



# European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity

## *Looking ahead*

A Vision Paper on the occasion  
of the 30th anniversary  
of the North-South Centre



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## **CHAIRS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE**

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**1990 - 1992** • Harry Aarts

**1992 - 1995** • Vitor Crespo

**1995 - 2004** • Miguel Angel Martinez

**2004 - 2009** • Claude Frey

**2009 - 2013** • Deborah Bergamini

**2013 - 2018** • Jean-Marie Heydt

**2018 (February - July)** • Javier Gil-Catalina

**2018 -** • Manuel Montobbio

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE**

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**1990 - 2004** • Jos Lemmers

**2004 - 2005 (a.i.)** • Hans de Jonge

**2005 - 2007** • Jose' Carlos Correia Nunes

**2007 (a.i.)** • Eladio Fernandez Galliano

**2008 - 2012** • Denis Huber

**2013 - 2014** • Francisco Seixas da Costa

**2014 - 2016** • José Ludovice

**2016 - 2018** • António Gamito

**2018** • José Velez Carço

## NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE LAUREATES



**1995 • Vera Duarte - Peter Gabriel**



**1996 • Danielle Mitterrand - Algerian Women**



**1997 • Mary Robinson - Patricio Aylwin**



**1998 • Graça Machel - Lloyd Axworthy**



**1999 • Emma Bonino - Abderrahman Youssoufi**



**2000 • Marguerite Barankitse - Mário Soares**



**2001 • Maria de Nazaré - Cornelio Sommaruga**



**2002 • Albina du Boisrouvray - Xanana Gusmão**



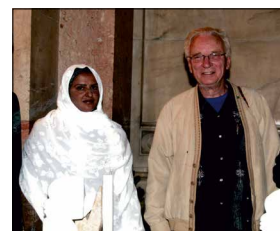
**2003 • Frene Ginwala - António de Almeida**



**2004 • Nawal El Saadawi - Ambassador Stéphane Hessel**



**2005 • Bogaletch Gebre - Bob Geldof**



**2006 • Mukhtar Mai - Father Francisco Van Der Hoff**



**2007 • Simone Veil - Kofi Annan**



**2008 • Her Majesty Queen Rania - Jorge Sampaio**



**2009 • Rula Dashti - Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev**



**2010 • Louise Arbour - Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**



**2011 • Souhayr Belhassen - Boris Tadic**



**2012 • Monika Hauser - Asma Jilani Jahangir**



**2013 • Suzanne Jabbour - His Highness The Aga Khan**



**2014 • Sister Doctor Maura Lynch - André Azoulay**



**2015 • Lora Pappa - Joaquim Alberto Chissano**



**2016 • Mbarka Brahmi - Giuseppina Nicolini**



**2017 • Kristiina Kumpula - Abbas Gullet**



**2018 • Jaha Dukureh - Damien Carême**





1988 - King Juan Carlos of Spain, Council of Europe  
Launching of the European Public Campaign  
on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity

The European Public Campaign under the slogan "North-South: One Future - a Common Task" ends with a European Conference of parliamentarians and non - governmental organisations which issued the Madrid Appeal.

**1988**

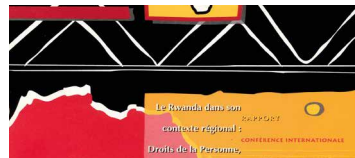
The North-South Centre opens its doors in Lisbon.

**1990**

First meeting of the Lisbon Forum "Human Rights in North-South dialogue" as an alert on the imminent genocide in Rwanda.

- Launching of the "Transmed Programme".

**1994**



Launching of the University on Youth and Development.

- First meeting of the Global Education Network and launching of the Global Education Week.

- Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum.

**2000**



First Africa-Europe Youth Summit.

**2007**

## THE NORTH SOUTH CENTRE, THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**1984**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe holds a conference in Lisbon on the theme "North-South: Europe's role" and the Lisbon declaration is adopted.



North-South Centre team, 1992

**1989**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe endorses the creation of the North-South Centre following a proposition by the government of Portugal, with 10 founding countries.



1988 - European public campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity

**1995**

First North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.

**2002**

First Pan-European Global Education Congress in Maastricht.

**1998**

Pavilion of the Council of Europe at the Lisbon World Exposition.





7th African University on Youth and Development, 2015.

First non-European Countries to become members of the North-South Centre, Morocco and Cape Verde.

First African University on Youth and Development.

First Joint Programme signed with the European Union to promote global development education.

First training course Africa Disapora Youth Leade.

**2009**

Adoption of the Report on the new Mission of the North-South Centre in the framework of the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy.

First Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship.

**2013**

Athens Conference - migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls in the Euromed region.

**2018**

On the year of its 30th Anniversary the Centre carries out a reflection process which results in the adoption of its vision Paper, whose strategic priorities are already taken on board by the Lisbon Forum.

**2019**

## E'S WINDOW TO THE WORLD FOR 30 YEARS



First MedUni

**2008**

First edition of the Global Education Guidelines.

**2011**

International Conference "Women as actors of change in the Euro-Mediterranean region" marks the beginning of the Women Empowerment Programme.

The Committee of Ministers adopted Recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity.

**2017**

With the accession of Algeria the North-South Centre includes all Maghreb and has 21 members States.

The North-South Centre contributes to raise awareness on Violence against women and victim blaming in Europe and beyond through the video "Listen to us".



North-South Centre Team 2019



# Navigating beyond and not letting anybody behind

## On the 30th Anniversary of the North South Centre

### Ambassador Manuel Montobbio

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In his essay *In the same boat*, Peter Sloterdijk compares the History of Humanity, of human life in society, to that of navigation from that in rafts going down the river of the primitive communities, to the one of all in the same boat of our era of information society globalization. All in the same boat, in the same spaceship Earth in our trip towards the future, in the middle of the Ocean, we can just try to float, let us be taken by the currents and the winds; or we can try to sail, to reach a point in the horizon which may become a welcoming harbour or the island of Utopia. Our collective navigation in History is not like driving a car on a previously traced road, but that of the ship in uncharted waters: we don't know the winds or the currents we will have to face, but where in the horizon we want to direct our way.

María Zambrano told us that we are the only beings who do not only suffer History, but also want to make it. And we want to make it with ideas, to realize them in History, to make of ideas the points where we want to sail to. Since we don't resign ourselves to let them in Plato's cave. Since, once conceived, ideas call to the future and advance it. Although Utopia has not been realized in History, it has moved it. This ambition, this capacity to transform ideas into reality defines us.

In his memories, Jean Monnet tells us that nothing is possible without the persons, and nothing remains without the institutions. That persons pass by, and what we can do to leave to those who come after us, is to contribute to the institutions, whose life is infinitely longer than ours, and can, if well built, accumulate and transmit wisdom to the next generations. Since only institutions can become wiser, allow future generations to build on what they have learned from the precedents.

Looking thirty years behind, we can contemplate some ideas, some words through which they were expressed, a political decision, collective engagement and illusion, a building in Lisbon and some persons embarking themselves in the creation of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, with the willingness not to resign themselves to let the North South campaign - which in Europe had been carried out by the Council of Europe - to be a temporary flow of Solidarity of Europe with the rest of the World and consciousness of Global Interdependence, but with the illusion to create an institution, to provide the Council of Europe this partial agreement as a tool for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, as a tool to make Europe mean human rights, rule of Law and democracy not only for Europeans, but for all human beings, as a tool to make them mean development.

Looking throughout this thirty years of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity - also known as the North South Centre - we can pass by the way which has led as to its programs and lines of action on Global Education, Youth and Empowerment of Women or to its flagship annual activities of the North South Prize and the Lisbon Forum - respectively in their 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> edition -, to its University of Youth and Development in Mollina or its Euromediterranean Youth University in Hammameth, and so many other initiatives, actions and moments we can remember when passing through its History. Looking throughout these thirty years, we can see also the Centre as the argument of the hope of all the persons which have dedicated their work and their lives, their passion and their hope to it. Looking throughout these thirty years, we can see the birth and growing of an institution to its maturity age, and the accumulation of experience and wisdom it entails, which permits us, thanks to the effort and illusion of those who have preceded us, to go beyond where



they could go with our daily effort and illusion. Looking throughout these thirty years, we can see the Centre alive as a reference in the lives of those who have taken part in its programs, its Youth Universities, the Lisbon Forum or the North South Prize, and hear their testimony of what it has taught or given them.

María Zambrano told us also that neither the past nor the future do exist, but the present of the past, or the memory, and the present of the future, or the hope. We face always the challenge to make the alchemy of transforming memory into hope, to look behind to better look ahead. And thus the celebration of the Centre's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cannot consist only on looking behind, paying tribute those who preceded us and have made it possible, commemorate what has been achieved; but to look ahead into the horizon and define where we want to address our navigation, which hope we want to turn into memory within thirty years. To look inwards to look outwards: that is what we have done by carrying out a reflection process which has led to the elaboration and approval at the meeting of the Centre's Executive Committee last June 21<sup>st</sup> of the Vision Paper which constitutes our navigation charter from now on.

A Vision Paper which reflects on the who, the what and the how and where of the Centre.

The who, by making a conceptual approach from what is implied in its name, as a Centre for globalization and for interdependence and solidarity; of the Council of Europe, and therefore for human rights, rule of Law and democracy, and with a vocation to contribute to the external dimension of European construction, especially in its Neighbourhood; and of the *quadrilogue*, as point of encounter between governments, parliaments, regional and local powers and civil society.

The what, by proposing that, while continuing with its present programs and activities, to develop its potentiality the Centre orients itself also towards: strengthening the role and contribution of the Council of Europe to the Sustainable Development Goals and the link between development and human rights, rule of Law and democracy; contributing to Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue; reinforcing the Centre's presence and interaction with the Euromediterranean diplomatic architecture and being a useful tool of CoE's Neighbourhood Policy; and contributing to the explanation and knowledge of CoE's conventions.

The how and where, by focusing on how to pass from vision to action; the development of a line of action on "pre-cooking" and second-track diplomacy; the Centre's geographical and universal vocation; the application of the guiding principles and objectives; its anchoring within the Council of Europe; and on assumption of ownership.

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre is an occasion to reflect, to look behind and ahead; and is an occasion to celebrate. To celebrate what we have been, what we are and what we want to be. To celebrate that we are, since any celebration cannot be but a celebration of life. To celebrate our departure from harbour towards new horizons, new navigations, new experiences. To invite you to join us in our journey and make it the journey of global interdependence and solidarity towards human rights, rule of Law, democracy and development.

*Viver não é preciso*

*Navegar é preciso...*

To live is not necessary, to sail is necessary... The words and the melody of the song *Os argonautas* of Caetano Veloso – sung by him, by António Caimho or so many others Portuguese speaking singers – come to me with the image of the monument of the discoverers where the Tejo encounters the Atlantic, reminding us of so many departures seen from there that have made us to be what we are. Without navigation life is not life. Since to live is to be, to become all we can be; and we can hardly be it without embarking ourselves, without sailing, navigating towards the future and towards ourselves, without becoming the only being who transcends himself – as Kant defined us –, without feeling the Sun, the wind and the sea, and feel and thank that we are alive. Let us embark ourselves in the North South Centre and depart towards the future, to make vision and ideas reality.

**Manuel Montobbio**

Chair of the Executive Committee  
of the North-South Centre  
Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain  
to the Council of Europe

# Words of introduction by José Rui Velez Caroço

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In 2019 - the very special year of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe - the **European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe** (usually known as the **North-South Centre**) is proudly celebrating its **30th anniversary**.

In 1989, in quite a different time and world, the North-South Centre, was born as the right and appropriate response of the Council of Europe to the urgent question of inequalities and the need for solidarity on a global scale. Three decades ago the recognition of humankind's diversity with equal opportunities for development for all was fundamental in the context of the disparities in both hemispheres, with people aspiring at the same rights in a peaceful and sustainable manner in all corners of the Earth.

We have then productively pursue our work, in a constructive trend, bridging cooperation between people, governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society, from Europe and beyond.

The North-South Centre has always worked towards more peaceful and inclusive societies, with justice for all, in line with the universal principles of human rights, through dialogue, education, pedagogical tools and technical expertise.

Thus, it was crucial to find a common approach and language, to understand and respect cultural specificities, in a plural, diverse and multicultural world, by uniting efforts and gathering people of different origins and backgrounds, namely embarking on the fascinating area of global education.

We encouraged and promoted not only fundamental institutional, regional and multilateral cooperation between countries but also had always put particular emphasis on a bottom-up approach, working hand in hand with civil society organisations, fostering dialogue and partnerships with non-governmental actors, influencing policy and decision-makers, at the regional, national and local level, promoting change for a meaningful and positive impact.

We work closely and pay special attention to the new and youngest generations, for a better world and future for all. Different generations of participants in the North-South Centre's several events, workshops, conferences, gatherings and informal youth universities, have benefit from our numerous projects. Throughout our international well established activities we had a remarkable positive transforming and spill-over effect on generations of young people, revealing and showing the transforming effect and the long lasting results, in their personal perception and minds, where it really matters and positive change should begin, of so many young women and men, of diverse nationalities and backgrounds,

We enthusiastically pursue our work in all our programmatic dimensions - youth cooperation, global education and empowerment of women - strengthening our commitment to the principles and values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Thirty years, passing through different moments, living all sort of challenges, some ups and downs, with lessons learned, gave us already a long and valid experience and resilient capacity useful to understand what we are facing in the world right now, taking into account the evolution and current dynamics in Europe and beyond.

Nowadays we face worldwide major political, economic, environmental and social changes. The new and difficult global challenges are testing the stability and peaceful development of our democratic societies. Current threats, such as the growth of extremism, radicalism, terrorism, populism, misleading nationalisms, racism, xenophobia, harassment and hate speech manifestations and attacks of all sorts to men and women jeopardize human dignity and the respect for justice.

The purpose, role and activities of the Centre are indeed more needed than ever, through the promotion of the Council of Europe's fundamental values, beyond its geographical boundaries, with a particular focus in the Mediterranean and the Eastern Europe regions, in the geographical neighbourhood of the Council of Europe and beyond.

With our current Spanish Chairmanship and Moroccan Vice-Chairmanship of the Executive Committee, we have followed, on this celebratory year, quite an ambitious agenda, consolidating and continuing our mission to better fulfil the objectives that presided over the creation of the North-South Centre thirty years ago.

In that regard we are willing to take a step further in the rich life of this so unique and successful Partial Agreement, bringing together partners and member states well beyond the Council of Europe, reason why of this new Vision Paper resulting from a broader and participative reflection process within our statutory bodies, making not only a balance of the origin, past and present of the Centre but, mainly, reflecting and giving good ideas about our future and how we could grow even further and be able to do more and better truly fulfilling our crucial mission and answering to the pressing demands of our times.

As the current Executive Director and following the work of my predecessors and relying in the tremendous and generous Team of the Centre in Lisbon, I feel particularly honoured, proud and strongly motivated to embark with you all on this remarkable and enjoyable journey, so that the Centre fulfils its role of utmost relevance well embedded in our slogan: "One World Our World".

**José Rui Velez Caroço**

Executive Director of the North-South Centre

# Executive Summary

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**O**n its 30th Anniversary, and in the framework of Council of Europe's 70th Anniversary reflection on its vision and priorities towards the future, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe - also known as the "North-South Centre" -, has carried out a reflection process to define its orientations towards the future to develop its full potentiality, of which this Vision Paper is the result.

This reflection process has included consultations with all members of the Centre and relevant interlocutors and stakeholders, and of the Reflection Meeting which took place in Strasbourg on March 15th with a large participation of representatives of member States and of the other sectors of the quadrilogue and the EU, as well of CoE's Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, and relevant members of the Secretariat in relation with the Centre. It tried to answer the following questions, which constitute a reference for its elaboration:

- ▶ What is today the purpose of a Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, especially in regard to Council of Europe's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations?
- ▶ What is the role that the Centre can play in the Euromediterranean region and its diplomatic architecture and the promotion of its relations with relevant actors, organisations and fora? How can it contribute to the Southern Neighbourhood Policy of the Council of Europe and its goals, such as the promotion of a Euromediterranean legal space? How can it contribute to knowledge and interest of the Council of Europe's conventions, especially those open to non-member states?
- ▶ By which means, activities, programs, organisation and structure?

To answer them, to respond to the why, what for, what, where and how of the Centre, this Vision Paper follows an itinerary structured in the following chapters:

- ▶ A conceptual approach to the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North South Centre
- ▶ Guiding principles and objectives
- ▶ Building from experience to go beyond: an approach to the Centre's past and present

- ▶ What? Possible horizons and directions to develop the Centre's potentiality
- ▶ How and where? Considerations on means, activities, programs, actors, partners, organisation and structure.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg, the Bureau of the Centre discussed and endorsed the Draft Vision Paper presented by the Chair, and it was circulated to all members of the Executive Committee requesting for eventual comments. This Vision Paper presented to the Executive Committee takes into account the discussion at the Bureau, comments received and consultations held, as well as the Council of Europe's horizon for the future, defined by the Committee of Minister's meeting in May in Helsinki. After its discussion and approval by the Executive Committee, it will be the object of dissemination, presentation and explanation of the vision defined on the occasion of the commemoration events of the Centre's 30th Anniversary; and will be taken into account in the elaboration of the 2020-2021 program of the Centre.

## **A conceptual approach to the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North South Centre**

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When looked into carefully, a conceptual approach to the Centre is implied in its name itself as well as from its membership, and from them can be done:

- ▶ *Global*, as a Centre for the external and global projection of the CoE, with a vocation to realise its objectives beyond its geographical area, and to contribute to answer to the questions and challenges of globalisation.
- ▶ *Interdependence and Solidarity*, assuming development as a goal, and the challenge and opportunity to relate human rights, rule of Law and democracy with it, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as a guiding line of action.
- ▶ *Of the Council of Europe, and therefore for human rights, the rule of Law and democracy*
- ▶ *For Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue*, with the purpose to contribute to the contribute to each society's evolution through its own History, cultural tradition and cosmovision to



the conviction on the universality of human rights, rule of Law and democracy

- ▶ *With a vocation to contribute to its Neighbourhood Policy*
- ▶ *An Enlarged Partial Agreement, with the value and potentiality of non-CoE member States participation*
- ▶ *A quadrilogue Centre, since an essential and defining characteristic of the Centre is the presence in its institutional life and activities, together with the representatives of the governments, of parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and of civil society and NGOs, conforming a unique framework and an opportunity to act together*
- ▶ *A European Centre, and an opportunity to foster the external dimension of European construction together with the European Union.*

### **Guiding principles and objectives**

To put the uniqueness and specificity of the Centre at the service of its development in all its potentiality, to establish relevant criteria to answer the questions of the why, what for, what, where and how of the Centre, to define its essence and purpose and orient its action with the ultimate goal to contribute to the realisation of human rights, rule of Law and democracy and to fulfil its mission, we will be guided by

- ▶ the principles of horizontality, complementarity, specificity, ownership, quadrilogue, multi-laterality, double sense projection, partnership, interculturality, confidence-building and catalysing
- ▶ the objectives of openness, ownership, visibility and contribution to human rights, rule of Law and democracy and to European construction

### **Building from experience to go beyond: an approach to the Centre's past and present**

Looking behind, this Vision Paper offers an approach to the Centre's origins, to the Centre today – including its programs in thematic areas and the Lisbon forum and the North South Prize as flagship activities, and its means – and to relevant elements of thirty years of experience

### **What? Possible horizons and directions to develop the Centre's potentiality**

While continuing with its present programs and activities, the Centre could orient itself also towards the following horizons and directions to develop its potentiality.

- ▶ *Strengthening CoE's role and contribution to the SDGs and the link between development and human rights, rule of Law and democracy.*
- ▶ *Contributing to Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue*
- ▶ *Reinforcing the Centre's presence and interaction with the Euromediterranean diplomatic architecture and being a useful tool of CoE's Neighbourhood Policy*
- ▶ *Contributing to the explanation and knowledge of CoE's conventions*

When considering these directions, the Vision Paper looks behind, considering what the Centre has done so far in relation to them, and looks then ahead, proposing possible lines of action to be developed.

### **How and where? Considerations on means, activities, programs, actors, partners, organisation and structure.**

Finally, to answer the questions of how and where and consider means, activities, programs, actors, partners, organisation and structure, the Vision Paper focuses on how to pass from vision to action; the development of a line of action on "pre-cooking" and second-track diplomacy; the Centre's geographical and universal vocation; the application of the guiding principles and objectives; its anchoring within the CoE; and on assumption of ownership.

# Introduction

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**O**n its 30th Anniversary, and in the framework of Council of Europe's 70th Anniversary reflection on its vision and priorities towards the future, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe - also known as the "North-South Centre" -, as decided in the meeting of its Executive Committee which took place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Tunis, has carried out a reflection process to define its orientations towards the future to develop its full potentiality.

This reflection process has taken into account the decisions and considerations on the Council of Europe and its future taken by the ministerial meeting of the Committee of Ministers held on May 16th and 17th 2019 in Helsinki, as well as of those the other organs of the Council of Europe on the occasion of its 70th Anniversary. It intends to contribute to it and to "to the realisation of the Organisation's aim to achieve a greater unity among us with a view to safeguarding and realising our ideals and principles which are our common heritage, to facilitating our economic and social progress and to pursuing peace based upon justice and international co-operation", as stated by the Ministers representing the member States of the CoE in Helsinki at the Committee of Ministers Declaration on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Council of Europe, after reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the rule of Law and of the enjoyment by all persons within their jurisdiction of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This Vision Paper is thus the result of a previous process of consultations with all members of the Centre and relevant interlocutors and stakeholders, and of the Reflection Meeting which took place in Strasbourg on March 15<sup>th</sup> with a large participation of representatives of member States and of the other sectors of the quadrilogue and the EU, as well of CoE's Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, and relevant members of the Secretariat in relation with the Centre. It tried to answer the following questions, which have constituted a reference for its elaboration:

- ▶ What is today the purpose of a Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, especially in regard to Council of Europe's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Dialogue of Cultures and Civilisations?

- ▶ What is the role that the Centre can play in the Euromediterranean region and its diplomatic architecture and the promotion of its relations with relevant actors, organisations and fora? How can it contribute to the Southern Neighbourhood Policy of the Council of Europe and its goals, such as the promotion of a Euromediterranean legal space? How can it contribute to knowledge and interest of the Council of Europe's conventions, especially those open to non-member states?
- ▶ By which means, activities, programs, organisation and structure?

To answer them, to respond to the why, what for, what, where and how of the Centre, this Draft Vision Paper follows an itinerary structured in the following chapters:

- ▶ A conceptual approach to the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity – North South Centre
- ▶ Guiding principles and objectives
- ▶ Building from experience to go beyond: an approach to the Centre's past and present
- ▶ What? Possible horizons and directions to develop the Centre's potentiality
- ▶ How and where? Considerations on means, activities, programs, actors, partners, organisation and structure.

At its meeting held in Strasbourg, the Bureau of the Centre discussed and endorsed the Draft Vision Paper presented by the Chair, and it was circulated to all members of the Executive Committee requesting for eventual comments. This Vision Paper presented to the Executive Committee takes into account the discussion at the Bureau, comments received and consultations held, as well as the Council of Europe's horizon for the future, defined by the Committee of Minister's meeting in May in Helsinki. After its discussion and approval by the Executive Committee, it will be the object of dissemination, presentation and explanation of the vision defined on the occasion of the commemoration events of the Centre's 30th Anniversary; and will be taken into account in the elaboration of the 2020-2021 program of the Centre.

# A conceptual approach to the European Centre for global interdependence and solidarity – North South Centre

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**W**hen looked into carefully, a conceptual approach to the Centre is implied in its name itself as well as from its membership, and from them can be done:

## Global

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The fact of being global means that it is a Centre for the external and global projection of the CoE, with a vocation to realise its objectives beyond its geographical area. The goals of human rights, rule of Law and democracy defined by the Statute of London as CoE's founding Treaty can only be achieved taking into account and promoting them in the global sphere. This leads to the reflection on the framework of the external or international projection of the CoE, as part of the external dimension of European construction, realised through the European Union and through the Council of Europe, out of the same vocation<sup>1</sup>.

This global vocation of the Centre is especially to be enhanced in consideration of the fact that till the creation of CoE's Neighbourhood Policy and instruments at the beginning of this decade, it was the only window, instrument and expression of CoE's vocation of global projection and relationship beyond its borders.

On the other side, differently to thirty years ago, nowadays when we say global, we cannot but think of the globalisation of this era of the revolution of the information society, a global challenge that is transforming humanity and a defining phenomenon of our time. If we are a global Centre, we cannot but to try to contribute to answer to the questions and challenges of globalisation.

## Interdependence and Solidarity

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As a Centre for interdependence and solidarity, it cannot but deal with the key concept of development, the only shared paradigm of humanity. Being the Council of Europe the referential international organisation in Europe for human rights, rule of Law

and democracy, its Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity implies and stands for the assumption of development as a goal, and the challenge and opportunity to relate them with it, in a double sense. On one side, if we take care of human rights, rule of Law and democracy, we have to take care of development, since it is very difficult to realize them without a strive towards development. On the other, in the framing of a global consensus on development, it's of the utmost importance for the CoE that human rights, rule of Law and democracy are considered essential and defining elements of development.

We also have to be conscious that it was obvious thirty years ago that global interdependence and solidarity meant North-South. This North-South campaign, which at the European level was carried out by the Council of Europe, was such that the Government of Portugal offered to create a Centre to continue it. While this campaign does not exist anymore, and the North-South reference is not any more present in the development debate, what exist today as the expression of global interdependence and solidarity in international relations are the Sustainable Development Goals, which stand for a change of paradigm. Passing from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, we have recognised two essential things. First, there is not a World where some are developed and other underdeveloped, but we are all partially developed. We all have to treat development according to the Sustainable Development Goals. Secondly, that to develop is an intransitive and not a transitive verb, meaning that there are not some who develop others, but we are all in development. That is why all countries and member states of the UN have their Sustainable Development Plans. As a Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, we have today to reflect on how to best serve the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Of the Council of Europe, and therefore for human rights, the rule of Law and democracy

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Being a Centre of the Council of Europe implies that human rights, the rule of Law and democracy are at the Centre's object and purpose, and need to be promoted not only within Europe, but also beyond

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1. In this sense, it is to be pointed out that in the same way that the European construction in the European Union has had a very strong element of external dimension; the external dimension of European construction is to be taken into account when thinking on the future of the Council of Europe.

Europe. As a Centre of the CoE, it is a Centre for human rights, rule of Law and democracy by definition. Global interdependence and solidarity are to be realised inwards, to all relevant actors, and to the citizenship and the public opinion; and human rights, rule of Law and democracy are to be realised outwards, in our neighbourhood and globally.

### **Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue**

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Human rights, rule of Law and democracy are universal principles and values, and each society has to arrive through its own History, cultural tradition and cosmopolitanism to their universality. That is the ultimate sense for the Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue of the Council of Europe as a tool to face the common challenge to overcome the “us” we build in front or against the others into the “us” we are all, an “us” of shared universals. In this sense, we must not forget that the Council of Europe’s White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue considers what diversity brings as a source of human richness compatible with the European Convention of Human Rights, and the North-South Centre as one of the tools that the CoE has to promote Intercultural Dialogue. To face this challenge, let’s not forget either, on one side, Popper’s distinction between open and closed universals: while each society has, to frame it, some closed universals, collective life has to have also open universals which may be within or in different closed universals, as is the case of human rights, democracy and rule of Law. To promote them implies to open the society. On the other side, that Simone Weil taught us in *L’Enracinement* that human rights are also human obligations, and that while universal we are rooted vertically in the origins of our families, and horizontally in the symbolic world of our societies and cultures; and thus we cannot travel towards open universals such as democracy, rule of Law and human rights but from the roots of our culture and civilisation. This journey gives the ultimate sense to Intercultural and Intercivilisational dialogue from CoE’s perspective, since to travel with others to a shared universality, you have to know and understand the roots from which their universality is sought.

### **With a vocation to contribute to its Neighbourhood Policy**

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We also have to take into account that, with the evolution of the years, the CoE has defined a specific geographical priority for its external projection and action of its engagement by creating its South Neighbourhood Policy, and that the Centre has a specific mandate to focus on the Euromediterranean region and CoE’s Neighbourhood. What stands for a challenge to know the Euromediterranean diplomatic architecture and to interact with it looking to improve the efficiency, the synergies and complementarity with its actors.

### **An Enlarged Partial Agreement: the value and potentiality of non-CoE member States participation**

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In relation with it, as an Enlarged Partial Agreement, the Centre has the potentiality not only to be a tool for CoE’s external action, but to be – as stated in the Evaluation of the Centre of 2015 – an interface of the CoE with its Neighbourhood and beyond, through the participation of non-member states of CoE on an equal footing in its institutional life and activities, as is the case of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Cape Verde and the Holy See, and could be with other non-member states of CoE who may join in the future.

### **A quadrilogue Centre**

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An essential and defining characteristic of the Centre is the presence in its institutional life and activities, together with the representatives of the governments, of parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and of civil society and NGOs, reflected in the participation in its Executive Committee and governing bodies, together with those of the governments of the Centre’s member states, of representatives of PACE and the European Parliament, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the European Committee of the Regions, the Conference of International NGOs and the European Youth Forum. Their interaction conform the quadrilogue, a unique framework and an opportunity to act together for all these sectors of the CoE instead of acting each on their own. Even if it is only directed towards the activities of the Centre, it is a very good laboratory of working together, and through this to strengthen mutual knowledge and cooperation of CoE’s bodies and European construction relevant actors, what may be beneficial for the Centre as well as for the Council of Europe itself.

### **A European Centre, and an opportunity to foster the external dimension of European construction together with the European Union**

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A European Centre with another unique feature, which is to have the European Commission as a member of its Executive Committee, represented by the EU Delegation to the CoE, but also the European Parliament and the European Committee of Regions. What implies a unique possibility for all sectors of the quadrilogue, both in the Council of Europe and in the European Union, to work together on the external dimension of European construction, a potentiality worth exploring and promoting from the reflection on how we can all, together, make Europe a better actor for global interdependence and solidarity; how can the Centre best serve both the CoE and the EU and contribute to the best possible relations among them, and, by doing so, meanwhile to contribute to global interdependence and solidarity. How can we, finally, make the best of Europe be out of Europe.



# Guiding principles and objectives

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**T**o put the uniqueness and specificity of the Centre at the service of its development in all its potentiality, to establish relevant criteria to answer the questions of the why, what for, what, where and how of the Centre, to define its essence and purpose and orient its action with the ultimate goal to contribute to the realisation of human rights, rule of Law and democracy and to fulfil its mission, we will be guided by some principles and objectives.

Among the first, we want to point out the **principles** of:

- ▶ *Horizontality*, especially with our Southern and non-CoE member states and partners.
- ▶ *Complementarity*, especially with other CoE programs and actions
- ▶ *Specificity*, looking for its value-added and its unique and differential assets and characteristics, both in program and in second track diplomacy activities
- ▶ *Ownership*, both by all members and stakeholders and by all participants in programs and activities
- ▶ *Quadriologue*, mutually reinforcing each other's implication
- ▶ *Multilaterality*
- ▶ *Double sense projection*, from the World to Europe, and from Europe to the World, balancing *universality* and *neighbourhood*
- ▶ *Partnership* with relevant global, regional or national organisations and actors
- ▶ *Interculturality*
- ▶ *Confidence-building*
- ▶ *Catalysing*

Among the second, we should aim to the following guiding **objectives**:

- ▶ *Openness*, with the aim to incorporate (or reincorporate) new member states to the Centre, both from within and from outside the CoE; as well as to look for new partners
- ▶ *Ownership*, a guiding principle which is also an essential objective
- ▶ *Visibility*
- ▶ *Contribution to human rights, rule of Law and democracy and to European construction*, inwards and outwards, developing and strengthening the strategic partnership with the European Union.

# Building from experience to go beyond: an approach to the Centre's past and present

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**L**ooking behind, without the pretention to offer a complete vision of what the Centre has done throughout these three decades – what would go beyond the purpose of this paper –, a synthetic approach to the point of the departure when considering the definition of the Centre's vision towards the future lead us to take into account

## The origins of the Centre

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Created on 16 November 1989, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe – more commonly known as the “North-South Centre” – was set up in Lisbon with the purpose to spread the universal values upheld by the Council of Europe - Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law - beyond Europe, to strengthen the promotion of dialogue between North and South, foster solidarity and raise awareness of global interdependence, as an Enlarged Partial Agreement allowing non-Council of Europe member states to join. The North-South 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.

## An approach to the Centre today

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Today, the Centre is mainly dedicated to empower civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue and global citizenship education, to play an active role in Council of Europe member states and neighbouring regions, playing thus a unique role in this regard. It should be proud of its characteristics and specificities as a successful Enlarged Partial Agreement of the CoE, namely its “quadrilogue” structure and the “bottom-up” approach, being quite a remarkable and unique multilateral platform at the disposal of its stakeholders (either institutional or from the civil society) and the

CoE. Its activities focus on programs in the thematic areas of youth, women and global education, as well as on the North South Prize and the Lisbon Forum as high public projection events, which, having taken place annually respectively since 1995 and 1994, count with a very well established tradition as flag-ship references of the Centre.

Building on the experience, knowledge and network of contacts established over the years, the North-South Centre is an important asset of the Council of Europe and its role has been refocused to contribute to the implementation of the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy. Since 2015 (following the recommendations of DIO evaluation and the CM working group) the Centre geographically area of main focus has been the Euromediterranean region and Eastern Europe

The Centre works in close cooperation with the European Union in the framework of a Partnership Agreement concluded between the Council of Europe and the European Commission to promote Global Development Education particularly in the Balkans, Baltic, South East Europe and Mediterranean and Visegrad regions.

## An approach to programs in the thematic areas

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### Youth

The Youth Cooperation Programme aims at increasing young people and youth organisations' involvement in decision making processes and contributes at enhancing bottom-up multilateral and interregional cooperation on youth policies. It works mainly following two pillars:

i) confidence building. The networking and confidence building initiatives facilitate a structured dialogue between young people and decision makers encouraging the share of good practices for the development of a common global youth agenda

ii) capacity building. The capacity building activities target youth leaders and youth workers improving their capacity to identify and address challenges related to youth participation, global education, democratic processes, peace and intercultural dialogue.

Main current and recent activities:

- ▶ University on Youth and Development + University on Youth and Global Citizenship, focused on the SDG16;
- ▶ Training courses + Quadriologue seminar on “Youth participation for Youth, Peace and Security”;
- ▶ Training course + Quadriologue seminar on “Structured participation for democratic processes”;
- ▶ Seminar + Training on Youth Diaspora for global citizenship and intercultural dialogue
- ▶ Training courses on “Global education for youth multipliers”.
- ▶ Training of trainers.
- ▶ Media literacy task force for Global education
- ▶ Youth dimension of the Lisbon Forum and of the Empowerment of Women programme

All the activities are developed based on peer-to-peer learning approach with the objective of increasing the awareness of decision makers and youth representatives about each other's role and relevance within multilevel governance' structures. In all the projects and activities of the Youth Programme the Centre acts as facilitator, providing a platform where different youth stakeholders interact within a common framework of cooperation. The possibilities of promoting synergies and cooperation with other CoE's activities on youth, and specifically with CoE's European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, should be explored.

### Global Education

The Centre's Global Education Programme promotes global education competences and policy development, targeting formal and non-formal educators and institutional stakeholders, through the following dimensions:

- i) Pedagogical support for educators: through guidelines, eLearning and residential training courses;
- ii) Networking and peer-learning: through a network of national coordinators, a campaign (Global Education Week), and a specific webpage and resource page;
- iii) Advocacy: through quadriologue regional seminars (Balkan, Baltic, Visegrad, South-East Europe and Mediterranean countries), and through the annual meeting of the GE network, dealing with policy

development, professional development of educators, and outreach.

It constitutes a unique contribution of the CoE to the achievement of the SDGs through the introduction in their perspective into the educational systems.

### Empowerment of Women

The Empowerment of Women Programme is designated to support women's rights and gender equality in the Euromediterranean region by focusing on one of its major barriers, violence against women. Build on the promotion of principles and strategies of the CoE Convention for preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), it aims at promoting and supporting an effective cooperation and coordination, at all levels, in particular with the active participation of civil society organisations.

The programme is translated into two main areas:

- ▶ Monitoring: by a pool of women's rights and gender equality experts from civil society in the Southern Mediterranean responsible for developing context analyses, identification of priorities and strategies, elaborating operational recommendations on women's rights protection, according to the CoE standards. It works with relevant stakeholders and decisions makers in the region within regular thematic regional workshops and elaborates a practical handbook providing guidelines for ensuring the protection of victims of gender-based violence.
- ▶ Political dialogue: Key representatives of quadriologue and international organisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region are gathered during programme's activities such as workshops, conference, roundtable to discuss current challenges such as the rise of gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict areas, the effective implementation of laws, the protection of refugee and migrant women and girls and domestic violence, enabling the development of gender sensitive global data collection and sharing, promotion of human-rights and victim-centred approaches, sharing and implementation of good practices in a wider scope.

### An Approach to the Lisbon Forum and the North South Prize

#### The Lisbon Forum

An annual event since it was established in 1994 by the Centre, the Lisbon Forum has been a distinctive platform bringing together high-level participants

from Europe, neighbouring regions and other continents to share experience, good practice and expertise.

Themes of the Forum have been closely related to the core mission of the Council of Europe: to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of Law. Following developments in the region and a re-focusing of the Centre's mission to contribute to the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions, recent editions of the Forum have sought to address key challenges faced by countries of the Southern Mediterranean and explore possibilities for renewed cooperation with Europe.

These recent editions have been supported by the joint European Union and Council of Europe South Programme. Ensuring sustainable democratic governance and human rights in the Southern Mediterranean is not just the name of the third phase of the South Programme for the period 2018-2020, but it is also its core mission.

### **The North South Prize**

The North-South Prize is awarded each year since 1995 to two candidates who have stood out for their exceptional commitment to promoting North-South solidarity. The candidates, preferably a man and a woman, must have distinguished themselves in the following areas: protection of human rights, defence of pluralist democracy, public awareness raising on issues of global interdependence and solidarity. Despite the variety of nationalities and fields of action of those that have received the Prize since its creation, they all have in common a strong commitment to the promotion of North-South partnership.

### **An approach to the means (logistical, human resources and budget)**

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The Centre has its siege in an excellent building provided by the Government of Portugal, which constitutes a valuable asset to deploy its functions. It has reduced human resources and quite limited financial capacities. Now it has nine (10) people working in its staff in Lisbon (two permanent CoE staff, one secondment and seven with temporary contracts on a 6 months basis), , with a budget, considering State members, EU and others contributions (ordinary and voluntary) of € 1 M.

### **An approach to relevant elements of thirty years of experience**

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When considering the point of departure, not only present activities and programs are to be considered, but those carried out in the past where the Centre has accumulated experience and know how, and which may constitute a referent and a precedent from which to build on towards the future, such as

- ▶ The Centre's work on North-South solidarity and development awareness raising, as well as on co-development
- ▶ The Centre's role in the preparation of the UN thematic World Summits (such as the Beijing conference on Women in 1995) in the nineties, and collaboration with the UN Alliance of Civilisations (AoC) on Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue.
- ▶ The Centre's African (with initiatives such as the African Youth University) and universal experience.



# What? Possible horizons and directions to develop the Centre's potentiality

**W**hile continuing with its present programs and activities, the Centre could, in a gradual process, orient itself also towards the following horizons and directions to develop its potentiality.

**Strengthening CoE's role and contribution to the SDGs and the link between development and human rights, rule of Law and democracy.**

## Looking behind: an approach to the Centre's contribution to the SDGs

### What we did

The Centre was precisely established as a vehicle for Council of Europe to assume greater responsibility in the world's co-development process in a context of growing globalisation. Concretely, Res (1989) 14 considered it

*As a framework for European co-operation for the purpose of raising public awareness of global interdependence issues and to promote policies of solidarity in conformity with the aims and principles of the Council of Europe.*

The Centre's programme of activities at the time reflected various and complementary themes connected with global interdependence as an integrated concept that corresponds to the growing impact on the daily lives of individuals and societies of factors from outside.

In this context, the Centre positioned itself worldwide (also in relation to other international organisations working on this issue such as UNESCO) as the leading partner in the development, promotion and implementation of the concept of Global Education (GE): a holistic education dealing with the growing interconnectedness between local and global realities, that helps learners and educators to deal with cultural variety of languages, identities and codes so that mutual understanding can be achieved.

Some of the main achievements at the time:

- ▶ the elaboration and adoption, in 1994, of the first Charter of Global Education.

- ▶ the Centre largely contributed to a programme of History teaching with a multicultural approach that was later absorbed by the CoE's Education department,
- ▶ the Centre was key in the political recognition process of GE that led to the Europe-wide GE Congress in Maastricht 2002 and its declaration to contribute to "international, regional and national commitments to increase and to improve support for global education",
- ▶ developed a network of large-scale youth events in Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Southern Mediterranean that reinforced the capacities of young people as agents for development and set up a global youth partnership for development,
- ▶ in 2011 the CM passed Recommendation CM/Rec (2011)4 on education for global interdependence and solidarity.

### What we do

The Centre is the only entity within Council of Europe at the moment that implements a specific action (with the European Union) to raise awareness and call for action about the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the promotion of global development education in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as in CoE's neighbourhood. This action offers a set of competences and learning methodologies for formal and non-formal educators to gain intercultural competences and teaching methods promoting skills, values and attitudes for learners to become active citizens aware of world interconnectedness and being able to deal with global challenges and cultural diversity, entailing the elements already mentioned when explaining the Global Education Programme.

Apart from that, all North-South Centre programmes contribute to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular with regard to the following goals:

- ▶ Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all (global education and youth programmes)

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (women programme)
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (youth programme and the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship)
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (the NSC as a platform)

## Looking ahead

The Centre may be a tool in the broader perspective of CoE's contribution to the SDGs, in the global, regional and national spheres.

Apart from contributing through its programs to the achievement of goals 4, 5, 10, 11 and 16, the Centre has a special potentiality to contribute to the achievement of goal 17, both as an actor and as an space of encounter or interface

- for all sectors of the quadrilogue to work together for the achievement of the SDGs
- with other international organisations and actors, specially by carrying out pre-cooking and second-track diplomacy activities
- as a tool for presence in other fora, dialogues and debates beyond CoE

Dedicating the *Lisbon Forum 2019 to the CoE and the SDGs*, with the ambition to make it a referential and high level event coinciding with the celebration of the Centre's 30th Anniversary in Lisbon, we face the challenge to make it a point of arrival and a point of departure, a turning point in the process of the Centre's conformation as a CoE's tool to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, as well as contribution to that of the development of CoE's overall contribution to the SDGs.

In parallel, carrying out a *process of consultation* with relevant actors within CoE, including all sectors of the quadrilogue, in order to elaborate a more specific vision and lines of action to orient the Centre's 2020-2021 Program.

Exploring the possibilities to contribute from the Centre to the extension towards CoE's Neighbourhood of its Intercultural Cities Programme.

Introducing and reinforcing *the SDGs as an horizontal* subject, leit motif and objective in all the Centre's programs and activities, and making them the object of some of them, such as the University on Youth

and Development, which is held annually in Mollina (Spain), and celebrates next September its 20th edition, and the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship, which is held annually in Hammameth (Tunis).

## Contributing to Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue

### Looking behind

When asking ourselves what the Centre can potentially do to contribute to Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue, we have to consider a double point of departure:

- *The sense and ultimate purpose of CoE's involvement in Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue.* As stated when dealing with the conceptual approach to the Centre, human rights, rule of Law and democracy are universal principles and values, and each society has to arrive through its own History, cultural tradition and cosmovision to their universality. To facilitate this travel is the ultimate sense of the Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue for the Council of Europe, whose White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue considers the Centre as one of CoE's tools to promote it.
- *What has been done and is being done*

### What we did: The TransMed and Intercultural Dialogue programme

Back in 1994 the programmatic structure of the Centre included a Transmed and Intercultural Dialogue Programme (that evolved into the current Empowerment of Women Programme), with the aim to promote dialogue leading to Mediterranean partnership and with a great emphasis on dialogue based on intercultural understanding and religious tolerance.

At that time, civil society was the main target of the programme being one of its aims to foster co-operation between non-governmental organisations, universities and research centres, local and regional authorities, media and youth organisations.

The programme worked through different task forces and a contact group as part of the Middle East peace process; encouraged encounters between journalists from both sides of the Mediterranean, publications of reports, organised conferences in themes related to migration, decentralized co-operation, women rights or citizenship and human rights in the Mediterranean, developed training sessions with multipliers, etc.

The programme also developed strong co-operation with other organisations active on this field such as ALECSO, ISESCO, LAS, the Arab Thought Forum, etc.

The Centre contributed to the CoE Intercultural Dialogue work (culminating with the White Book on Intercultural Dialogue in 2008) through its Trans-Med, Intercultural Dialogue, Decentralized Dialogue programmes as well as through the Lisbon Forums.

In the framework of the 3rd CoE Heads of State Summit (Warsaw 2005) and of the Intercultural Dialogue strategy adopted during the Faro conference in 2005, the CoE Steering Committee for Education decided to run the project “The image of the Other in History Teaching” from 2006 to 2009. The project aimed at proposing guidelines for policies on History teaching in the framework of the intercultural dialogue process, providing strategies, methods and instruments for its implementation as well as training for all practitioners dealing with Intercultural Dialogue. The project followed the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation (2001)15 on History teaching in the 21st century. It comprised three annual phases:

- ▶ learning History in a multicultural society;
- ▶ images of others and images of ourselves in the context of globalisation;
- ▶ images of the other in conflict situations, learning different histories as a mean of rebuilding confidence

Three European symposiums which took place in 2007, 2008 and 2009 summarised the work and reflections resulting from each of these phases.

The NSC participated in the expert seminar (Strasbourg, March 2008) in preparation of the 2008 symposium (Strasbourg, October 2008) on History teaching in Europe: the image of the other in the context of globalisation, contributing with its expertise on knowledge, skills, values and attitudes in a global education perspective. As a follow-up, the NSC organized an expert meeting on “Networking of institutions and resource centres training history teachers” in Lisbon in collaboration with Aga Khan Foundation.

## What we do

Intercultural Dialogue was specifically included as a dimension of the mandate of the Centre:

- ▶ in 2011 in the New Statutory Resolution CM/Res(2011)6 as a means to promote the universal values of the Council of Europe about democracy, human rights and the rule of Law
- ▶ stressed in the in the proposals of the GT-NSC (with a neighbourhood focus) as a tool for disseminating democratic values and promoting a culture for democratic culture between both shores of the Mediterranean.

As such, intercultural dialogue/learning is transversal to the work of the Centre in its different activities - within and beyond Europe. More specifically:

- ▶ The Centre develops training sessions with youth organisations and education

practitioners on the intercultural dialogue dimension of global education (project with EU), where it promotes the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue,

- ▶ Implements a diaspora capacity building component (project with EU) targeting mainly youth and aiming at developing human and social capital, in the form of migrant networks with links to both host and home countries, that can provide know-how and broad partnerships for development and intercultural understanding.
- ▶ Partners since 2008 in the Baku Process for Intercultural Dialogue with other international organisations – such as UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilisations, World Tourism Organisation, ISESCO, IRSICA, NATO, TURKSOY, CST, the Arab League and the Organisation of American States.

## Looking ahead

The Centre adds a different dimension to the work that Council of Europe does in relation to Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue. Whereas the Council of Europe focuses on European societies (looks inside Europe), the Centre is better placed to work on the notion of intercultural dialogue that bridges oriental and occidental cultures, a dialogue of civilisations (Europe towards the world and the world within Europe). Following this line of action, the Centre has participated in the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, which has taken place in Baku on the 2nd and 3rd of May, both institutionally and by organizing one of the roundtables as requested by the organizers, which focused on Interculturality, and human rights, rule of Law and democracy, and counted with the participation of former North South Prize laureates under the moderation of the Chair of the Executive Committee. Its Global Education Programme was also explained at the roundtable dedicated to Interculturality and education. While the roundtable constituted a way to put into practice the approach proposed in this Vision Paper, the Chair and the Executive Director participation at the Forum constituted an excellent occasion to foster relations with relevant actors and to explore possible ways of collaboration. In that sense, in parallel to the activities that it develops already, looking ahead the Centre could:

- ▶ Reassume and develop the *collaboration with the UN Alliance of Civilisations*, based on the MoU subscribed in 2008
- ▶ *Play a role in the co-operation platforms that exist with other international organisations for the promotion of Intercultural, Intercivilisational and Interreligious Dialogue*, and explore possibilities of synergies and collaborations, taking duly into account the relevance and potentiality of its participation in the Baku Process.

- ▶ Carry out a reflection process to define a vision and possible lines of action in this field, to be reflected in the Centre's 2020-2021 Program.
- ▶ Promote the presence of the intercultural approach at the *Lisbon Forum* 2019, dedicated to the CoE and the SDGs- for instance, through a roundtable within it on Interculturality, achievement of the SDGs and human rights, rule of Law and democracy -, and dedicate the Lisbon Forum 2020 to the CoE, interculturality, human rights, rule of Law and democracy.
- ▶ Reinforce the Intercultural and Intercivilisational Dialogue dimension in all the Centre's programs and activities, and make it the object of some of them, such as the University on Youth and Development and the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship.

### Reinforcing the Centre's presence and interaction with the Euromediterranean diplomatic architecture and being a useful tool of CoE's Neighbourhood Policy

#### Looking behind

When asking ourselves what the Centre can potentially do in this field, we have to consider as a point of departure, on one side, the unique feature of Centre due to fact of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia being members of it; and, on the other, what has been done and is done so far.

#### What we did

Between 1994 and 2013 the Centre included in its programmatic structure a TransMed programme that aimed at promoting dialogue leading to Mediterranean Partnership. The programme had a strong focus on women rights and developed a series of bilateral (national workshops) and regional actions (North-South and South-South) where different Council of Europe standards were promoted. As from 2011, when the CoE developed a specific policy towards its neighbouring regions, the Centre was somehow deprived from of its privileged role in the dialogue with non-European states from the South.

#### What we do

At present, the Centre is described as an instrument for CoE's neighbouring policy where, by focusing on regional actions (North-South and South-South), contributes to the main two axes of the CoE policy:

- ▶ Co-operation Dialogue – the Centre is in itself (its statutory bodies) a framework for political North-South dialogue on equal footing,

- ▶ Co-operation Action Plan – At present the Centre contributes to the co-operation priorities agreements with Morocco and Tunisia mainly in:
  - The part of Human Rights, with gender equality. Promoting specifically the Istanbul Convention (VC of Portugal and AKDN)
  - Democracy – Promoting participation and democracy through specific standards and tools in the field of education and youth work such as the Charter of Educations for Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship and the competences' framework for democratic culture (VC of Spain/Portugal/Malta and AKDN)

#### Looking ahead

The Centre could promote the following lines of action to:

- ▶ Cooperate with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), especially in relation to Southern and Eastern Mediterranean member States which are not member of the Centre, as well as with other Euromediterranean actors, fora organisations and networks, such as the Anna Lindh Foundation, Euromesco, ISESCO, the UfM Parliamentary Assembly, the Euromediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) and others.
- ▶ Promote interest of States from CoE's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood to become members of the Centre, strengthening thus it as such as a unique forum for horizontal dialogue and relationship between CoE and its Neighbourhood.
- ▶ Contribute to the development of PACE's partnership for democracy with Neighbourhood countries, as well as to the partnership for local democracy recently subscribed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities with Morocco and others which may be subscribed in the future.
- ▶ Promote the realization of the Euromediterranean legal space, contributing to the subscription of CoE's conventions by States which are not members of the CoE.

### Contributing to the explanation and knowledge of CoE's conventions

With an approach based on complementarity of other CoE's actions for the promotion of its conventions and on the specificity of the Centre, it could become a useful tool contributing through "pre-cooking" and second-track diplomacy activities, with the aim to explain and foster knowledge of CoE's conventions in a previous phase of definition of potential interest to subscribe them.



# How and where? Considerations on means, activities, programs, actors, partners, organisation and structure

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## From vision to action

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The possibilities of the Centre's actions depend, as for any other institution, on the disposal of persons, money and ideas to carry them out. With limited human and financial resources, this reflection process has responded, among other reasons, to the aim of defining ideas and proposals to conform the vision of the Centre's future, which may attract the interest of members and partner that will strengthen the Centre's means and capacities for strengthened action. Once defined and adopted, the Centre will present and promote this vision both publically and with relevant interlocutors in order to

- ▶ Promote non-member States of the Centre – both from CoE and from its Neighbourhood – to join it.
- ▶ Strengthen EU's cooperation and involvement, exploring the possibilities to have access for funding from other EU external action instruments
- ▶ Explore possibilities of cooperation and partnership with other actors

## "Pre-cooking" and second-track diplomacy

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While continuing to implement programs, the Centre could develop a line of action on pre-cooking and second-track diplomacy.

## Geography and universality

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The how and where of the Centre depend, on one side, on its conceptual approach, and, on the other, on the means it may dispose to deploy action. Taking this into account, it could develop a gradual process both towards CoE's Neighbourhood and its strategic deepness, especially in Africa and towards universality, aiming to contribute to CoE's projection towards the global governance level, and especially towards the UN system, as well as with other actors and States, in function of the interest of the subject

## Applying the guiding principles and objectives

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Applying the guiding principles and objectives stated in chapter III, as well as reinforcing the Centre's quadri-logue dimension.

## Further anchoring the Centre as an enlarged partial agreement within the CoE

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Further anchoring the Centre within the CoE in the best possible way to develop its potentiality and putting it at the service of all its relevant sectors and actors

- ▶ Within the Secretariat
- ▶ Towards the Committee of Ministers and its groups of rapporteurs and committees
- ▶ Towards the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Conference of international NGOs and other relevant actors and Partial Agreements of the CoE

## Assuming ownership

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Assuming ownership, applying Kennedy's principle: "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country". Thus don't ask what the Centre can do for you: ask what you can do for the Centre. The more we assume that we are the Centre, the more we assume ownership of it, the better it will fully develop its potentiality.

# The annual Lisbon Forum themes

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- 1994** Human Rights in the North-South Dialogue
- 1995** Human Rights in the North-South Dialogue
- 1996** Human Rights in the North-South Dialogue
- 1997** The great lakes region: towards the North-South dialogue
- 1998** The Present State of Human Rights in Africa
- 1999** Democratic Processes and the Protection of Human Rights in the Mediterranean
- 2000** The Regional and International Systems of Human Rights Protection: their contribution to the Universality and Indivisibility of Human Rights
- 2001** Children and Youth in Africa: Actors and their own Development
- 2002** Sustainable Development and human rights: beyond Johannesburg
- 2003** Migration and Human-Rights: North-South Dialogue
- 2004** Social Cohesion and Local and Regional Sustainability Strategies: the role of Civil Society and Local Authorities
- 2005** Democratic governance in the multicultural societies of the North- and the South
- 2006** Constitutionalism: the key to democracy, human rights and the rule of law
- 2007** National Human Rights Institutions: the cornerstone for the promotion and protection of human rights
- 2008** The principle of universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional level
- 2009** Creating a culture of human rights through education
- 2010** Freedom of expression, conscience and religion
- 2011** The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal rights real
- 2012** The Arab season: from change to challenges
- 2013** Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean
- 2014** Electoral processes and democratic consolidation in the countries of the southern Mediterranean
- 2015** How to combat radicalisation and terrorism: prevention tools and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space
- 2016** Migration and human rights: how to structure effective collective action? Best practices and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space
- 2017** Interconnecting People - Managing migration, avoiding populism, building inclusive societies and reinforcing North-South dialogue
- 2018** Youth, Peace and Security in the Euro-Mediterranean region
- 2019** Bridging the Paradigm: the relation between Development and Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Democracy. Achieving together the Sustainable Development Goals

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