweru was a speaker for the opening ceremony and this year she is part of the Joint Programme Team.

Javier Berlanga, the Director of CEULAJ, representing the INJUVE, takes the floor first and he underlines that, for him, CEULAJ is already a classic encountering place for young people along with the Spanish Youth Council. He adds that 'CEULAJ has been making sense for 16 years thanks to you, since our main concern is youth participation.' He also thanks the Spanish Government for providing this space to make this event happen and the Council of Europe for their assistance.

Hector Saz, the President of the Spanish Youth Council (CJE) takes the floor and he states that 'Our world opens at its wounds; we are the youth of the world who will take responsibility for sewing those wounds'. He further highlights the fact that 'this year, the Spanish youth is proud to host once again the UYD which coincides with the International Peace Day.



This is a place of training, empowerment and personal growth of the largest army of peace that exists: the youth. United for a common cause: to make the world a better place, with a better North-South balance, where conflicts do not go beyond dialogue'. Mr. Saz, on behalf of the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), invites the

participants to 'take advantage to the fullest of the time spent in Molina and further disseminate what they will have learned since they have the responsibility to start working to be the first generation that eradicate wars worldwide and the generation that opens the path towards a fairer world.' He thanks the participants for their presence and particularly for being a 'prepared or trained youth, an engaged youth and most of all a 'needed youth''.

Allan Päll, the Secretary General of the European Youth Forum, long-standing co-partners in this University contends that there are various types of peace, for instance having peace back home. Thus, Mr. Päll underlines the role of youth organisations in bringing peace back home and he recalls that this week the SDGs are being adopted in New York. Mr. Päll states that politics is driven by emotions and there are three essential emotions in which politics are based on: anger, fear and enthusiasm. He invites the public to imagine the future and he asks the participants to raise the hand if the emotions they feel for future are either anger, fear or enthusiasm. He also invites the public to reflect on spaces that foster enthusiasm such as the University on Youth and Development.

Ms. Cervera beautifully recites Eduardo Galeano's short story called 'The World'. The room becomes quiet and people are listening with their open hearts to the wise word of Galeano. Rocio reminds the audience about Marco Andrade and Andreia Henriques, who are two of the big flames of the University and who brought their contribution to the success of the Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship. She finally invites the participants to follow the light and also become the flames of the UYD. I can feel how the room applauds and emotions are floating in the room. People are really touched about this story. They are all 'a sea of tiny flames'.

'The World' by Eduardo Galeano

A man from the town of Negua, on the coast of Colombia, could climb into the sky.

On his return, he described his trip. He told how he had contemplated human life from on high. He said we are a sea of tiny flames. "The world," he revealed, "is a heap of people, a sea of tiny flames."

Each person shines with his or her own light. No two flames are alike. There are big flames and little flames, flames of every color. Some people's flames are so still they don't even flicker in the wind, while others have wild flames that fill the air with sparks. Some foolish flames neither burn nor shed light, but others blaze with life so fiercely that you can't look at them without blinking and if you approach, you shine in fire.

Afterwards, Carmen Fisher introduces the Joint Programme team who is hiding behind the big banner with the theme of the University, Youth.org: actors for change!. They are introducing the theme which is full of powerful works which will be debated during the University. They also refer to the keywords, making a word game: Y(ou) referring to the individual, Youth referring to the Youth, .org referring to youth organisations and actors for change implies that youth are agents that take concrete actions to bring about change 'for free, for fun, for us, for humanity, for dignity, for change'.

Camen gives a brief insight into the programme and the different approaches during the workshops and she introduces the Ubanda who are going to call the participants through the bagpipes music. She adds that 'the local community part of the UYD will consist of visiting the local school and the organisation of the music festival. The village has been preparing this festival since June.' She invites the participants to approach the team and come up with proposals for the festival. Carmen Fisher states that 'everyone has their place on the stage'. She announces that the empty bazaar will gather any item from their organizations, food or any other objects. Laura Lopez, from the European Youth Forum invites the participants to take part in planking session every morning.

Then, Ubanda introduces itself through playing the 'Bella Mama' song which will be sung repeatedly during the University and it will eventually become the 16th UYD hymn.

The Joint team also brings into the discussion the celebration of the International Day for Peace and they state that the refugee issue can be seen through a different angle if you come either from Macedonia, Austria, Kenya.

They also refer to the fact that the opening day of the UYD is a day of the equinox, meaning that both the North and South of the hemisphere get the same amount of light for one day during the year. This symbolism adds up to the short story read by Rocio which refers to the 'sea of flames'. Suddenly the room becomes enlightened!



In the end, Carmen highlights the role of each team in the University and introduces them to the participants.

Joint session (Wednesday 23rd September)

The Joint session took place on Wednesday 23rd September, in the afternoon, in the Ipacarai plenary room. It represented the main space for all the participants to exchange and reflect together on the joint theme based on regional and sub-regional understandings and practices, in order to contribute for a common agenda and positioning of global youth movement and its future challenges. It consisted of two main moments: first, the keynote speaker talking about the challenges for young people to be real actors for change and a second moment when the participants split and chose one of their topic of interest and participated in one of the four workshops.

The Joint session is introduced by Carmen Fischer, the Joint programme coordinator and moderator of the Joint Session. Before the speech of the keynote speaker, the joint team prepared a special moment when they presented Eduardo Galeano's poem 'The Nobodies' from the 'Book of embraces' in various languages (German, Macedonian, English, French, Arabic, Italian and Spanish).

'The nobodies: nobody's children, owners of nothing. The nobodies: the no ones, the nobodies, running like rabbits, dying through life, screwed every which way.

Who are not, but could be.

Who don't speak languages, but dialects.

Who don't have religions, but superstitions.

Who don't create art, but handicrafts.

Who don't have culture, but folklore.

Who are not human beings, but human resources.

Who do not have faces, but arms.

Who do not have names, but numbers.

Who do not appear in the history of the world, but in the police blotter of the local paper.

The nobodies, who are not worth the bullet that kills them.'



This solemn moment brings silence in the plenary room and I observe how people are absorbed by this special moment and they are truly living the moment of remembering of the unprivileged people in this world: the nobodies. After this deep moment, the floor is given to Samuel Diaz-Littauer, the keynote speaker of the session.

Samuel Díaz-Littauer is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, photographer, educator, speaker and communications consultant as well as the former global coordinator for communications and advocacy of the World YMCA, based in Geneva. He also worked for the International Labour Organization.

Samuel Diaz Fernández Littauer articulates his speech around hospitality and 'home as politics'. He asks the audience to reflect on the meaning of 'home'. They all answer this question in small groups. This exercise is very inspiring and helped the participants understand that 'we are all a mix of different things, origin, life experiences and cultures'. Samuel states that for some of us home is 'a place where our family is' and for some others, home is 'a place of anxiety'. He explains that he picked up this topic due to the recent refugee crisis that is taking place in Europe. He adds that the refugee crisis is not a recent phenomenon and he exemplifies with the case of Colombia, which used to be the number one place with internally-displaced persons crisis in the world. 'If you come from Palestine, Somalia, Cambodia, Thailand, this seems their day to day grind, dealing with what it means for identities of young people who live without a home, a place of safety, a place for family. This the question of our age: how do we extend home for other young people and generations in front of us?', adds Samuel. He then starts telling three stories about his family members in order to illustrate three main lessons on the topic of 'home as politics'.

First lesson: home is a space of safety. Samuel invites the audience to embrace this lesson.

Second lesson: home is a space where identity and community can grow in an authentic way.

'one of the greatest challenges we have is the number of homeless children around the world who don't have parents, who don't have a home. So, home is a place where we widen the definition of humanity and our challenge is to try and not feel betrayed by the categories that the past has tried to encrust on us'.

Third lesson: home is the space where today's 'paradoxes and contradictions' may be tomorrow's source of hope and progress.

Samuel tells the audience that "identity is being yourself, so be yourself taking into account all the different things you are. When you know what is home for you, then you can share with others". He further develops on the topic of otherness by saying that 'when we encounter with the other, the other shatters our faith, the force of the other is so strong that ravel's otherness within us. The legacy of embracing the otherness is inherited by the hybrid, that is to say the person who is able to say i am not just one, i am the other, I am both. Can be a culture that moves away from the melting pot? Can we be a culture that embraces the other in every radical feature? Can we be a culture that moves from the politics of fear to the politics of hospitality?'

For Samuel, 'home is the place where true change happens. Home can be a place where we can be daring enough to call it a new political vision for young people everywhere.' Therefore, he advises the young audience to 'challenge the logic of the melting pot by practicing a politics of hospitality and home because to practice hospitality - as a personal habit and as a politics- is to welcome a life of constant transformation at the hands of those we embrace. The most difficult question is not whether we can invite the 'stranger' into the spaces we have carved with our imaginary lines.



The real question is whether we can invite them into a reality where they share real power to change our collective future. This requires total embrace and a new vision of humanity that does not define itself by reactionary fear. The possibility of love and justice as we embrace radical difference. This is a temporary home. A place for solidarity and inspiration. Use it to construct a political

vision that provides a home for all by embracing hospitality without fear.' Samuel's reflection on home and humanity inspires the participants and I can see how they absorb his words: 'one of the greatest challenges we have is the number of homeless children around the world who don't have parents, who don't have a home. So, home is a place where we widen the definition of humanity and our challenge is to try and not feel betrayed by the categories that the past has tried to encrust on us'.

The keynote speaker renders a final message through a quote from Bell Hooks: 'no one has imagined us. We want to live like trees, sycamores blazing through the sulfuric air, dappled with scars, still exuberantly budding, our animal passion rooted in the city.' Before he ends his speech, he also invites the audience to reflect upon the following questions: 'Can you imagine how this generation of young people can look like? Can you imagine all we can do with the politics of home and hospitality? Can you imagine how a game can be changed for love and justice to be part of our discourse? Imagine that with communities, organisations, movements working together, we can imagine that.'

Carmen Fischer, the moderator of the Joint session, takes the floor and thanks Samuel for having offered the audience some inspiration and lessons. Ms. Fischer add that 'since we have been talking about change a lot this week, we have prepared four topics for you, which will allow you to imagine what it is possible and embrace the differences.' Carmen announces the second part of the joint session 'We are going to do this in a very specific way but now I need you to listen carefully about the various details.'

Then, Stefan presents the four different topic and their corresponding venue and colour in order that people can locate themselves- the orange is for the sustainable development goals and youth workshop, blue corresponds to the clicktivism and activism workshop, green for the unorganised youth workshop and red for global youth cooperation workshop. Stefan tells the participants 'you will have the chance to harvest a lot of know-how and new ideas'. I notice how the participants find their way to the chosen workshops and they follow the corresponding colour.

1. "Seize the momentum: SDG and the post 2015"-- the role of youth organisations in a global process

Christopher Grønstad, the former vice-president of the European Youth Forum leads the workshop on the SDGs. He tells us that he followed 'the beginning of the process with the post-2015 framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and represented the European Youth Forum in the Open Working Group'. The main objective of this workshop was to raise awareness on the SDGs, their implementation, monitoring, ownership and accountability. It also envisaged the role of young people and youth organisations in promoting and monitoring the SDGs.

According to Christopher : 'the role of youth in the SDGs should be mostly in raising awareness on the SDGs' The speaker also underlines that the SDGs are more participatory thanks to the online open process whilst the MDGs are more government-related. In addition, considering our current situation, the SDGs are more reachable and we can learn

from our past mistakes. More importantly, Christopher states that ‘the main change between the MDGs and the SDGs is that the SDGs will be valid in all countries and the three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) will be more or less on equal footing’. I notice how involved the participants are in the discussion and I also find striking that most of the participants in this workshop come from European countries. Once the workshop is over, Christopher tells me that the first time he came to Mollina was in 2000 when he was working on the Millennium Development goals. He also acknowledges that ‘when I was an activist, the only place when I heard of lifelong learning has been here in Mollina’.

2. “Clicktivism as a threat to activism” - synergies for youth organisations through the global village internet

Kerim Bouzouita, Simona Mursec and Suha Ismail were the speakers for the workshop on clicktivism vs. activism. Each of them has a wide experience regarding online advocacy: Kerim has managed to mobilise 1 billion people in a campaign, Simona works for a multinational firm that works in online campaigns whilst Suha Ismail works in the field of social marketing back home in Jordan. and during this session she questioned whether clicktivism can be considered as a form of activism. This workshop’s main objectives was to enhance participants’ understanding of new trends of political participation and civic



engagement and discuss their recognition by institutions. Nada Abdelwahab, participant in the ToT GE was a harvester for the session on Clicktivism vs. activism and after the session she explains to me the main points discussed

during the session. She gives me a brief account on the session: ‘the speakers invited us to look at social media as society and not look at them within society. For instance, on the online space, we have got people and their practices are replaced with comments and shares.’ She further explains that ‘in order to make clicktivism work, one needs to determine their goals and timeframe, understand one’s audience so as to shape your message, communicate your goal and finally take action. The conclusions that online platforms are sometimes alternatives, complementary and sometimes very elementary methods of change for youth today’, she adds.

3. “Empowerment and activate” - How to reach out to unorganized and grassroots young people to empower them to get active

I observe people gathering in the chill-out space or Yamasa, where three speakers working directly with unorganised youth at grassroots level facilitate this workshop. They are Matej Manevski from YEU International, who works in a local youth centre, Celine Krawczyk, from CISV France and Eugeni Brigneti, from IUSY- works with kids from 5-18 years old through non-formal education. This workshop begged the following questions ‘How can we reach unorganised youth?’, ‘What can we expect from them, what can we do for them, what can we do with ?’, ‘What is today-s contribution of youth work in the framework of a youth organisation?’.

4. New and old challenges in the global village “– How to create a world for everyone, on a common ground and mutual respect

Some of the participants gather for the workshop on youth global cooperation in the Ubuntu space. They looked at ways in building global cooperation with the help of experienced people in global youth cooperation and mostly in African-European Youth Cooperation: Marcio Barcelos, from YJE, Michael Adikwu, from Africa-Europe Platform, Karim Saafi, from ADYAN and Julia Betrian, from CNJC.

This workshop engaged the participants in debates around the role of youth organisations in creating mutual understanding and respect as well as fostering an environment for co-operation and prevention of violent extremism and radicalization. It also underlined the importance of recognising people’s human rights as a step towards achieving respect. Some of the conclusions of this workshop were underlined: collaboration needs to be driven by the needs of the people, global cooperation becomes effective when people put human cooperation above global campaigns, businesses and corporations.

Once the workshops finished, all the participants gathered again in the plenary room to share the main outcomes of the workshops. The University gives organisations the opportunity to partner with each other and to organise things together. It also gives the opportunity to share resources and give more diversity to the University. The recently trained trainers at the Global Education and Youth Training for Trainers had the chance to facilitate workshops during the Joint Session Programme and the debriefing session was part of their learning process. During the Joint Session on the 23th of September, participants from the 4th Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers visually harvested

the outcomes from the working groups. The harvesters of the four groups summarised on flipcharts the main points of discussion during the Joint session workshops. This allowed the other participants to approach them and ask questions about the topic of their workshops.

After sharing the outcomes of the joint session workshops, Carmen takes the floor and invites Samuel to further interact with the participants. One of the participants asks Samuel: 'What gives you hope?'. He replies: 'It's hard for me to believe in change. What gives me hope is storytelling. I have learned that now after having worked in different sectors. What gives me hope is telling stories in an ethical way.'

The joint session ends with Carmen Fischer thanking the keynote speaker and the other experts. Then, she invites the participants to enjoy UBANDA's music and 'celebrate their bodies.'

4. Interaction with the local community 25th September

The University presents a special feature which is interacting with the local Mollina community. The programme of the University are exclusively dedicated to this. This has become already a tradition in the organisation of the University. This year, this moment has been special since the local community organised a World Music Festival with the assistance of Chemi Diaz Vergara, a young person belonging to the local community, who used to work for CEULAJ. This year, Chemi found his place within the University and he works to support the coordination team of the UYD.

The participants followed UBANDA and the joint programme team towards the center of Mollina, where the World Music Festival took place. Once the parade arrives in the city centre of Mollina, everybody enjoys the international music, from African and Egyptian music to Cypriot music.

Another key moment of interaction with the local community was led by DEAR 21 team and the IUSY team who visited 'Las Viñas highschool'. Participants from University on Youth and Development who are taking the training on Developing Educational Activities from Research in the 21st century (DEAR 21) have been testing with the students of two different classes of 3ºESO the activities that they have prepared during this week. The IUSY team from the "Youth checkpoint! Watching over the implementation of the Global Agenda" training, talked with the high school students about the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) and the pupils had the chance of expressing their point of view about the problems that the world is facing

5. Closing ceremony 26th September

The last day of the 16th UYD. It's raining and people are preparing for the closing ceremony. They are tired, happy, hopeful, excited, and sad because it is the final day of the University. Music breaks this atmosphere and the spread groups start gathering in the Ipacarai room. UBANDA is leading them to the plenary room and they keep on playing until everyone is seated. Once everyone is seated, the joint program team comes on stage as one entity, shoulder to shoulder and they remind the audience that each person in the room is a 'tiny flicker' that 'spreads the fire'. The rapporteur gives a brief account of the week and states that the emotion that prevails in Mollina is definitely hope of enthusiasm.

Carmen Fischer introduces Marcio Barcelos, from the YJF who says a few words on behalf of the partners of the University. Then, the moderator takes the floor and introduces the first group of participants that will present the outcomes of their individual training sessions. The participants from the Global Education ToT are followed by Dear 21, HRE CJE, NFE Validation CNJ. This first part of the closing session is followed by a special moment led by UBANDA. This very inspiring moment showed us the power of togetherness through our voices and the beautiful things we are capable of when we are driven by music. Then, the SPDWP group is followed by the 'Enter the net', IUSY and last but not least, YEN participants.

Once all groups have presented, the moderator thanks everyone for their efforts, stating that it is refreshing to see all of these inspiring ideas and energy. The floor is passed to Rocio who closes the University by reminding the young audience that they are all 'tiny flickers' that bring about change in the world. Everybody sings 'Bella mama', which becomes the hymn of the 16th University on Youth and Development.

5. Mapping the partner's activities

In the framework of the 16th UYD several activities took place in parallel, organised by different partners. I had the privilege of sneaking in and out the various trainings and seminars and get a glimpse of the various activities that took place during the one-week event.

1. North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship - 4th Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers – 20-27 September 2014

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe together with the partners of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship organised this training of trainers that gathered around 25 participants. The course was organised in the framework of a Joint Management Agreement between the European Commission and the NSC and it was based



on the previous experiences of the Global Education (GE) online training courses, several editions of the Global Youth Work Training Course and the first two editions of this training. The training had two main aims:

to empower young people to further support the practice of GE based on NSC GE methodology and programme (Global Education Guidelines and online

training courses),

to develop competences of participants that are or will be actively involved in the implementation of the sister Universities (African University on Youth and Development, University on Participation and Citizenship, University on Youth and Development and the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship).

The Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers allowed for a better understanding and visibility of the added value of Global Education and Youth Co-operation in the empowerment of young people and capacity building of youth organisations. At the same time it reinforced the NSC GE online training courses, the Network and each University.

The team was composed by experienced and international trainers that developed together a programme that tackled several elements, such as Global Education (concept and methodology) and a meta-reflection exercise about the UYD.

2. North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship – 1ST Training for Trainers on Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes - 20-27 September 2014

In the framework of the North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women of the NSC, this pilot activity aimed to support empowerment of civil society and more particularly of the youth and/or women organizations involved on empowerment of young women with the purpose of making them fully fledged actors of governance. The programme tackled issues such as concepts and practices of global democratic citizenship, the role of civil society's organizations in capacity building of young women in decision-making process, leadership and policy in order to promote an effective participation in democratic life and sharing of good practices on political participation, on media and on combatting violence against women.

The course was a week-long programme using a variety of educational methods such as: thematic, methodological and political inputs and discussions, new technologies, guidelines and reference documents, simulation exercises, group dynamics, interactive role plays, examples of good practices, etc. The use of experiential methods and workshops strengthened the practical and pedagogical side of the course.

The training methodology was based on the pedagogy developed by the Global Education's programme of the North-South Centre within the non-formal education. It also counted on the contribution and experiences of the promotion of gender equality and women rights of the Equality Department of the Council of Europe. The team of experienced trainers from Europe and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean were responsible to further design and implement the methodology of the course. In addition, invited guests and experts provided proposals for reflection and share good practices on the quadrilogue approach. The course was also a mutual learning experience, where participants could compare their approaches and concerns in a process based on global education methodology. It integrated the women dimension in the UYD through tackling issues such as the 'political participation of women', 'women and media' and 'prevention violence against women'.

3. Spanish Youth Council (CJE)- Training course on Human rights Education - 20-27 September 2014

The Youth Council of Spain (CJE – Consejo de la Juventud de España) defines itself as a forum for coordination, communication, training and cooperation of organizations that comprise the youth association movement. Therefore it offers opportunities for reflection,

working together, training, communication with public authorities and institutions, systematization of the experience of organized youth movement and opening of new channels and ways of action. During the University of Youth and Development, CJE organised a National Training Course of Human Rights Education with these main contents:

- Promote the education in Human Rights with Youth.
- Develop the competences of the participants organizing and facilitating activities of Human Rights Education in the formal and in the non-formal learning field.
- Present and promote the use of the “COMPASS” – Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People.

4. Youth Express Network (Y-E-N) and ROOTS & ROUTES – Seminar “Light your rights: Reveal the social value of youth work” – 20-27 September 2014

The seminar “Light your Rights: Reveal the social value of youth work” was organized by the Youth Express Network (Y-E-N) and the international network ROOTS & ROUTES (R&R). The activity took place from 20th-27th September 2015 and gathered 25 participants from 9 different countries. The aim of the seminar was to support the access to social rights for all young people and to promote the social value of youth work. The seminar was based on non-formal education approach and mixed inputs on social inclusion / social rights related issues, experiential learning and artistic workshops. They developed creative tools and methods on urban arts and street animation that allowed them to better advocate for inclusive youth policies in Europe.

5. International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) – Training course “Youth checkpoint! Watching over the implementation of the Global Agenda” – 20-27 September 2014

The main goals in the activity was to debate and work on the role of youth in the New Global Agenda and how youth can play an important role on the implementation process emphasizing the socialist and social democracy point of view. The trainers stressed the importance of Human Rights, Equality and Freedom for the real success of the SDGs. They wanted to convey the ways in which lobbying and advocacy could be done at the national and local level, coordinating action on those two levels in order to create a greater impact. They also aimed to provide the participants with tools and skills which would help to fulfill the actions related to the SDGs building towards a more socialist and social democratic society around the globe in order to achieve the values forming the base of the global agenda.

6. Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) – Training course “Enter the net! Digital competences in the daily life of the organization” – 20-27 September 2014

Youth for Exchange and Understanding has been developing a multi-measure project called “Enter the net – digital competences of organizations” with the aim to underline the importance of using ICT and OER on a daily basis in the work of the youth organizations (when attracting new members, when coordinating projects, when managing logistical and practical issues, when networking and communicating). According to YEU, youth work still lags behind in using the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT refers to the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications, computers, software and audio-visual systems, which enable users to access, store, transmit, and manipulate information. The methods used by youth workers when working with young people are not far from the ones used 20 years ago, when internet, social media and smartphones were not considered among the “common needs”. It is true that the use of social media and video productions by youth organizations has been increased, but there are still a lot of things that can be done in the field. Youth work needs to be more flexible and adjust faster to the current reality of young people. YEU argues that the usage of ICT will enable youth workers and young people to speak the same language, to reach wider audience, to improve the quality of their work and thus achieve a greater impact on young people.

Going a step further than ICT, youth work needs to involve more the Open Education Resources (OER). OER refer to “teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions. OER is about documents and videos openly licensed that are accessible freely and can be used for teaching, learning and researching. OER is about giving equal opportunities to young people to have easier and free of charge access to learning. Gaining understanding about internet governance, youth workers will be able to use ICT and OER from a human rights perspective.

Expected results were:

The youth workers (and therefore the youth organizations) to acquire all the necessary digital competences related to using ICT and OER

An online publication with key definitions and a set of tools/methods/tips that can be used by youth workers (trainers & organizers)

7. Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) – Training course “NFE Valid Action”– 20-27 September 2014

In the context the main objective of UYD, the aim of “NFE [Valid] Action” project was to establish a common strategy between the participating youth organisations to support and boost the recognition and validation of non-formal education. It was also their objective to develop a methodological tool to translate the soft skills developed through voluntary work and non-formal educations provided by youth organizations (non-formal learning situations) in order to integrate this competency qualification framework recognized nationally and/or consider them in some of the modules of professional certificates, according to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. To this end, the project developed the following activities: mapping NFE recognition and validation mechanisms; categorize the skills according to the professional qualifications framework according to the European Qualifications Framework; developing a common tool of validation of competences acquired in the context of NFE; highlight best practices developed in recognition of non-formal education in order to share knowledge and experience.

8. European Educational Exchanges – Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU) and AFS and CSIV + Experiment – seminar “DEAR 21- Developing Educational Activities from Research in the 21st century” – 20-27 September 2014

DEAR 21 aimed to bridge the gap between recent intercultural theories and current practice through the development of interactive/relevant educational tools in order to better support participants of intercultural programs organized by youth organisations. The seminar gathered 20 experienced trainers from 4 organizations: YFU, CISV, EFIL and the Experiment (5 participants per network) who created several new educational tools based on the latest ICL theories as well as revised existing activities and redesigned them so that they are in line with current intercultural theories. Other objectives included: exploring and collecting intercultural theories and relevant theories from pedagogy and sociology from the last 20 years, strengthening the collaboration between YFU, AFS, CISV and Experiment, facilitating the exchange of best practices between organisations. The programme included workshops prepared by participants for participants, where the new ICL theories were presented, sessions devoted to redesigning existing intercultural activities and creation of new ones, as well as gamification, innovation and creative techniques sessions. The output of this DEAR 21 was translated into a practical Handbook, containing new and revised intercultural educational activities along with intercultural theories they were built upon.

6. Youth, tools and change

Youth and youth.org



Youth organisations are also non-formal education hubs. They offer youth a space to have alternatives of education and develop a set of skills. Probably one of the biggest achievements of youth organisations and the UYD is that they connected networks of young people spanning the globe. Youth organisations have the mission of bringing youth closer to

humanity, as Maya Doneva tells me about her project 'our project brings a human face to the issue of social inclusion. If they are too abstract the young people would find it hard to understand them and they would not find them so important.'

Osman Ramy, from Enter the net training puts into perspective the role of youth organisations through his personal experience. He tells me that his organization represents the space where he 'developed his personality'.

Jonas Simona from Lithuania, representing YEU tells me that she started to work in the youth field because she could not just sit and do 'nothing'. At an early age, she had a feeling of responsibility to do 'something'.

Laura Lopez, from EYF: 'When we give the space to young people to explore who they are and to undertake new challenges, they are capable of doing it and they just need us as facilitators but they are the main actors of that process of change.'

Tools

I discuss with Laura Lopez (from the EJY) about the value of **digital storytelling** within the framework of the UYD. Laura posits that the storytelling project 'was intended to raise awareness on the value and impact of youth organisations. We wanted to create a more powerful tool to support our work on recognition of youth organisations. Digital storytelling captures those stories that can have a bigger impact on the audience that we are addressing, because it brings the personal testimonials. The participants could observe what they feel when they listen to these stories, if they could relate to them, if they have gone through similar experiences or what was their own story, because we all have a story to tell. Being in youth organisations it's important to find that story that makes you unique in your relation with youth organisations.'

Within the UYD, there is another proponent of storytelling is Samuel Diaz-Littauer, the keynote speaker of the Joint Session: 'I am a storyteller and i believe that when I show somebody who is marginalised or somebody whose story is not told or somebody whose muted, I believe I can do that and i believe that this is my skillset. i feel that there is purpose in that. And that's important for young people. If you don't feel compelled by what you're doing, that's also a very difficult proposition for you to see change happen. I want to see the field of storytelling change, I see unethical storytelling, I see exploited storytelling, I see biased and prejudiced storytelling. So, I want to make storytelling better. That's my role'.

Federica Cicala, the pedagogical coordinator of the ToT on Global Education training, explains to me the importance of using tools such as the Global Education Guidelines, developed by the NSC within their training: 'we apply a non-formal educational approach to Global Education but we also move towards the Global Citizenship Education methodology which has a more NGO-based approach. The latter does not appear in the Global Education guidelines of the NSC and it has been developed afterwards.' Federica adds that 'We taught them how to use non-formal education methods and design a session plan, then group work exercise to design a workshop and different training activities. We have got very positive results and now we have five pedagogical proposals to work in their local communities, in schools, with youth organisations at national and international level, and even for the University. We started from the scratch and in five days they presented high-level pedagogical proposals, that they can bring back home. '

Salma, participant from Enter the net training puts forward that 'after the session I have discovered a lot of other online tools that I am going to use in my organisation'.

Mirela, the project coordinator of Light your rights, gives me a brief account on the tools they are using for the training 'In this seminar we are using artistic methods and we are trying to bring another perspective to our campaigning because a lot of the local activities done up to now, did not have this approach of using more creative and artistic methods in expressing the message on social rights. So, we are trying to equip young people and social workers with these methods.'

Milos Vujic, participant from the SPDWP training course gives me a brief account on the Istanbul Convention, which is promoted by the Council of Europe as a key advocacy tool: 'today we talked about the Istanbul Convention which Serbia ratified in 2014. It is a pretty new thing in Serbia and I will commit myself in the next period in presenting the Istanbul Convention to the public and present the mechanisms of women empowerment and protection of human rights and prevention of domestic violence back in my country.'

And for the follow-up activity, there is one thing I have proposed to the Parliament in Serbia, which is unique concept and it is called 'Women Parliamentarian Network'. We established a network of female members of Parliament, apart from their political background and ideology, they don't represent their political party in this network. They deal with women issues in Serbia such as gender equality, domestic violence, similar things that are established in the Istanbul Convention. We somehow managed to remove the politics out of everyday's issues and the political parties are not influencing this network. This network has been created one year ago. With the 'Women Parliamentarian Network' we work also with humanitarian issues, such as fundraising campaigns. We also have a monitoring council, which monitors what this 'Women Parliamentarian Network' is doing because our network proposes some political documents (declarations, strategies etc.).

Simona Mursec, the pedagogical coordinator of the SPDWP ToT, underlines the value of online tools in the MENA region and the effect they have had on society for the past few years: "We are doing a training course in the MENA region context. We are talking about structured participation of young women in democratic processes within the Euro-mediterranean region. We have several people from European countries, particularly those bordering the Mediterranean sea and other several participants from North-Africa and Middle East. Considering what happened in the past few years in this region, we see that this kind of mobilisation of people through the help of online tools has brought a lot of social change. A lot of online mobilisation happens not through classic organisations but through small initiatives, individuals starting a campaign, groups that are not classically organised.'

Change through non-formal education

Joanna shares her passion for her work to promote non-formal education. For her, the added-value of NFE is that it 'provides us with the space where you can learn how to be, how to feel, how to learn, how to be with the other people. 'We also need formal education but we live in a crazy world, we can attend well-reputed university but if we don't know how to deal with each other and how to become a group of people, then every effort that we do, it will eventually have an effect only on some people, not everyone.' NFE gives us the space to learn, to develop a lot of skills but most of all it is a space where we can learn how to be inside a society and how to co-create that society.'

Small scale change

For Alvaro Diaz-Cueva, change 'starts with awareness raising and motivation'.

Suha Ismail explains to me that 'social marketing is about changing the community behaviour positively but sometimes there is no need to change it, just to preserve it.' You do things because you believe in them and you think it is important for society, she adds.



Maya Doneva seeks to bring about change in the Bulgarian orphanages through mentorship programmes and she tells me what change means to her: 'we try to see the young people we work with as people who can be easily empowered not as people who are a lost cause for society because every

young person on earth needs some assistance and guidance to start. The strength and the potential they have is enormous and most of them have fought very difficult battles in their lives. I think our project gives them the opportunity to become independent after having been raised in an orphanage. Our project can also be adapted to the environment and surrounding of the refugees.'

For Tracey, a participant from the DEAR 21 seminar, change means: 'developing global citizens, who actively engage in their local communities. These kind of activities open your eyes to the rest of the world.'

Alfred from Sierra Leone tells me about 'using the mainstream media in Sierra Leone to reach out to the people in remote areas. For instance, jingles are used the media in order to transmit a message to the people and raise awareness on a specific topic such raising awareness about sanitation practices'.

Bista Prakash, from Nepal, underscores 'I always get confused when I think about change, because change can be for good as well as bad. One of the questions is 'do we really need to change our society?'. Change for me means: making things better for society, solving problems through innovative ideas or through sustainable means so that the coming days will be better than before.'

Hard to believe in change?

During the Joint Session break, I get the chance to have a talk with the keynote speaker, Samuel Diaz-Littauer who expresses his viewpoint about change and what it means for young people: ‘often times I would say change doesn’t really happen. it’s tough to see change happen in our world today. What change means to me is when two or three people or more are together in small but significant movements start to resonate with each other and live that change in their own lives. That’s when true change starts to happen... It’s tough to believe in change. When I look at young people nowadays, I am afraid because they know so much, they experienced so much, much more than previous generations, that they just feel overwhelmed. There is a helplessness to believe that you can change anything. When you see this violence around the world, you feel that there is nothing in your arsenal of tools that you can use to defeat radical expressions of religion or political corruption. We are overwhelmed by this kind of helplessness. For me, to look at small things, you have to retain your passion and your desire for urgency well and at the same time having the wisdom of an older person and the patience to continue working for the future generations. It takes patience, perseverance and humility to be able to bring about change. ‘

The Spirit of the University

The spirit of the University has definitely been one of the most spelled expressions during the 16th edition of the University on Youth and Development and the participants and partners were asked what the spirit of the University was in their opinion. They all underlined the uniqueness of such a youth event as well as the fact that the UYD is a space for young people where they can debate on global issues and discuss about those big challenges they seek to overcome.

Federica Cicala (the pedagogical coordinator of the training on Global Education) tells me “You know last night I was looking at people, dancing, having fun during the local community festival and I think that the spirit of the University is that, despite what happens in the world, there is still a lot of hope. We need to have the right attitudes and opportunities to overcome the fact that we don’t know each other and spaces like the University give us the opportunity to know each other, to respect each other and to really think that another world is possible. There is still hope. We just have to multiply hope.’

Laura Lopez (from the EYJ) put forward that ‘The spirit of the University is sharing a space, where we re-confirm the values that unites us as young people engaged in youth organisation. I believe this is a very unique space where you connect with like-minded people. It is a revitalising moment when you observe you are not alone in having this vision

of world and a strong approach to solidarity. For me, this space shows the strong commitment that young people have to give their free time to engage in accompanying others in this transformative journey of being part of a youth organisation. They do it because very often they undertake that process and they know it can bring change at personal level and only through this personal change you are capable to give of your time to support processes of change for other people and communities.'

Bista Prakash, one of the participants from the Global Education training course, give tells me that "Everyone here is very motivated. There is a sense of responsibility, commitment and motivation. The programme is quite intense. It's all about the social environment that you can find in Mollina. The unique aspect of the University is the space that everyone interacts, shares and talks about different aspects of youth and the world.'

For Michael Adikwu (from Africa-Europe Platform), the spirit of the University is 'a sense of oneness, our shared humanity.' A place where young people have a niche for themselves'.

Nina Gersdorf, trainer of the seminar 'DEAR 21', puts forward: 'I like that there are different people mingling together. It's not too rushed, that people have to find their way, they talk to each other. I heard a lot about this University and I was really hoping one day to be able to get here. So, I am really happy to be here. I am very thankful to the organisers for making this happen.'

Simona Mursec, the pedagogical coordinator of the Training for trainers on Structured Participation of Women in democratic processes, tells me that 'this University is one of the few places for people active in youth organisations in Europe. You came and it's accessible and available and you meet and work with people from all over the world. If you are a youth worker or an activist or a trainer in France, the UK in one of the bigger countries that has historically links with other continents, you are very likely to have internal mechanisms to allow you to organise some projects with partners from other continents. But when you are from a smaller country or Eastern Europe or South-eastern Europe, like myself, coming from Slovenia, there are very few opportunities to work in partnership with another youth organisation or another youth council or other political activists from Africa or from other continents. This happens because there is no systematic recognition of this interest, especially in the youth field. Also, as youth organisation we have very little support for that. The University is an amazing space to get a feeling of this kind of global interdependence and what it really means to work in solidarity when you go back home. You get to reflect here what it means when you get back home, where you don't have this diversity, and you can see we are still connected and we still bear responsibility for what happens in the world.

Alvaro Diaz Cuevas (partner from CJE) tells me that: 'there is a will to change from the part of the participants of the University. I really think that the people who participate in Mollina are willing to empower youth back home.'

Maya Doneva, trainer of the ToT on Global Education believes that the spirit of the University is 'global and the UYD is a place where everyone has their own background, input, energy, their aura. It's very unique and great.'

Milos Vuijic, a participant from the ToT on Structured Participation of Women in democratic processes, posits that the spirit of the University consists of the greetings between the participants: 'I would say those greetings. It is really a nice habit. You don't know all the people around in Mollina, but you say hi to them. You don't know people here but you somehow know them. That is the spirit which I really like.'

7. Evaluation

For the 16th UYD, the partners launched a survey amongst the participants in order to evaluate this year's edition. Around 108 respondents responded to the questionnaire and offered their view on various aspects related to the University.

Has your experience at the UYD satisfied your expectations?

There is an overall contentment with the University and most of the respondents appreciated the trainings courses and seminars as well as the atmosphere in Mollina. The majority acknowledges that the UYD is a space for collective learning, where diversity and intercultural dialogue happen. One of the respondents of the survey puts forward that 'the atmosphere in the UYD was really fantastic' whilst another underlines that 'knowing the 17 goals was the most important thing that we learned'.

Many of the participants stated that they are planning to use NFE methods back home and they will also try to be more involved in the UYD in the future. UYD comes as a confirmation of the role of youth in bringing about change

What inspired you the most during your participation in the University?

Among the answers one can read:

- Open-minded people
- To see people from all over the world sharing understanding and solidarity.

- Non-formal education
- The energy and implication of my trainers
- Stories shared by participants
- Sharing experiences
- The SDGs and the MDGs
- Trainer's' knowledge and participants experience
- The organisers
- Energy, enthusiasm, sense of belonging
- My seminar
- Seeing the participants progress with their work

Suggestions to make the UYD a more sustainable place

The main suggestions to make the UYD a more sustainable place were: no bottled water; portions can be smaller and more recycling bins for bottles. Some of the respondents also suggested turning the UYD more digital and thus wasting less paper.

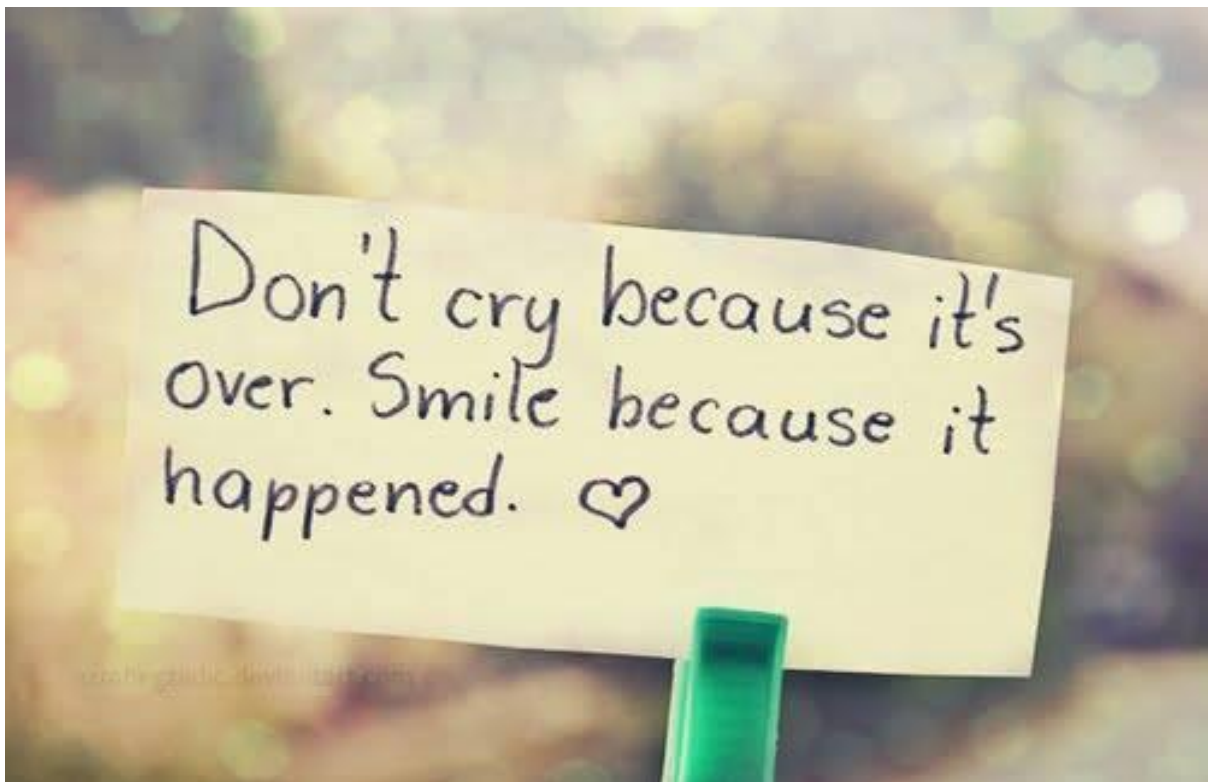
In your perception, what is the added value of holding your activity under the umbrella of the UYD?

Among the answers one can read that the added value of holding one's activity under the umbrella of the UYD there are: international exchanges; cooperation; great networking; dedication for youth, visibility, quality training and the opportunity to work with the local community.

Could you recall an AHA moment during the 16th University on Youth and Development? If yes, please specify.

- The plenary session during the shows of the groups
- When I realized that even though coming from different backgrounds, we are all quite the same.
- Work in small groups gave me a great satisfaction and amazement considering the final result
- We have had one activity during an evening session where everybody became emotional, we started to share our experiences and that was the moment when we became a group. We understood how different we are and how similar needs we have.
- An AHA moment for me is when I realized that I have been using the concept of "Non-Formal Education" through my training in my home country without realizing it, until the my training in Mollina, where the trainers started talking about what does NFE mean and how it works.
- The teaching on how youths can be involved in bringing to fruition the SDGs was surely an AHA moment for me. Also seeing the different strategies used even to ensure the smooth flow of UYD.

- Samuel's talk on being different and accepting difference.
- When I, for the first time, used my training in Theatre of the Oppressed to introduce it as a learning/ facilitation method.
- The speech by Samuel Diaz Fernandez it was just a magic moment'
- When Samuel Diaz Fernandez talked about Home and Identity. That was an inspiring moment and eye opening moment.
- The Theatre of the Oppressed methodology was implemented in one of the sessions of the training course. Undoubtedly, it was an AHA moment since I completely felt the power and potentialities of emotions in the field of Youth Work. It was absolutely inspiring!!!
- The Sahara workshop was an amazing opportunity to discover the various viewpoints from people coming from Morocco, Western Sahara and Algeria.
- UBANDA: the music involve the people and make all of them equals



See you for the next year's 17th UYD edition!

Appendix

1. The Partners
2. The Joint Programme
3. The Concept Note on Youth.org:actors for change!
4. List of Participants
6. List of abbreviations

1. The Partners

1. THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, more commonly known as the North-South Centre, was established in Lisbon in May 1990 with the purpose of promoting dialogue between North and South, fostering solidarity and raising awareness of global interdependence.

The Centre fulfils a dual political role of representing “the voice of the South” within the Council of Europe and of promoting and transmitting the values of democracy and human rights that are central to the Council of Europe’s mission in neighbouring regions.

The Centre strives to promote gender empowerment, youth participation and democratic consolidation through intercultural dialogue in cooperation with civil society, local authorities, governments and parliaments.

More info: www.nscentre.org

2. INJUVE and CEULAJ

The Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre (CEULAJ) is a resource and activity centre that is ideal for youth training and information activities, and for encounters and experiences between youth organisations and of these with public youth institutions. CEULAJ’s facilities are spread over 100,000 square meters and constitute one of the largest and best-equipped venues given over to young people. Every year, the complex, attached to INJUVE (Instituto de la Juventud, part of the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality), is visited by thousands of young people from various countries, as well as by specialists, professionals and politicians working in the field of youth.

More info: www.ceulaj.injuve.es / www.injuve.es

3. YFJ- EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The European Youth Forum is made up of National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations. Representation, internal democracy, independence, openness and inclusion are among the main principles for the functioning of the European Youth Forum and its Member Organisations. Its aims are : to increase the participation of young people and youth organisations in society, as well as in decision-making processes; to positively influence policy issues affecting young people and youth organisations, by being a recognised partner for international institutions, namely the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations; to promote the concept of youth policy as an integrated and cross-sectoral element of overall policy development; to facilitate the participation of young people through the development of sustainable and independent youth organisations at national and international level; to foster the exchange of ideas and experience, mutual understanding, and equal rights and opportunities among young people in Europe; to uphold intercultural understanding, democracy, respect, active citizenship and solidarity. More info: www.youthforum.org

4. FLAJ -FORO LATINOAMERICANO DE JUVENTUD

FLAJ (Foro LatinoAmericano de Juventud) is the regional Youth Platform for Latin America. It brings together National Youth Councils and Networks, and international youth organisations. It aims to be the body that represents, co-ordinates and promotes co-operation between Latin- American youth organisations, in order to increase the capacity of young people to promote a society based on the values of democracy, human rights, justice, and solidarity. It promotes the role of young people as key actors in achieving development and social justice.

More info: www.flaj.org

5. CJE- THE SPANISH YOUTH COUNCIL

The Spanish Youth Council (CJE) is a platform of 60 member youth organisations, formally set up in 1983. Its members are regional youth councils operating in Spain as well as other national youth organisations. Its main goal is to promote youth participation in the political, social, economic and cultural development of Spain, within the global context. CJE also works to empower young people and their youth organisations to better advocate for their rights. Its values are the democratic and plural participation, as a means to fully implementing our citizenship; social commitment; equal opportunities; dialogue; and respect for diversity, in its broadest sense.

More info: www.cje.org

6. ADYNE - AFRICAN DIASPORA YOUTH NETWORK IN EUROPE

The ADYNE - African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe is a platform of organisations, led and driven by young Africans and young people with African backgrounds living in Europe. It was created in December, 2009 in Portugal by 30 African Youth Immigrants and Youth Descendants African from 15 different European countries and it aims and endeavours to serve the interests of young people from all over Europe, promoting their active participation in a constructive dialogue between African and European societies.

More info: www.adyne.eu

7. CNJ- PORTUGUESE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Created in 1985, the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) is the representative platform of the Portuguese national youth organisations, counting with 37 member organisations. Its mission is to improve the wellbeing of young people, foster the development of youth organisations and promote the active citizenship and participation of young people. CNJ's working areas are: education; employment; social affairs; environment; quality of life; youth participation; and international relations. CNJ is a founding member of the European Youth Forum, the Youth Forum of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries and the Iberoamerican Youth Space.

More info: www.cnj.pt

8. IUSY- INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH

The International Union of Socialist Youth, founded in 1907, is a political youth organisation representing about 140 member organisations from more than 100 countries. IUSY is the Youth of the Socialist International (SI). It brings together the socialist, social democratic and labour political youth organisations from around the world in order to fight for freedom and human rights, social justice and democracy, peaceful solutions to political problems, and ending all forms of discrimination. IUSY works by developing and strengthening its member organisations in different countries, supporting new organisations, publishing bulletins, and organising international youth gatherings each year.

More info: www.iusy.org

9. YEN- YOUTH EXPRESS NETWORK

Youth Express Network / Réseau Express Jeunes (Y-E-N / R-E-J) is a pan-European network of grassroots organisations and social initiatives aiming to work at local, regional and European level on social inclusion of young people. We have 24 member organisations in 18 different

countries. Our board is paneuropean (7 volunteers) and our coordination office is based in Strasbourg. Since 1993 Y-E-N/R-EJ has organised more than 85 international youth projects, bringing together social workers, youth workers and young people with fewer opportunities to engage in social inclusion. We also do researches and studies on youth and social related issues and we try to be the voice of young people with fewer opportunities in local, regional and international institutions, either by representing them or by supporting them to create and be part of youth councils and local youth policies.

Trainers/facilitators coming from different countries in Europe have cooperated to the quality of our activities and to what Y-E-N/R-E-J is since 21 years: an inclusive network of people who fight for equal opportunities for all.

More info: www.y-e-n.net

10. EEE-YFU- European Educational Exchanges- Youth for Understanding

11. YEU- YOUTH FOR EXCHANGE AND UNDERSTANDING

YEU works to promote peace, understanding and cooperation between the young people of the world, in a spirit of respect for human rights. YEU uses NFE methods to increase tolerance and awareness between different countries, cultures and traditions. Using a Global Education dimension and Intercultural Learning activities, YEU promotes a greater level of comprehension and active citizenship through the development of quality youth exchanges, seminars, conventions, meetings, study visits, training courses, and the production of NFE resources.

More info: www.yeu-international.org

2. The Joint Programme

16th Edition

Youth.org: actors for change!

CEULAJ, Mollina (Spain) 20 - 27 September 2015

| | Sunday 20 | Monday 21 | Tuesday 22 | Wednesday 23 | Thursday 24 | Friday 25 | Saturday 26 | Sunday 27 |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 08:15-09:15 | A R R I V E S | Breakfast | | | | | | D E P A R T U R E S |
| 09:30-11:30 | | Partners Activities | Partners Activities | | | | | |
| | | Opening 10:30 | | | | | | |
| 11:30-12:00 | | Coffee Break | | | | | | |
| 12:00-14:00 | | Partners Activities | | | | | | |
| 14:00-16:00 | | Lunch Break | | | | | | |
| 16:00-17:30 | | Partners Activities | Joint Session | F R E E | Partners Activities | | | |
| 17:30-18:00 | | Coffee Break | | | Coffee Break | | | |
| 18:00-19:00 | | Partners Activities | | | Partners Activities | Conclusions and closing ceremony | | |
| 19:30-20:30 | | Dinner | | | | | | |
| 20:30-22:00 | Dinner | | | | | | Farewell Cheers | |
| 22:00- | Welcome Evening | Youth.org: Actors for Change | Sharing Workshops | Youth.org: Actors for Change | Free Evening | Local Community | | |

NSC of the CoE - Global Education and Youth Training of Trainers

NSC of the CoE- Training for Trainers on Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes

Spanish Youth Council (CJE) - TC on Human Rights Education

Youth Express Network (Y-E-N) and ROOTS & ROUTES - Seminar "Light your rights: Reveal the social value of youth work"

International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) - TC "Youth checkpoint! Watching over the implementation of the Global Agenda"

Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU) - TC "Enter the net! Digital competences in the daily life of the organization"

Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) - T "NFE Valid Action"

European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU) and AFS and CSIV + Experiment - Seminar "DEAR 21"

3. List of abbreviations

AC CoE Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
 ADYNE African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe
 AEGEE Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l' Europe
 AUYD African University on Youth and Development

CNJC Catalan National Youth Council
 CEULAJ Euro Latin American Youth Centre
 CJE Spanish Youth Council
 CNJ Portuguese National Youth Council
 CoE Council of Europe
 EEE-YFU European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding

EFIL European Federation for Intercultural Learning
EYF European Youth Foundation
EU European Union
FLAJ Foro Latino-Americano de Juventud/
Latin American Forum on Youth
FJ-CPLP Youth Forum of the Community of the Portuguese-speaking Countries
FNG Forum Nazionale Giovani
GE Global Education
GEW Global Education Week
INJUVE Instituto de la Juventud (Institute for Youth) Spain
ICMYO International Co-ordination Meeting of Youth Organisations
IUSY International Union of Socialist Youth
LAS League of Arab States
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MEDUNI Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

NSC- CoE North-South Centre of the Council of Europe
NGO Non-Governmental Organisation
NIYOA Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa
NSC North-South Centre
OIJ Ibero-American Organisation of Youth
PoT Pool of Trainers
UPC University on Participation and Citizenship
UYD University on Youth and Development
VET Vocational Education and Training
Y-E-N Youth Express Network
YES Young European Socialists
YEU Youth for Exchange and Understanding
YFJ European Youth Forum

Attendance List

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