



DIASPORA YOUTH TRAINING COURSE

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

7-12 May 2018, Tunisia

Within the 6th edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline for applications: 9 April 2018

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 specific mission of the Centre is to empower civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue and global citizenship education.

The work of the North-South Centre develops around three Programmes: Youth Cooperation, Global Education, Empowerment of Women, having all of them “Migration” as cross cutting dimension.

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.

Background

Globalisation brought about a dramatic increase in the volume and scope of international migration. This mobility has been transforming societies and cultures, creating diasporas and developing transnational identities.

Diasporas perform as a cultural, economic and political bridge with the “homeland” societies, becoming prominent actors in development cooperation and agents for the promotion of democratic values and human rights. In fact, governments at both ends of the migration cycle increasingly recognize that diasporas play a unique transnational role as catalysts and connectors between countries of origin and residence.

The numerous accomplishments of diasporas must be seen as successful stories of double integration, offering tremendous opportunities for building inclusive societies, connecting different countries and identities.

In times of armed conflicts, large-scale arrivals of displaced people and increasing radicalisation and populism, that has made Europe witness growing discrimination, violent extremism and hate speech, diasporas can also play a prominent role in shattering negative stereotypes.

In this context, the North South Centre of the Council of Europe pays special attention to the role of diaspora youth. Exploring this phenomenon and learning from the youth diaspora experiences it is an effort that could substantially contribute to the integration policies and for the further development of global/development education in Europe.

Building up from previous successful experiences with youth leaders of Diasporas, the NSC will continue to work with different groups of Diaspora communities as strategic partners for the promotion of more inclusive societies.

Definition of Diaspora

For the purpose of this Action, the definition of Diaspora follows the four features of K. Butler: First, after dispersal or migration, there must be a minimum of two destinations because the word “diaspora” (from the greek διασπορά) implies a scattering, rather than a transfer from the homeland to a single destination. Second, there must be some relationship to an actual or imagined homeland. This bond provides the foundation for a diaspora identity. Third, there must be 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. Fourth: a temporal-historical dimension: the existence of the population with these three characteristics for at least two generations. There is a multi-generational dimension to diaspora that also needs to be considered in its definition. This allows, for example, differentiating a diaspora population from a temporary exiled population that can return to their homeland in one generation.

Aim and specific objectives

The training course has two main aims:

- to empower young people with knowledge, skills and tools related to Global Development Education (GDE) in order to be recognized as relevant actors to build inclusive societies in a context of increasing migration flows;

- to strengthen active citizenship's skills of diaspora young people and increase their knowledge and competences on youth participation and policy making to better understand the spaces of influence of youth-related structures at local, regional, national and international level.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- to analyze the situations and challenges faced by diaspora youth in Europe;
- to explore issues related to migration and refugee crisis from the perspective of diaspora organisations;
- to develop knowledge about GDE, the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Security Council Resolution "Youth, peace and security", promoting the understanding of issues related to interdependence and global citizenship;
- to increase participant's capacity on lobby and advocacy and look for strategies to bring youth diaspora issues to the attention of decision-makers and policy-makers;
- to increase networking skills to increase the political weight and understanding of other diaspora realities;
- to share good practices and identify innovative strategies and instruments for more inclusive communities;
- to develop competences for dealing with media to foster open-mindedness, empathy and solidarity;
- to design and promote follow-up action to advocate and raise awareness on migration and the role of youth diaspora as agent to build an inclusive global society.

This training is part of the iLegend project: 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 new set of [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 6th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

The Diaspora Youth Training Course takes place in the framework of the 6th 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 of Universities 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 9 of April 2018 (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 a leader 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 communicate in English;

Candidates selected on the basis of the above eligibility criteria will then be evaluated according to the following selection criteria, which must be clearly specified in the candidate's application form:

- be involved in a youth organisation/platform or on other institutions having youth as a priority;
- be involved in structures that deal with participation, democratic processes, human rights and global education;
- be active in the field of Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation;
- 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 13 April.
- 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 6 May and departures on 13 May 2018.
- 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).
- 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.
- The board and lodging for the full duration of the training course is covered.
- Participants will be accommodated in shared rooms.

For more information: NSC-CoE Secretariat:
nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int
+351 21 358 40 39