

META UNIVERSITY 2021

**Networking, capacity building and
peer learning in youth sector**

19-22 October 2021, online

REPORT

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for Youth Participation and Global Citizenship"



GOVERNO DE
PORTUGAL

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ESTRANGEIROS



CONTENTS

META UNIVERSITY 2021	03
THE META-UNIVERSITY 2021 IN NUMBERS	04
FROM THE “UNIVERSITIES”... TO THE META UNIVERSITY!	05
PLENARY JOINT SESSIONS	12
GLOBAL MEETING POINTS	16
PARTNERS’ WORKSHOPS	20
OUTCOMES	31
KEY MESSAGES	32
EVALUATION	33
SOCIAL MEDIA CLIPPINGS AND VIDEO REPORT	35

The Meta-University 2021

The Meta -University is a new initiative of the NSC launched in 2020 as an alternative to the traditional on-field universities to keep working on youth participation, intercultural dialogue and global citizenship amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first edition had as its main purpose to keep partners and youth workers connected during the Covid-19 pandemic, reducing the side effects that a disintegration of physical connections might bring to young people. The 2021 edition was a more mature event of youth cooperation and youth participation through digital youth work.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic crisis has challenged the traditional spaces for dialogue and accelerated the process of shrinking space for civil society, the Meta-University 2021 was designed as a platform to connect youth organisations and advance the global youth agenda.

The Meta-University is:

- ✔ a platform to ensure interaction and mutual understanding addressing the current challenges of the youth sector;
- ✔ a space to build capacities, innovate, share knowledge and gather new insights;
- ✔ an opportunity to mainstream youth works' achievements and concerns, share good practices, and build new synergies.

One of the etymological streams of the Greek word “meta” is connected to the concept of “in-between”, an oscillation between future, present and past.

The Meta- University 2021 brought together young people, youth workers and youth policy makers from all regions to harness the possibilities offered by the “in between” space we live in. Learning, dialogue, and cooperation remain key elements of the Universities, even though they now happen online.

SNAPSHOT

Meta University 2021

282
participants



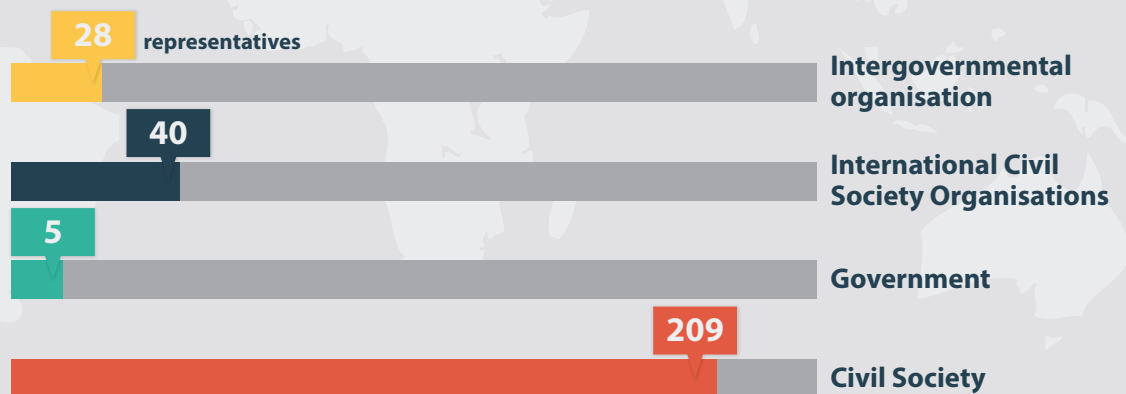
Gender balance:
161 Female, 119 Male, 1 Non-binary

Countries: ▶ (Somalia, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Macedonia, Malta, Albania, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Netherlands, Germany, Armenia, Romania, Ireland, Britain, Poland, the Philippines, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Mexico, Canada, USA, Argentina, and more.)

70

Regions: ▶ North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, Latin and North America, East, South and South East Asia

Quadrilogue representation:



Workshops promoted by partner organizations

Ten interactive workshops and webinars delivered by partner organisations



Plenary sessions with guest speakers

Plenary sessions enabling young people to contribute to the developments of the global youth agenda on current key issues of the youth sector



Expo Area

An Expo Area with partner booths to network, download material, and learn more about activities of various youth organisations, exchange contacts and create new partnership opportunities



Facilitated intercultural gatherings and networking

Informal gatherings such as online global meeting points, dynamic group chats, speed networking, interactive and creative games. Networking through profile search, chats, and video calls

A multilateral global partnership

The programme was built together with partner organisations from different regions of the world, representing youth constituencies at different levels: youth-led organisations, governmental bodies, international umbrella networks, and intergovernmental institutions. With the support of a team of professional facilitators, the event encouraged interaction among all entities and youth representatives within a comfortable but structured digital space.

PARTNER - ORGANISATIONS

- **African Union - Youth for Peace programme (AU - Y4P):** continental union consisting of 55 African member states. The Y4P seeks to effectively engage with youth groups in the promotion of peace and security on the continent.
- **Dypall Network (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level):** European platform of over 60 civil society organisations and local authorities that involve young people in decision-making processes at municipal and regional level.
- **Dramblys:** non-profit Spain-based organisation promoting social innovation and social entrepreneurship.
- **Global 21st Entrepreneurs:** Nigerian non-profit organisation that empowers rural women and young people to lead social change in their communities as a means of eradicating poverty and advancing gender equality.
- **I-Dare Italy:** non-profit organisation linked to I-DARE Jordan that works on youth policies and community development.
- **International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) - feminist working group:** umbrella organization bringing together about 136 socialist, social democratic and labour political youth organizations from more than 100 countries around the world.
- **National Youth Council of Italy (CNG):** youth-led body representing young people in consultative processes with the Italian institutions concerning youth policies.
- **National Youth Council of Spain (CJE):** platform gathering 60 Spanish youth-led entities which foster youth participation for the socio, political and economic development of Spain.
- **National Youth Observatory of Tunisia (ONJ):** Centre for research, information and training for young people that closely works with NGOs and youth centres under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- **Youth Professional Network:** Albania-based organisation that empowers young professionals by advocating for their labour rights and by increasing their participation in policy-making processes.

A multi-level experience

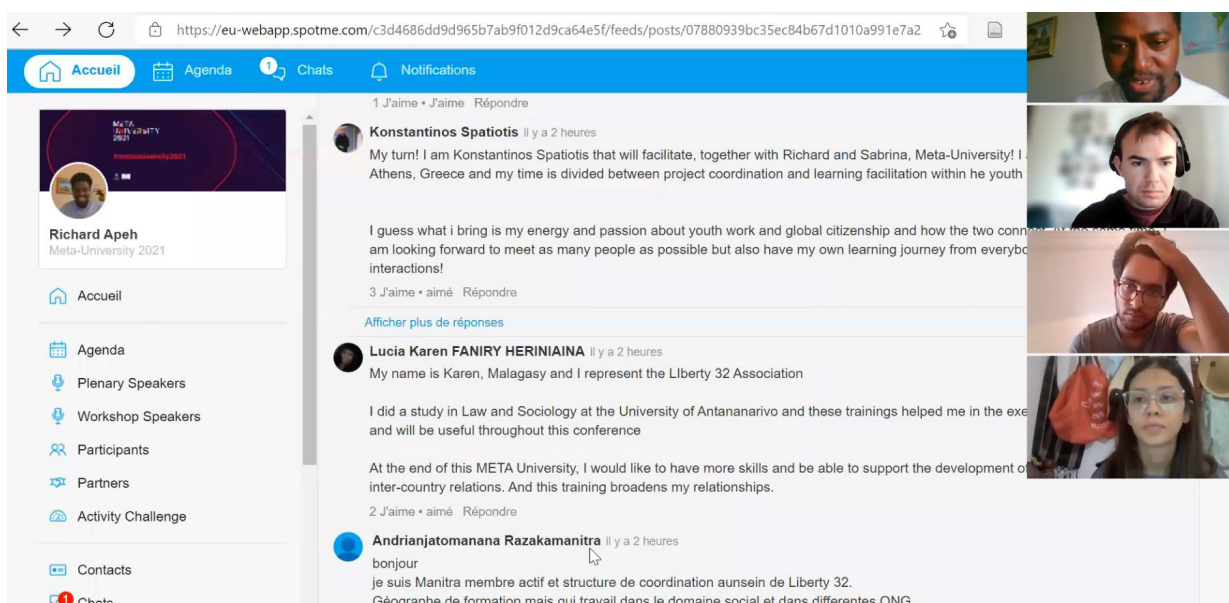
The Meta-University relies on the educational model developed in the previous Universities based on peer learning, global education and confidence building, but adapted to the digital setting. The programme was implemented through a variety of activities which enabled participants to choose among different levels of engagement. During the four-day programme, participants had the opportunity to:

- **expand knowledge** and build new skills by taking part in one or more of the ten webinars promoted by partner organisations;
- **contribute to the global youth agenda** by following the plenary sessions focused on current key issues of the youth sector;
- **connect with peers** and practice intercultural dialogue while enjoying informal gatherings such as online coffee-breaks, creative group games and facilitated group discussions;
- **build a network** by mingling in the expo area to learn about new projects and opportunities, checking each others' profile, starting a chat or video calls and set up new partnerships.

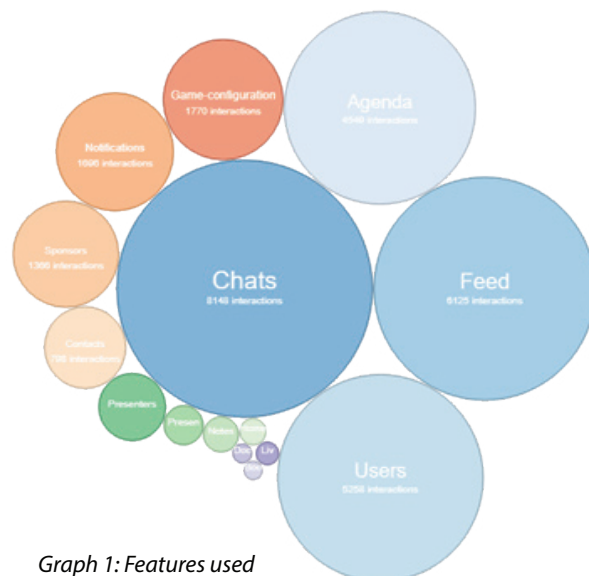
A multiple effort for interactivity

The distinguishing element of the Meta University 21 was its high interactivity based on a social media approach. This was a key feature to boost online intercultural dialogue, but also to overcome the one-stream approach used in many institutional online youth events.

The platform used was highly user-friendly and tailored to a youth audience, encompassing features similar to those of mainstream social media. The "social feed" feature of the platform allowed everyone to share their experiences, to start a debate about what was presented on a previous workshop, to upload personal pictures, to comment on each other's posts etc... Pictures and memories from previous "physical" Universities (UYD or Med Uni) populated the "social feed" reconnecting old friends but also allowing a reflection on the evolution of the Universities.

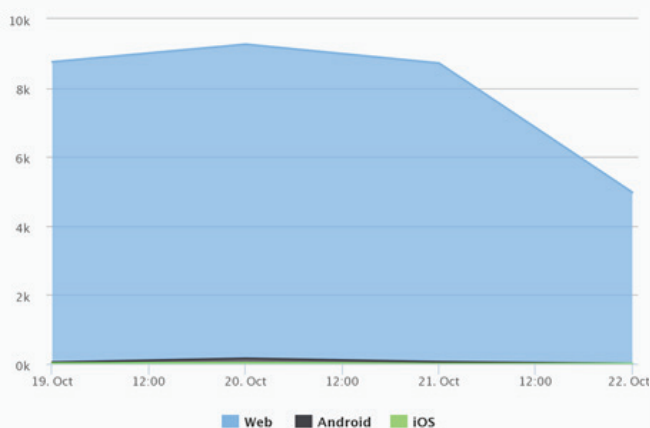


The figure describes how meta-university attendees navigated around the platform's event and which features were used the most. The chats were the most used channels where participants interacted more than 8.000 times. Participants also enjoyed browsing the social feeds (where everyone could post on a common "wall") and checking the list of the people that were online on a given moment.

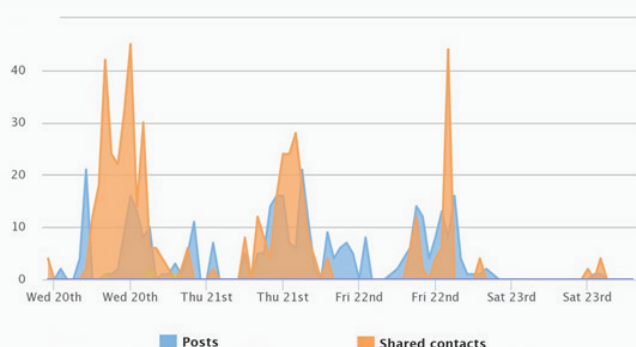


Graph 1: Features used

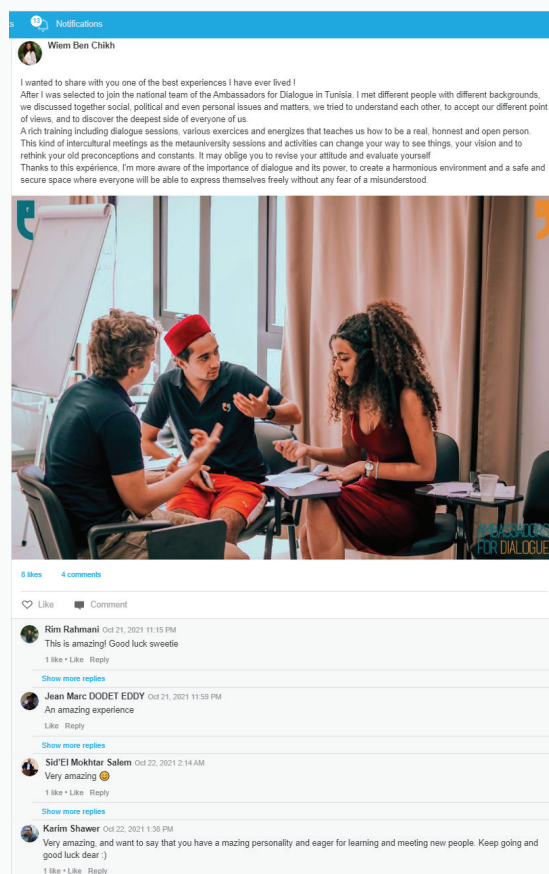
The high interactivity of the event enabled to connect all groups of participants of all the partners' workshops, building a diverse community of youth workers.



Graph 2: Total interactions



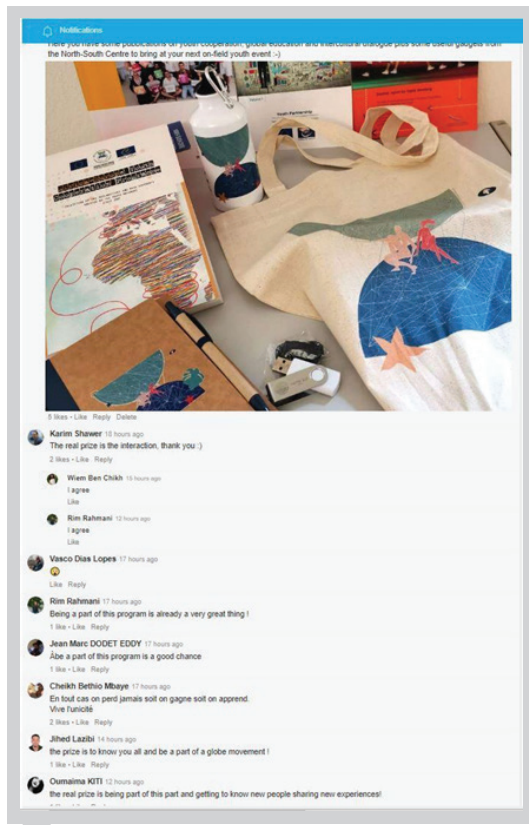
Graph 3: Engagement



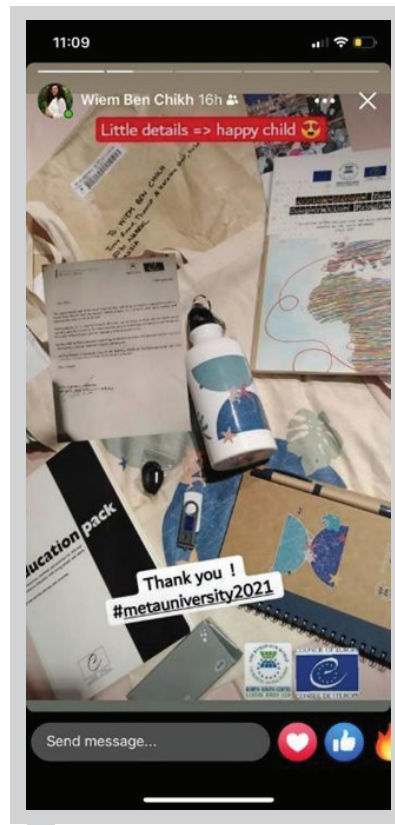
- The “Activity Challenge”

To further stimulate participants’ engagement but also to get familiar with the different interactive features of the platform, the team of facilitators launched an “activity challenge”. The challenge encouraged participants to perform some tasks to score points: upload a profile picture, start a conversation, connect the LinkedIn profile, browse through partner booths, take part in workshops and group meetings were some of the actions allowing participants to earn points. The five participants who scored more points were awarded for their active engagement with a symbolic prize: they received a package from the North South Centre including goodies and publications.

Besides the competitions, the “Activity Challenge” was appreciated as a tool to boost interaction and intercultural dialogue.



Snapshot 1: motivation and interaction as the real prize!



Snapshot 2: winners received the price at their home

The winners of the challenge were:



1. Jean Marc Dodet Eddy

2. Oussama Amam

3. Wiem Ben Chikh

4. Rim Rahmani

5. Karim Shawer

A multi-dimensional programme

The Meta University 2021 was organised across:




Four macro areas:

- Youth rights and global citizenship amidst the Covid-19 pandemic
- Youth e-participation and Online Intercultural dialogue
- Interregional Youth cooperation
- Prevention of violent extremism and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Four types of activities:

- Workshops promoted by partner organisations (*partners' activities*)
- Plenary sessions with guest speakers (*joint sessions*)
- Expo area and networking spaces (*virtual fair and independent navigation*)
- Facilitated intercultural gatherings (*global meeting points*)

Meta-University 2021 PROGRAMME							
<i>(Lisbon time)</i>							
Tue 19 Oct		Wed 20 Oct		Thur 21 Oct		Fri 22 Oct	
10:00 - 13:00 Getting to know each other and exploring the platform		10:00 - 12:00 Prevention of violent extremism through youth employment in WB6 and MENA Region YPN	10:00 - 12:00 Youth e-participation matters: transferring youth participation to the digital sphere DYPALL Network	10:00 - 12:00 Youth development and global citizenship Global 21 st	10:00 - 12:00 Youth work and resilient communities in transition times I-Dare Italy	10:00 - 12:00 Meeting of the international stakeholders active in the field of youth	
		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point			
14:00 - 14:30 Meta-Gathering!		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point	
14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"National concerns and global citizenship"</i>		14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"Intercultural dialogue in online settings"</i>		14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"Interregional cooperation for a global youth agenda"</i>		14:30 - 16:00 Final Plenary for knowledge sharing and partnership building	
16:00 - 18:00 What is Europe doing to combat online hate speech? CNG	16:00 - 18:00 Youth rights during the pandemic in Southern Europe CJE	16 - 18 Boosting online intercultural competence through gamification Drambllys	16 - 18 Let's learn about the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda! ONJ	16 - 18 10-Year implementation plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security AU-Y4P Part I	16:00 - 18:00 Women in crisis: impact and consequences of a global pandemic on women IUSY	16:00 - 18:00 10-Year implementation plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security AU-Y4P Part II	16:00 - 18:00 Interactive evaluation and participants-led sessions

				
Partners' Activities	Joint sessions	Global meeting points	Independent navigation	Special Meeting upon invitation



PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

Workshops promoted by partner organisations covering a wide range of topics.



JOINT SESSIONS

Plenaries organised by the North-South Centre where all partners, participants, guest speakers and institutional representatives come together once a day to explore the key questions of the Meta-University 2021.



GLOBAL MEETING POINTS

Informal facilitated gathering enabling peer education, partnership building and intercultural dialogue.



INDEPENDENT NAVIGATION

Interactive pre-designed content and asynchronous activities to get to know each other, the platform, collect messages and feedback.



SPECIAL MEETING UPON INVITATION

A meeting where the major players active in the youth sector at international level share their agendas, exchange concerns and find a common ground in terms of priorities.

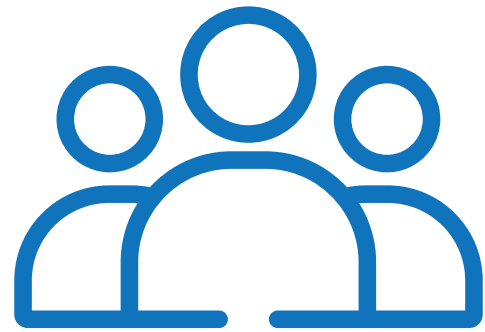


VIRTUAL FAIR

An "Expo area" that throughout the university allow everyone to open a virtual stand to share ideas, projects and opportunities and get to know new organisations.

The Joint Team

A team of facilitators designed and led all the plenary moments and fostered exchanges and cooperation among partners' activities. Their role was also to guide participants through the online event's platform encouraging interaction and supporting their intercultural and learning experience



Konstantinos Spatiotis (Greece)

Youth worker and trainer since 2005. Experiential learning facilitator with a focus on youth workers' personal development and capacity building for youth organisations.



Sabrina Boukhorssa (Algeria)

Young Algerian activist specialised in digital communication, innovation management and social entrepreneurship with a gender sensitive approach.



Richard Francis Apeh (Nigeria)

Trainer on Ethics Education and Education for Peacebuilding holding a master's degree in Diplomacy and International Relations. He has many years of experience in the international youth movement working both with governmental and civil society organisations, advocating for youth rights and youth engagement in public policy.

JOINT SESSIONS

JOINT SESSION 1

“National concerns and global citizenship”

Key question: How can global citizenship and international solidarity be promoted as fundamental elements for social cohesion in the current scenario, where, to control the pandemic, international mobility is limited and countries take measures looking primarily at their national context?

OPENING REMARKS:

Matjaž Gruden

Director of Democratic Participation *Council of Europe*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Shyami Puvimanasinghe

Human Rights Officer

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Agata Sobiech

Team Leader for youth and for the Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme (DEAR) programme

Directorate-General for International Partnerships - European Commission

Marios Epaminondas

Office for European and International Affairs

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth - Government of Cyprus

Babakar Mahmadou Toure

Youth educator and board member

Africa Region Presidium - The International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International

MODERATOR:

Konstantinos Spatiotis

Key messages:

- Solidarity is not decreasing, rather taking new forms, whereas institutions are adapting their policies and activities keeping more in mind the interdependence between international mobility, global citizenship, solidarity and human rights.
- Decision makers should apply a youth and intergenerational lens to build resilience in society against future crisis such as the pandemic of Covid19.
- Authorities should update youth strategies and review the approach to education by promoting international solidarity and global citizenship at all levels of education.
- An inclusive decision making process should be ensured at all levels of governance and youth stakeholders should have a stronger voice regarding the future.

JOINT SESSION 2

“Intercultural dialogue in online settings”

Key question: How to efficiently promote intercultural dialogue and work on cross-cultural mutual understanding online?

KEYNOTE SPEECH:

Prof. Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz

Director *Center for Intercultural Dialogue (USA)*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Alton Grizzle

Programme specialist in Media and Information Literacy
UNESCO

Bram Van Haver

Youth and Education Specialist
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Emilija Gagrčin

Researcher and member of the European Federation for Intercultural Learning
Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

Anna Zelno

Trainer and Diversity & Innovation Strategist
Academy for Diversity and Innovation

MODERATOR:

Sabrina Boukhorssa

Key messages:

- In lock-down regimes, online fatigue and digital gap are the two main struggles that inhibit effective Intercultural dialogue (ICD) online.
- On the other hand, Covid19 pandemic has accelerated the rise of participation in the digital sphere and the amount of worldwide connections each person can have: two elements from which ICD has greatly benefited.
- During an online ICD, it is recommended to have a participatory approach to enhance the active participation of young people. Facilitators have the great responsibility of setting up a favourable space for young people with less confidence to engage in a public conversation as this can happen more smoothly in an online setting.
- Disinformation and misinformation online hinder intercultural dialogue: capacity building initiatives are essential to counter this phenomena.

JOINT SESSION 3

“Interregional cooperation for a global youth agenda”

Key question: What measures are international networks of young people putting in place to continue working together on the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and Youth, Peace and Security Agenda?

OPENING REMARKS:

Graziano Tullio

Youth Cooperation Programme Officer *North-South Centre of the Council of Europe*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Ana (Anuki) Mosiashvili

International Coordinator of Advocacy and Partnership
Y-PEER network

Timothy Onyango

Board Member
Network of International Youth Organizations in Africa (NIYOA)

Mridul Upadhyay

Regional Coordinator Asia
United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders)

Daniele Taurino

Co-chair, Peace and Security Coordination Network
European Youth Forum

Timothy Gachucha

Country Representative for Kenya
SDG Youth

MODERATOR:

Richard Francis

Key messages:

- It is only by having a clear and shared vision on interregional youth cooperation that we can effectively work on human rights and international solidarity.
- International cooperation could be the response to challenges that are coming from the shrinking of civil space for civil society.
- Young people coming from vulnerable contexts are facing new forms of exclusion. Prioritising young people inclusion in policy decisions is now more than ever fundamental.
- SDGs and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) are two agendas that cannot be addressed effectively if separated: there is no peace without sustainable development and no sustainable development is possible without peace.

GLOBAL MEETING POINTS

GLOBAL MEETING POINT 1

Activity guest

Lisa Glybchenko

Moderator:

Richard F. Apeh

The session mixed elements of cross-cultural dialogue and peacebuilding to foster peace through collaboration.

The meetings had as guest **Yelyzaveta (Lisa) Glybchenko**, member of the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and graphic artists, who ran a small workshop based on the project [“Color Up Peace”](#) she is developing. The “Color Up Peace” workshop combined art and activism: thanks to facilitated group exercises participants explored different learning methodologies while building together new perspectives on peace.

All the pictures shared by participants were used to produce a collage that would then be changed into a colouring piece of art.



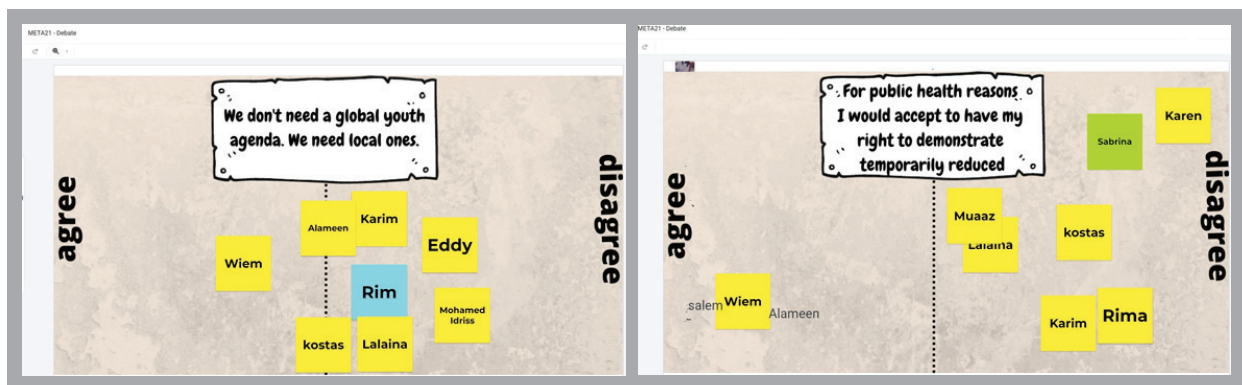
Key messages:

- “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO

GLOBAL MEETING POINT 2

Facilitator:
Sabrina Boukhorssa

The session was a valuable moment of connection to further engage participants in identifying common interests and in sharing about their inspirations and ambitions. Facilitated group interactions enabled to explore different learning methodologies while providing space to young practitioners to promote their projects and approaches. The format of the session which linked the personal and the professional level aimed at creating a safe environment for the subsequent activities of the meta-university. Discussion and exchange of point of views on relevant issues for the youth sector took place using an interactive board.



Key messages:

- When seeking group synergy and/or social cohesion, getting to know each other on a personal level is a good practice as it increases the level of safety in the community.

GLOBAL MEETING POINT 3 AND FINAL PLENARY

Facilitator:

Konstantinos Spatiotis

The final moment of the event was a session focused on knowledge sharing, providing space to share and collect all insights from partners activities and joint sessions.

Participants had the opportunity to provide feedback about their experience at the event and to explore future synergies among peers.

During the final plenary, thanks to the kind collaboration of **Katerina Balakina** it was possible to graphically harvest the final remarks and key takeaways participants shared. The final graphic product contains the highlights of the event.



Key messages:

- Those informal sessions of the Meta University might be underestimated, but they have a huge value: to reflect about participant's specific contexts and personal realities are important elements to enhance cultural sensitivity in youth events.

PARTNERS' WORKSHOPS

Young Professionals Network (YPN)

PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS AND MENA REGIONS

Guest speakers:

Marija Krstevska: National Youth Council of North Macedonia

Samir Anouti: Regional Adviser for Youth, UNFPA - Arab States Regional Office

Fatima Ezzahrae Kbir: Partnership Specialist - Union for the Mediterranean

Arben Ramka: Chairman of the Inter Religious Institute/ Expert in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

Romina Kuko: Deputy Minister of the Albanian Ministry for Internal Affairs

Emil Balavac: Grants Manager at IOM - UN Migration

Kristi Cina: UN Association, Albania

Nenad Stekic: Institute of International Politics and Economics, Serbia

Facilitators:

Andjela Micavonic: Youth activist, Phd Candidate at the University of Luxembourg

Sara Zekaj: Security Expert

Matilda Karçanaj: Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)

Description

Though having different historical backgrounds, nowadays the Western Balkans and the MENA region share similar challenges regarding youth unemployment, migration, and youth participation leading to possible cases of radicalisation and extremism. The webinar consisted of a round-table on the impact of youth socio-economic empowerment on preventing violent extremism and radicalization. Young people, youth organisations, activists, experts and representatives of state authorities and international organisations discussed strategies and actions to apply the Youth Peace and Security agenda to raise youth employment in the Western Balkans and MENA region.

As a result of the discussion, an Op-Ed was developed with key findings and recommendations from participants.

Key messages:

- Economic empowerment through youth employment is a viable strategy to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.
- Common agreement and joint strategies should be found in the Western Balkans and the MENA region to enhance youth employment.

DRAMBLYS

BOOSTING ONLINE INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE THROUGH GAMIFICATION

Trainers:

Lina Klemkaite: DRAMBLYS

Anna Zelno: Academy for Diversity and Innovation

Description

The training workshop aimed at sharing the lessons learnt from “Anti-discrimination Pack 2.0”. A resource recently released by Dramblys in collaboration with 4C and The Academy for Diversity and Innovation. Through a game tackling online discrimination, participants explored scenarios of exclusion and were given the opportunity to design individual development plans of intercultural competence. The objective was to create a safe space where youth leaders worldwide can learn tools to promote online intercultural dialogue.

Key messages:

- Social networks do not create discriminatory content themselves but surely they enable any such content to be spread quickly, far and wide. Tackling online discrimination is a duty for all.
- The cognitive diversity of a team is the most important source of creativity and innovation.
- After Verna Myers’ remark that “diversity is being invited to a party and inclusion is being asked to dance”, someone added that “equity is remembering to play your favorite song and that belonging is dancing like nobody's watching”.

DYPALL Network

YOUTH E-PARTICIPATION MATTERS: TRANSFERRING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE

Trainers:

Mateusz Hoffmann: Project Manager (DYPALL Network)

Aleksandra Maldżiski: International Projects Coordinator (DYPALL Network)

Description

The workshop built on the results from two recent study sessions on youth civic participation in the digital era developed by DYPALL Network in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. Considering the limits of traditional forms of participation, it is now necessary to develop alternatives to promote youth engagement in decision-making processes, such as e-participation. The workshop allowed to share good practises (from the platform OPIN.ME) but also to discuss barriers and challenges of youth e-participation.

Key messages:

- E-participation is an opportunity to give answers to existing challenges connected to youth participation in general.
- The means necessary for youth e-participation to be effective are already there, what is still needed is to increase engagement around them and their widespread use in youth work.

Consiglio Nazionale dei Giovani (CNG)

WHAT IS EUROPE DOING TO COMBAT ONLINE HATE SPEECH?

Guest speakers:

Federico Faloppa: member of the Council of Europe Expert Committee on Combating Hate Speech

Alessandra Coppola: former Spokesperson of "No Hate" Italy

Sara Massini: President of AICEM

Valentina Podestà: Member of CNG Commission for Foreign Affairs

Francesco D'Anna: Member of CNG No Hate Speech Subcommittee

Facilitator:

Dario Coppi (AICEM)

Description

The pandemic has consistently accelerated the digitalization of social life. In this new context, online hate speech is increasingly impacting the real life of many youngsters and posing important challenges to our institutions. The workshop aimed at framing the phenomenon of hate speech by analysing the definition of the Council of Europe, as well as understanding various forms of hate speech and its consequences. Further, it explored the work of the EU and the Council of Europe, as well as of digital and social media platforms in combating hate speech encouraging a debate about good practices and new means against hate speech. The session provided space to elaborate new ideas and share perspectives on how to involve the most vulnerable groups, such as minorities and young people who spend a great amount of time online, in educational initiatives to build their capacities against hate speech.

Key messages:

- Hate Speech is a transversal topic affecting every human being, but it impacts especially the minorities and the youth.
- It is crucial to intensify awareness raising activities against hate speech during the Covid19 pandemic, since the use of digital and social media platforms has been accelerated since then.

Global 21st Century Entrepreneur Initiatives

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Trainers:

Prince Adewumi Adebola: World Sustainability Fund

Adewumi Mojisola I: Global 21st Century Entrepreneur Initiatives.

Description

The workshop explored the following questions: How do young people manifest their power? How can the youth build strong institutions, and design sound and fair policies? The activity highlighted possible ways to motivate young people to care beyond their own surroundings, to take greater responsibilities and leadership roles. Unfolding their role as driving forces for socio-economic development will allow young people to become change makers at the local and global levels.

Key messages:

- A centralised technology-based mechanism for citizen's recommendations and feedback on transparency, good governance and accountability should be adopted. This will create mutual confidence between Governments and citizens, strengthening developments at all levels.
- The inclusion of young people in policy development and ensuring open access to all governmental information are necessary elements to identify solutions for community problems creating at the same time long-lasting positive impacts on youth development.

Consejo de la Juventud de España (CJE)

TITLE: YOUTH RIGHTS DURING THE PANDEMIC IN SOUTHERN EUROPE

Description

Housing, youth employment and poverty are pressing issues of today. The roundtable will address these three concerns allowing a great interaction between participants and representatives of the National Youth Councils from Southern Europe, the European Youth Forum and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

Guest speakers:

Andreea Scriosteanu: Vice president of the National Youth council of Romania

Nigel Caruana: International Officer, National Youth Council of Malta

Ana Collados: Board member of the National Youth Council of Spain

Maria Rodriguez: Board member European Youth Forum

Facilitator: Xabier Triana Gómez: National Youth Council of Spain

International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)

WOMEN IN CRISIS: IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCES OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC ON WOMEN

Storytellers:

Oumaima Kiti (Morocco)

Vanesa Garfias (Mexico)

Leah Stagnone (USA)

Mariana Canet (Mexico)

Alma Delia (Mexico)

Facilitators:

Molly Biron: IUSY Feminist working group (USA)

Jessali Zarazua: IUSY Feminist working group (Mexico)

Hind Ksiouar: IUSY Feminist working group (Morocco)

Description

The pandemic continues exposing structural inequalities across every sphere, from health to the economy and migration. Women* face disproportionate impacts with far reaching consequences that are only further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict, and emergencies. Hard-fought gains for women's rights are also under threat when it comes to feminist movement and activism.

Through storytelling and small group exchanges, the workshop discussed intersectional feminism, the unequal impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women* and the various institutional responses that may or may not have responded to support them. Gender roles, gender-based and sexualised violence and women's healthcare during the ongoing pandemic were discussed with a focus on youth engagement, looking at possible social and political measures to close the gap.

Key messages:

- Crisis impact more on women*, therefore social and political measures supporting women* are necessary.
- To learn about intersectional perspectives through women* stories around the world is a powerful means to increase empathy and solidarity globally.
- Youth organisations and feminist groups are aware of the changes brought by Covid-19 and demands structural changes to ensure equal rights.

I-DARE ITALY

YOUTH WORK AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION TIMES

Guest speakers:

Michael Hill: freelance education specialist

Iyad Ajaber: I-Dare Jordan, coordinator of Community of Practice of Salto Youth EuroMed about Youth work preventing violent radicalisation and extremism

Michelangelo Belletti: researcher at Università Cattolica Milano about prevention violent radicalisation

Facilitator:

Federica Demicheli: I-Dare ITALY

Description

The workshop, organised in the format of a roundtable, explored the role and dimensions of youth work in preventing violent radicalisation and discussed the impact of Covid19 pandemic on radicalisation processes. The roundtable brought together researchers, youth workers, and practitioners involved at different stages and roles in preventing violent radicalisation and promoting social cohesion at local and regional level. The panellists shared their experience from EU and Neighbouring countries' perspectives, presented a set of research outcomes and identified the competences needed for youth workers to create resilient communities. The participants explored in particular the factors leading to radicalisation in times of Covid19 pandemic taking in special consideration fragile groups.

Key messages:

- Covid 19 provoked new forms of extremism and polarisation in the societies. It is important to work in the communities to create new links among people, but also between people and institutions.
- Youth work could play an essential role in preventing violent extremism, strengthening individual resilience. Hence, youth workers should upscale their skills to better reply to the nowadays' challenges.

African Union – African Union Youth Ambassador for Peace (AU-Y4P)

**10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR
THE CONTINENTAL FRAMEWORK ON
YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY**

Observatoire National de La Jeunesse (ONJ)

**LET'S LEARN ABOUT THE YOUTH,
PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA!**

Considering the common topic tackled by the two organisations, the geographical scope covered and the common language used to run the two workshops (Arabic) AU-YPN and ONJ implemented a joint activity

Guest speakers:

Alhafiz Hassan: African Union Commission

Kais Farfra: National Youth Observatory (Tunisia)

Nouha Grine: National Youth Observatory (Tunisia)

Facilitators:

Mohamed Edabbar: African Union - Youth Ambassador for Peace Programme

Menna Mosbah: Independent consultant on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)

Description

The workshop presented objectives and implementation plan of the [AU Continental Framework for Youth, Peace and Security](#) (2019 – 2029) and showcased best practices and lessons learned about Youth, Peace and Security agenda in North Africa. The webinar fostered youth inclusion in policymaking: the analysis of reports, recommendations, consultations' results helped in identifying new pathways to prevent violence, to address security challenges and adopt new National Action Plans (NAPs) on YPS.

By taking part at the workshop elaborated by AU-YPN, the participants coming from the peace clubs promoted by the ONJ in Tunisia had the opportunity to get a broader picture on the YPS scenario in Africa and increased their capacity to contribute to the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 in Tunisia.

Key messages:

- It is necessary to improve youth participation in decision making processes for the implementation on the YPS agenda in Africa.
- The development of the National Action Plan on YPS are among the top priorities of the AU-YPS framework and a set of recommendations have been produced in this regard.

The background of the page is a vibrant orange color. It features a series of concentric, wavy lines in a lighter shade of orange and a few thicker lines in a bright blue color. These lines create a sense of movement and depth, radiating from the top left towards the bottom right.

Annual Meeting of International Stakeholders in the field of Youth 2021

Organisations:

- African Union
- African, Caribbean and Pacific Young Professional Network (ACP YPN)
- Asian Youth Council
- Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
- Assembly of European Regions - Youth Regional Network (AER-YRN)
- Commonwealth Social Policy Development - Youth Division
- Commonwealth Youth Human Rights and Democracy Network
- European Commission
- European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- Foro Latinoamericano de Juventud (FLACJ)
- Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security
- Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
- International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)
- League of Arab States
- Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA)
- Pacific Youth Council
- Union for the Mediterranean
- UNOY Peacebuilders
- United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC)
- United Nations - Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
- UN Major Group for Children and Youth
- UNESCO
- UNDP
- UNFPA
- Youth Forum of the Portuguese Speaking Countries Community (FJCPLP)

Facilitators: Agency for peacebuilding

Description

The meeting contributed to strengthening a global youth partnership for development, peace and global citizenship through the definition of a common agenda and the identification of common priorities. The facilitated discussion ensured an exchange of information and lessons learned about i) the challenges faced by youth globally; ii) the challenges faced by organisations working with youth; iii) the opportunities for collaborative actions.

Key messages:

- The constrained space for civil society-led initiatives remains a major concern. Especially young people from vulnerable communities continue to face structural obstacles to participation and to be underrepresented in youth-focused policy initiatives.
- On one side, international organisations continue to lack the tools and mindset to truly engage young people. On the other side, youth-led networks continue to be underfunded and overwhelmed by work. Such a context, within a pandemic period, creates difficulties in establishing new partnerships.
- It remains in place a general context where international youth-related entities focus most of their efforts in pursuing their own agendas and setting up their own activities independently, giving limited consideration to the fact that cooperation can be the way to reach their objectives in a more sustainable and structured way.

OUTCOMES



INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION FOR A GLOBAL YOUTH AGENDA

The discussions focused on SDGs and the Youth Peace and Security agenda highlighted the importance to consolidate a clear and shared vision on interregional youth cooperation to face challenges such as the shrinking of civil space, climate change and the mitigation of Covid-19 repercussions on Youth.



INTERDEPENDENCE AND INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE AS KEYS FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

It was clearly recognized the interdependence between international mobility, global citizenship, solidarity and human rights. All the main actors of the youth sector agree that institutions shall acknowledge such interdependence and adapt their policies accordingly. An intergenerational lense is necessary in policy making in response to the current crisis in order to build more resilient societies. Policy development mechanisms should ensure safety while offering opportunities for engagement and dialogue.



SHARING AND CONNECTION AS BASIC NEED FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

To have a space to exchange insights, to develop synergies, to identify common challenges, but also to simply get in touch among youth organisations was acknowledged as a need of the youth sector in the current times. The Meta-university allowed to overcome the disintegration of the physical connection brought by the pandemic while enhancing networking opportunities and collaboration among youth stakeholders.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE WORKS SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL SHIFT

The online setting explored new models of civic engagement, challenged traditional resources of non-formal education while opening the doors to young people that are usually cut off from physical events due to geographical or economical constraints. The Council of Europe resources and approaches disseminated during the event played an important role in guiding newcomers and in grounding pilot initiatives to standards and tools (Framework of Competences for democratic cultures, Compass Manual, Istanbul Convention, European Court of Human Rights) able to guarantee solid guidance in an extremely flexible digital scenario.



INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE TO BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Participants from different regions of the world (North and South America, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, Europe, and SouthEast Asia) experienced intercultural dialogue within a space offering a global perspective on issues affecting young people. The cross-cultural interaction gave visibility to the effects of the pandemic on the youth sector. A storytelling approach enabled to share experiences, to build empathy and to strengthen international solidarity.

KEY MESSAGES

«The MetaUniversity is a solution to keep on working on Youth cooperation and it testifies of the creativity, the motivation, and resilience of players of the Youth sector. Rather than talking about a lost generation, we should acknowledge the strength and transformative power of the Youth.»



Matjaž Gruden
Council of Europe

«The pandemic has changed things quite drastically for all types of organisations. This loss of mobility means that we are missing the on-field experience, but we can bring together online many more people and from much more diverse backgrounds. We have to make the most out of this transformation, use this crisis to our advantage.»



Shyami Puvimanasinghe
Office of United Nations High
Commissioner for Human Rights
(OHCHR)

«We will not come back to the world we knew. But it is important to remember that the digital sphere is not enough and we need to complement it with the human element.»



Agatha Sobiech
European Commission

«Intercultural dialogue is a matter of what someone does to understand others. Online intercultural dialogue opens tremendous opportunities; there is a fantastic margin for growth for hybrid interactions.»



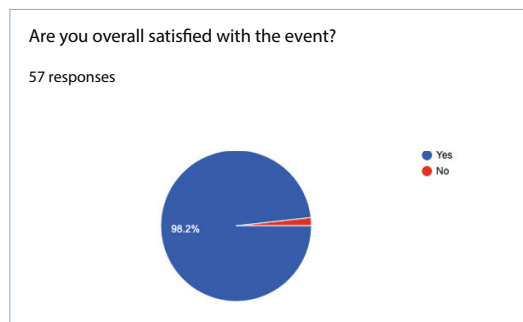
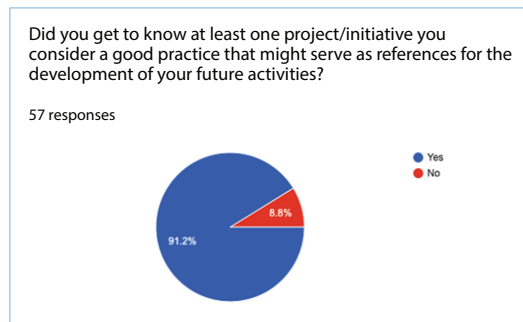
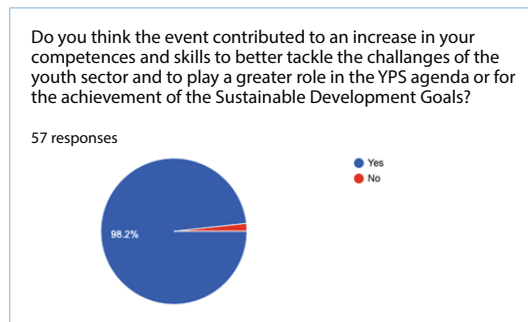
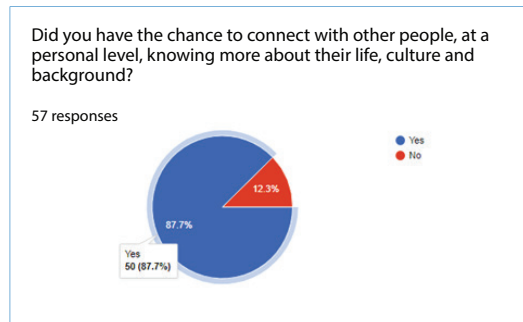
Wendy Leeds-Hurwitz
Center for Intercultural Dialogue

«The Covid-19 pandemic reiterated the importance of the “Youth Peace and Security” agenda. While usually seen as the victim or the perpetrator of violence, throughout the pandemic young people showed their potential as problem solvers, tackling positively and constructively a broad range of issues, from mental health to innovative online participation.»



Mridul Upadhyay
United Network of Young
Peacebuilders

EVALUATION¹



META University 2021
Look at the different columns and tell us what you think - scroll right to see all columns (just click on the "+" button to add your comment)

How do you feel now at the end of this Meta-University?	What are the new things you learnt?	Did you make new contacts? Tell us about it!	What is your next step after Meta-University?	Did you enjoy the event platform? How can it be improved?	What would you like to see in the next edition of Meta-University?
<p>I feel so enthusiastic and I leave energized</p> <p>I'm happy</p> <p>I feel better and more informed</p> <p>I feel good</p>	<p>youth participation in the digital sphere ,youth engagement</p> <p>There are lots of challenges confronting the youth everywhere in the world</p> <p>youth participation in the digital sphere youth engagement</p>	<p>i added the majority of participants as well as the trainers</p> <p>Yes, I particularly enjoyed meeting with those great minds with solution-oriented outlook</p> <p>Definitely :) glad to be connected with so many inspiring young persons all over the world</p>	<p>looking for new opportunity, to share the knowledge gained</p> <p>To start an Advocacy movement focusing on Digital Rights and carry out more research works to be published in international journals and perhaps, write a book on Digital Rights</p> <p>coordination with some friends to launch an initiative</p>	<p>good if it contains link of language version</p> <p>I had limited access to the platform due to network related issues and connection problems with my device (phone)</p> <p>It is a very convenient platform however</p>	<p>deal with current economic and social issues : employment,migration,self employment.....</p> <p>Interaction sessions between youth and some tech leaders in digital world</p> <p>deal with current economic and social issues</p>

Read more how participants evaluated the Meta University 2021: https://padlet.com/konstantinos_spatiotis/meta21

¹ Data elaborated from the replies to the on-line final evaluation form.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

"It was the first time that I participated in such an event, it was very enriching, it allowed me to see beyond my daily life and made me see the world in a different way."

"The platform was really well-thought. It was very easy to use to interact with other people on various forms such as chats, comments, plenary's etc. It gave us space and possibilities to connect and share our stories, learn more about the problems we are facing right now. Overall a great experience."

"I really appreciate the networking system because it allowed me to have contact with others and also to share my knowledge."

"It was great to meet colleagues from other regions and to hear about their views, exchange our work for possible future cooperation. I also got in touch with the people that I know from the past and it was nice to see that we are still all in the youth sector."

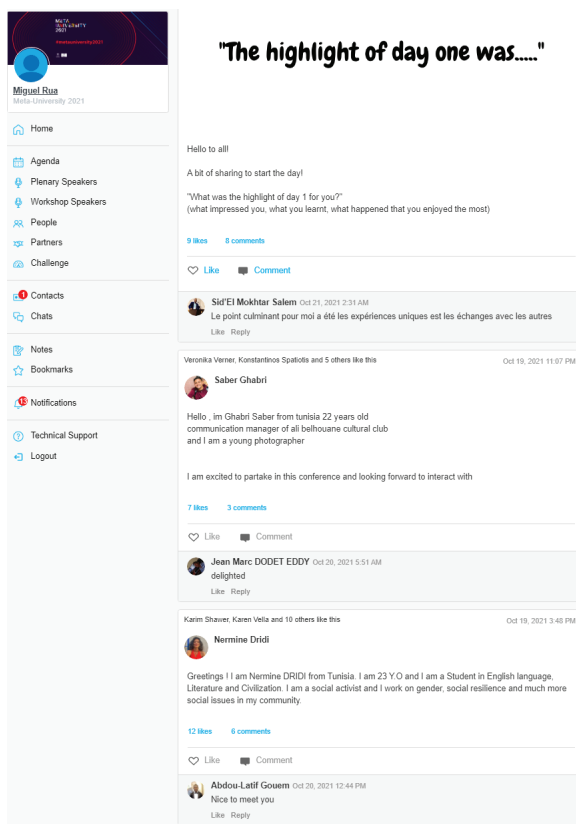
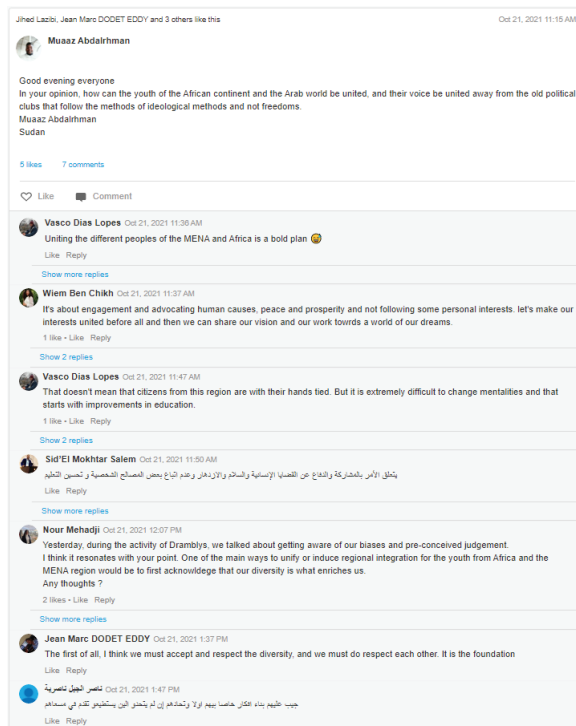
"I got enlightened by the stories that I heard from various women. It feels great knowing that there are amazing women that support each other."

"All the activities I attended were held in a different format which was great because it prevented the event from being redundant."

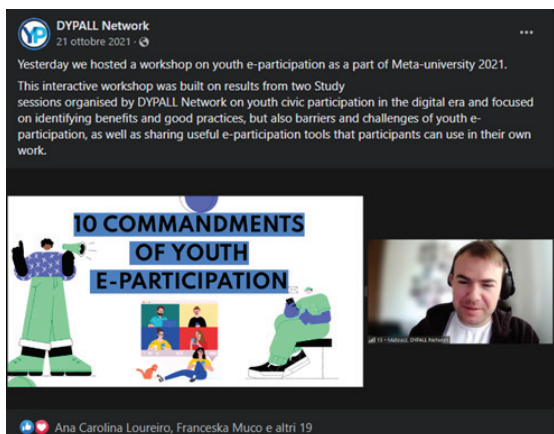
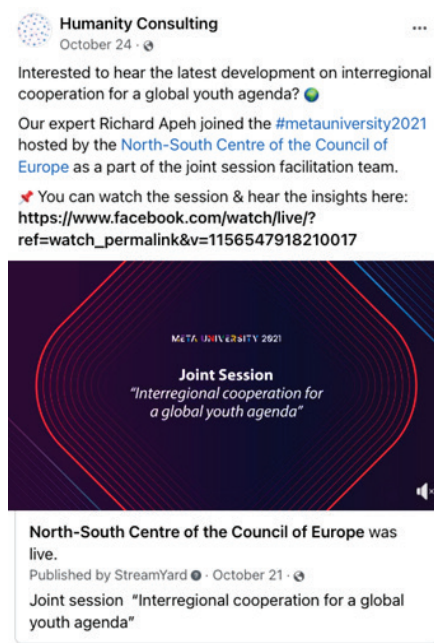
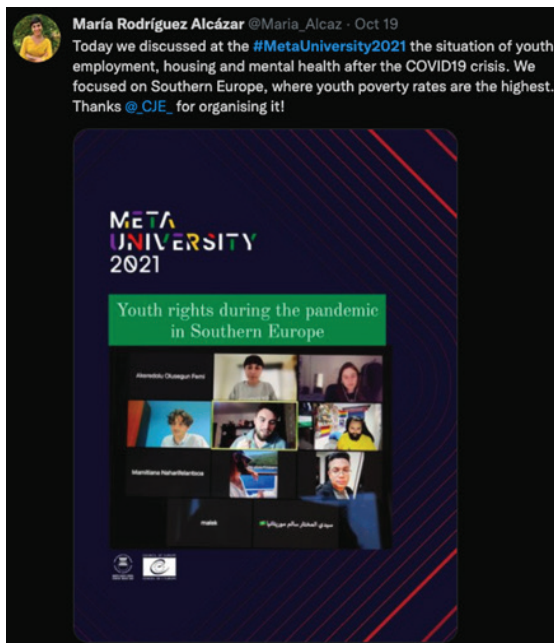
"I loved how smoothly intertwined and connected everything was."

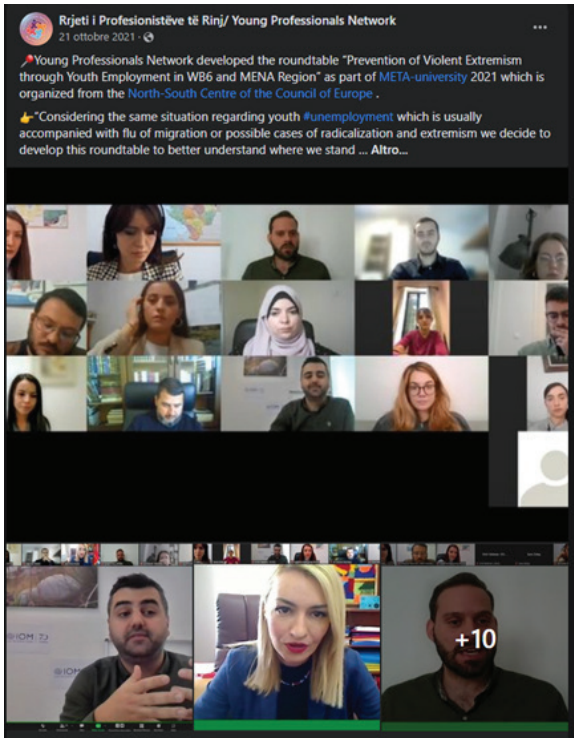
"The possibility to go behind the EUromed framework was super interesting and potentially could open more cooperation. This for us it is a strategic line that we would like to develop."

"Having the institutional framework of the Meta University helped to have a major outreach for our activity."



SOCIAL MEDIA CLIPPING





VIDEO PRODUCED

**Four colorful days
and 18 activities on:**

- Intercultural Dialogue
- Interregional Cooperation
- Global Citizenship

**Meta-University21
TEASER**

<https://vimeo.com/617052710>

**Meta-University21
SHORT MOVIE**

<https://vimeo.com/696915516>

**Meta-University21
VIDEO REPORT**

vimeo.com/user/82789672/folder/9657158

META UNIVERSITY 2021



NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE
CENTRE NORD-SUD

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int