



DIASPORA YOUTH FOR INCLUSIVE DECISION MAKING AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

A CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITY FOR YOUNG LEADERS IN ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH YOUTH
DIASPORA COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

9-16 June 2019, Hammamet (Tunisia)

Within the 7th edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline for applications: 12 May 2019

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Youth Co-operation Programme

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, or “North-South Centre of the Council of Europe” (NSC), was created in 1989 with the purpose of spreading the universal values upheld by the Council of Europe – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – in Europe and beyond. Since its inception, the North-South Centre has been advocating a dialogue between the North and the South, fostering solidarity, creating partnerships, and raising awareness about global interdependence. The mission of the Centre is to empower civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue and global citizenship education.

The Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre promotes youth participation through training and capacity building courses aimed at facilitating young people and youth organizations’ involvement in decision and policy making processes at all levels of governance.

The Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre [has been working on and with youth diaspora for more than 10 years](#) through capacity building, policy development and funding initiatives with the vision of building more inclusive societies.

The Training Course

Definition of Diaspora

For the purpose of this training course, the definition of Diaspora follows the approach of K. Butler based on four features:

- 1) Dispersal to two or more location: after dispersal or migration, there must be a minimum of two destinations based on the fact that the word “diaspora” (from the greek διασπορά) implies a scattering, rather than a transfer from the homeland to a single destination.
- 2) Relationship to an actual or imagined homeland: this bond provides the foundation for a diaspora identity and for the preservation of a collective mythology of homeland.

- 3) Self-awareness of the group's identity: diaspora communities are consciously part of an ethnonational group; this consciousness binds the dispersed peoples not only to their homeland but to each other as well.
- 4) Multi-generational dimension: the existence of the population with these three characteristics for at least two generations. This temporal-historical dimension differentiates a diaspora population from a temporary exiled population that can return to their homeland in one generation.

Background

Globalisation brought about a dramatic increase in the volume and scope of international migration. This mobility has been transforming societies and cultures, creating diaspora and developing transnational identities. In the same context, armed conflicts, large-scale arrival of displaced people has made Europe witness growing discrimination and populism as well as radicalisation and violent extremism.

These phenomena increased marginalization and exclusion of young people in vulnerable situation, especially young migrant and young people in diaspora: weak identification both with the country of residence and of origin has created a sense of alienation, particularly among second and third generations of young people searching for identity and belonging.

In light of this context, youth diaspora, by bridging different countries, cultures and identities, play a fundamental role in fostering intercultural dialogue, in supporting interregional cooperation and in promoting social cohesion.

The numerous accomplishments of diaspora must be seen as successful stories of double integration, offering tremendous opportunities for building inclusive societies. Exploring this phenomenon and learning from the youth diaspora experiences it is an effort that could substantially contribute to enhance integration policies in Europe and to further develop global/development education.

For these reasons, youth diaspora represent a valuable resource to tackle the actual challenges of the Council of Europe member states such as migration, social inclusion and active participation of young people in vulnerable situation.

The training course promoted by the North-South Centre on diaspora aims at promoting democratic values and human rights and takes into account the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolution [2043\(2015\)](#) "Democratic participation for migrant diaspora" regarding the need of "engaging diasporas in decision making policies[....]to ensure economic, social and cultural development."

Aim and specific objectives

Training course aims at promoting global citizenship and strengthening the active citizenship's skills of youth diaspora, promoting their recognition as relevant actors for building peaceful and inclusive societies in a context of increasing migration flows.

The course will enable young leaders with diaspora background or working with diaspora and migrant communities to more effectively participate in decision making processes aiming at social cohesion in Europe, with especial attention to the integration of young migrant and refugees.

The specific objectives of the training course are:

- to provide knowledge and competences on Global Education and on its dimensions of human rights, democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue;
- to map successful initiatives and policies that address diaspora youth' needs and challenges or highlight their potential as agents for inclusion and democratic participation.
- to strengthen the capacity of the participants to better understand structures, mechanisms and strategies of advocacy and decision/policy making at local, national and international level;

- to provide access and promote the use of the main international tools relevant for the aim of the training course i.e. UN SCR2250; the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Council of Europe’s Conventions and Recommendation etc...;
- to identify potential follow-up actions and proposals to influence policy and/or raise awareness about the positive role of youth diaspora in building global inclusive societies in Europe.

This training is part of the project “[iLegend: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue](#)” co-funded by the Council of Europe and the Civil Society and Local Authorities Programme of the European Union. iLegend aims at strengthening global/development education in EU Member States and potential Member States by promoting dialogue, networking strategies, capacity building and exchange of good education practices.

The training course responds to the Council of Europe’s [Strategic Priorities for Youth 2018-2019](#) and aligns to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where young people and youth organisations are recognised as key drivers in advancing inclusive and sustainable global development. The activity relates particularly to the [UN Resolution 2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth, peace and security that endorses the urgent need to engage youth and youth-led initiatives as important partners in all levels of decision-making.

The framework of the training course: the 7th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

The Diaspora Youth Training Course takes place in the framework of the [7th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship \(MedUni\)](#): an activity facilitated and coordinated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in partnership with l’Observatoire National de la Jeunesse (ONJ) , Tunisia, and with other youth actors from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean within the [Network on Youth and Global Citizenship](#).

The MedUni is a framework event where different organisations operating at local, national and international level run their own activities within a multilateral cooperation context which encourages networking, peer education and sharing of knowledge.

The MedUni provides an exceptional space for young people, youth organisations, youth-related institutions and youth decision makers to meet, debate, build their capacities and cooperate on youth policies’ issues.

Since 2013, MedUni represents an opportunity to explore the concept of global education and global citizenship, to encourage dialogue between decision makers and young people, to advocate for youth participation and to empower young people towards their rights and duties.

Participants’ selection process

The training course targets 20 youth representatives/multipliers/young leaders from organisations working with or for migrant and Youth diaspora communities in Europe.

In order to apply **candidates should fill the [online application](#) form by the 12 of May 2019 (23:59 UTC - Lisbon time)**.

Candidates will be considered for the selection phase on the basis of the following *eligibility criteria* to be fulfilled by the deadline for applications:

- be a citizen from one of the [Council of Europe member states](#)
- be an active member of a migrants or diaspora-related organisation based in one of the Council of Europe member states;
- aged between 18 and 35 year;
- be able to work and fluently communicate in English;

Candidates will be then evaluated according to the following *selection criteria*, which must be clearly specified in the candidate's application form:

- knowledge of youth policies and/or involved in a youth organization/platform or other institutions having youth as main target group;
- knowledge about youth participation, democratic processes, human rights and global education;
- basic competences in advocacy and decision making for social inclusion and migration policies;
- experience in project management in the field of youth cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region;
- willing and able to initiate follow-up projects/initiatives after the conclusion of the course.

Only candidates who fulfilled eligibility criteria, and whose application is submitted by the closing date of the call will be considered for the selection.

The selection will be carried out by the North-South Centre seeking also gender and geographical balance.

- **The selection results will be announced by the 16th May 2019.**
- Please note that due to the large number of applications only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Individual requests and follow up questions will not be addressed, unless considered as assistance to the application process.

After the communication of the selection results, **the selected participants have to be able to promptly react to North-South Centre communication and provide further information for travel arrangements in a short period of time.** The selected participants which will miss to reply by the deadlines as set in the North-South Centre communication will be replaced by shortlisted candidates.

Travel, board and lodging

- Arrivals are expected on 9 June and departures on 16 June 2019.
- The North-South Centre will issue pre-paid flight round-trip tickets from the country of residence to Tunis (Tunisia).
- Transfers from and to the airport/train station to the training venue will be ensured by the l'Observatoire National de la Jeunesse (ONJ).
- The board and lodging for the full duration of the training course is covered.
- Participants will be accommodated in shared rooms.
- It is expected that participants/supporting organisations assume expenses related to local transport in the home country, as well as visa costs.
- Please look for information regarding health and visa needs that you might have to attend the activity.

For more information:

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