

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

**“From
Millennium Development
Goals to Millennium
Development Wins”**



*report of a seminar for youth leaders of the african diaspora
living in europe*

September 18-21, 2011

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“From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins”

*report of a seminar for youth leaders of the african diaspora
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September 18-21, 2011

*at the 12th university on youth and development,
euro-latin-american youth centre,*

CEULAJ, Spain

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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE
AND SOLIDARITY



The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

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To receive further information about the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, please visit our website at <http://www.youth-partnership.net> or contact us by e-mail at youth-partnership@coe.int.

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Foreword by

the

North-South

Centre



In the Summer of 2000, on the eve of the Millennium Summit and the United Nations General Assembly, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and a group of committed youth partners launched the University on Youth and Development. The main motivation to start this process was to provide a space for the capacity building of youth leaders and youth organisations, fostering their ability to act as agents of development and generating a Global youth Partnership for Development.

Since the inaugural 2000 edition, the University on Youth and Development has been organised every year in Mollina (Spain), involving young people and youth organisations from all over the world and generating synergies for development and the promotion of global citizenship.

In 2011 at the 12th Edition of the University, in co-operation with the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE) and in the framework of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the North-South Centre organised the Seminar "From Millennium Development Goals to Development Wins!", designed for youth leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe.

This seminar was a logical evolution of the co-operation, established in 2007, between youth groups and youth organisations from the African Diaspora living in Europe. The support in strengthening the capacity of these groups to be influential actors in the Euro-African relations, both in their societies of origin and in their hosting societies, has been an important priority of the Centre's Africa Europe Youth Programme as defined by the Youth Summits.

The seminar allowed for a very interesting combination : discussing a priority area of intervention in the Africa Europe co-operation, as defined by the EU-Africa Strategic Partnership and the youth Summits, the Millennium Development Goals while involving and empowering a priority stakeholder of this co-operation, the youth from the African Diaspora.

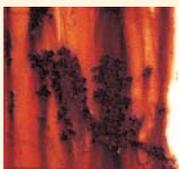
This combination puts emphasis on the critical significance of the role that African diasporas, and particularly their youth, play in democracy-building and development of the African continent and in this interregional co-operation. There is a common understanding that the Africa Diaspora is a key strategic agent making the nexus between migration and development a reality.



The diasporas can contribute to democratic governance in much the same way that they currently contribute to economic welfare and development

in their home countries. They can do so by making their knowledge, professional experience and expertise available for strengthening the capacity of political institutions in Africa. The North-South Centre is convinced that young people from the diasporas can play a fundamental role in this endeavour.

In fact, the youth from the Diaspora carry enormous human capital, a social resource for development of their home communities. Human capital, resulting from active participation, higher education, training, and cumulative experiences in the hosting societies that can contribute to the development of the country of origin through the return of skills, by return migration (or virtually by using communications technologies) and through the incorporation of the capacity of belonging and interpreting both the sending and hosting society. This human and social capital, in the form of migrant networks with links to both host and home countries, can provide developing countries with access to more developed markets, political opportunities, know-how and broad partnerships for development. These types of transfers have the potential to be more enduring than that of their financial remittances.



From the experience and perspective of the North-South Centre, the work with the African Diaspora youth groups is essential for the development of

Euro-African relations. These groups are key bridges for co-operation and understanding: they represent, for us in Europe (their host societies), an immense wealth in terms of human resources, inter-



cultural opportunities and possibilities for relationships with the societies of origin. They are also an engine and constant source of inspiration for the continuous building of an inclusive European and global citizenship. Furthermore, the co-operation with these groups also carries a positive response and understanding of the priorities established by our institutional partners in Africa, in particular the African Union, which defines the African Continent as being divided into 6 geographical regions: North Africa, South Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, and the Diaspora.

I would like to thank the partners of this project, particularly the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe and the European Commission, the participants, trainers and experts. I hope this publication can be a useful resource for your work and action and for the aspirations of the youth from the African Diaspora and all those involved in Africa Europe Youth co-operation.

I wish you an interesting and enjoyable read

Denis Huber

Executive Director

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

A photograph of a stack of rusty metal beams, likely steel, arranged in a somewhat chaotic but structured manner. The beams are weathered and show signs of rust. Overlaid on the image are several yellow rectangular boxes containing text in a stylized, serif font. The text reads "Foreword", "by", and "ADYNE". There are also several empty yellow rectangular boxes of varying sizes scattered throughout the image, some overlapping the text and others placed in open spaces.

Foreword

by

ADYNE



Dear Friends,

This is a crucial moment for our affirmation! Two years have passed since we took the decision to create the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE), we live today in a very different and inspiring reality: the development of the network and the progress achieved has been notorious, we have overcome some of the major obstacles and faced many of our fears from yesterday.

We now feel that the time has come to offer something more and to find ways to further contribute to a greater participation of African youth Diaspora and descendants of Africa in Europe, as well as to be part of the solution of the major challenges of our generation, such as the fulfilment of the millennium development goals.

"ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe" is a platform for African youth organisations, dedicated to defend and represent the interests of the African youth Diaspora living in Europe and to work on a strategy to strengthen the development of a productive dialogue between European and African societies.

Conscious of this important responsibility that is entrusted to us as members of ADYNE and making the best out of the few available funds and resources at our disposal, we assume this challenge and mobilise our efforts. We commit ourselves to continue our contribution to the increasing affirmation of the African community, not only in the Diaspora, but also in our countries of origin.

The Millennium Development Goals are still the most important agreement in the global development agenda, these goals are transversal to all our work and we want to be resourceful agents in their implementation, as we also want to be important critical actors who take part in the discussion of renewed goals and priorities at the Global level.

We are thankful for the initiative of this seminar, this was a great opportunity for us to develop our capacities and to join others in the efforts to achieve common goals. We are thankful for the successful collaboration with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

and for the framework created by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe that made it possible to hold this Seminar for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe under the theme, "From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins".

To all partners, members, and supporters, please accept our appreciation and we count on your continuous support so together we can take further steps towards better youth co-operation between Europe and Africa. Your support is very strategic for us in the strengthening of opportunities for participation of young people of the Diaspora and in shaping our contribution for sustainable development, both in our countries of residence and of origin.

Be it in Europe or in Africa. We are at home!

Ludgero Gomes Teixeira

Chairman of ADYNE, Steering Committee

African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe



Presentation of the Partnership

between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the
field of Youth

www.youth-partnership.eu.coe.int
www.ec.europa.eu/youth

background

The Council of Europe and European Commission have developed close co-operation in the youth field over the years since 1998.

This co-operation mainly relates to:

- **knowledge** and evidence-based youth policy, and
- **support** and recognition of youth work

Special attention is paid to the geographical scope of activities and to the dissemination and publication of results.

The close involvement and participation of young people, youth workers, youth researchers and youth policy-makers are essential to a successful EU-CoE youth partnership.

The EU-CoE youth partnership is based on the principle of balanced involvement of the European Commission and the Council of Europe in terms of political priorities, management, funding and visibility. This principle is firmly established in the political processes of both partners:

- **for the European Union:** a strategy entitled "Youth - Investing and Empowering" and the "renewed framework for European co-operation in the youth field";
- **for the Council of Europe:** the Final Declaration of the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for Youth, held in 2008: "The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020";

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■ **for both the European Union** and the Council of Europe: the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007, which provides a framework for enhanced co-operation and political dialogue, taking due account of the comparative advantages and respective competences of both institutions.

The current partnership agreement between the two institutions covers the period 1st July 2010 - 31st December 2013.

objectives

The main objectives of the partnership are to develop:

Social inclusion:

- **to strengthen the social** inclusion of young people, particularly those most disadvantaged;
- **to combat exclusion**, precarious social conditions and marginalisation;
- **to improve** access to employment, entrepreneurship, education and training;
- **to promote** intergenerational dialogue and solidarity and foster equal opportunities for all, especially those at risk of exclusion;
- **to promote** young people's health and well-being.

Democracy and human rights, democratic citizenship and youth participation:

- **to make** young people aware of human rights and foster youth participation, voluntary activities and democratic citizenship as well as to promote gender equality;
- **to address** issues relating to sustainable development, the environment and climate change.

Intercultural dialogue and diversity:

- **to foster** intercultural dialogue and youth work in a multicultural environment and to promote responses to racism, intolerance and discrimination;
- **to support** peace-building and inter-regional co-operation;
- **to support** co-operation with regions outside Europe;
- **to support** young people's creativity and participation in culture.

target groups

The activities of the EU-CoE youth partnership mainly address the needs of young people, resource persons and youth policy players in both partners' member states. There is currently a specific regional focus on countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean. Both partners may give extra priority to any other country.

co-operation partners

Activities are carried out directly by the EU-CoE youth partnership team, in co-operation with other organisations with relevant experience in the field, such as the National Agencies of the European Commission's Youth in Action Programme, SALTO Resource Centres, Ministries responsible for youth issues in the participating countries, research bodies and institutes and the European Youth Forum.

activities

The main activities are training sessions, thematic research seminars, workshops, symposia and networking meetings involving youth workers and youth leaders, trainers, researchers, policy-makers, experts and practitioners on specific topics, leading to a structured dialogue and exchanges of good practice. The results of activities are disseminated through the EU-CoE youth partnership website and publications.

publications

To maximise the impact of the EU-CoE youth partnership, the results of its work are disseminated via the EU-CoE youth partnership website and the following publications:

- **Thematic** T(raining) Kits
- **COYOTE** magazine (published once a year)
- **The EU-CoE** youth partnership newsletter
- **Research books**

European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP)

The EKCYP is an on-line database intended to provide the youth sector with a single access point to knowledge and information about the situation of young people across Europe. It was developed in the framework of the EU-CoE youth partnership, according to the knowledge-based approach to youth policy-making shared by both institutions. Since 2008, it has formed an integral part of the EU-CoE youth partnership website: www.youth-partnership.eu.coe.int

Content quality is regularly monitored by an interdisciplinary group of experts (Quality group).

fields of action

Promotion of knowledge-based youth policy through the development and provision of efficient tools for:

- **further improving** the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP);
- **establishing** a Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR);
- **holding** research seminars, fora and events in order to enhance knowledge in the youth field.

Support for youth work and improvement of the capacity of youth workers at European level through:

- **the promotion** of recognition of youth work and non-formal learning;
- **the development** of innovative youth work-related training;
- **exchanges of good** practices and support for related policy measures (peer reviews).

Special attention to the geographical scope of initiatives and application of the order of priority shown below:

- **CoE member states** which are candidates for EU membership (south-eastern Europe);
- **CoE member states** which are covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (including the Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean) and the Russian Federation;
- **other countries/regions** such as those involved in current EU-Africa co-operation arrangements.

Collection, dissemination and provision of information and publications on youth issues via:

- **the web portal**, including the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy and its European youth policy topics database and country information;
- **training kits**, "Coyote" magazine, the series of youth research books and the newsletter.

management structure

■ **Partnership** Management Board

All decisions are taken jointly by the two partners in a Partnership Management Board which rings together European Commission and Council of Europe representatives and observers at least once a year. Meetings are held in Brussels and Strasbourg alternately.

■ **Partnership** Advisory Group

This group comprises representatives of the principal stakeholders in the youth field, such as the European Youth Forum, the National Agencies of the European Commission's Youth in Action Programme and the SALTO Resource Centres linked to the National Agencies, policy-makers and researchers. These stakeholders are to be invited at least once a year to make an active contribution to defining the content of the EU-CoE youth partnership's activities.

■ **The EU-CoE** youth partnership team

EU-CoE youth partnership activities are carried out by a team of eight staff members, who are responsible for the coordination, quality and visibility of activities.

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Africa | Europe |

Youth co-operation

Background information

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, a framework created by the 2nd EU-Africa Heads of State Summit, and the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, both held in December 2007, recognises youth as a key actor in development in Africa and in Europe. The strengthening of youth organisations and youth movements is critical for development in general and, in particular, for developing youth policies that will allow for sustainable co-operation among African and European youth.

The I Africa-Europe Youth Summit, held in Lisbon in December 2007, concluded with a Declaration that stated the main priorities of African and European young people for Euro-African co-operation, focusing on Poverty eradication: priority for Euro-African co-operation and in the following priority themes:

- **Achieving** the Millennium Development Goals
- **Bringing** Good Governance and Democracy
- **Ensuring** Peace and Fighting Conflict
- **Tackling** Globalisation, Trade and Socio-Economic Development
- **Managing** Climate Change and Sustainable Development
- **Our Common** Fight for Decent Work Agenda and Employment
- **Addressing Migration**, Mobility, Intercultural Dialogue and Co-development
- **Strategies and Instruments** for Euro-African Youth Participation and Co-operation

The Final Declaration was submitted to the EU-Africa Heads of State Summit by two youth representatives from Africa and Europe.

As a follow-up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been developing and implementing a programme, in partnership with the European Union (particularly DG EAC and DG DevCO), the African Union and key governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, including the European Youth Forum and the African Youth Platforms such as the Pan African Youth Union.

The Programme aims at responding to the priorities of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, the Joint Management Agreement will:

- **Promote** the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth;^[2]
- **Strengthen** young people's capacity to disseminate information and to get involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Strategy;^[2]
- **Facilitate** moments of encounter and exchange between young Africans and Europeans;^[2]
- **Help map** existing African youth networks.^[4]

In this sense, the North-South Centre has co-operated with the European Commission (EuropeAid, DG Development and DG Education and Culture), in order to secure a sustainable process for collaboration which will provide important support of various (youth) structures, quality, reassurance and funding for Africa-Europe youth work.

In the framework of the *partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth*, a programme of Euro-African training activities and support measures was included that has been implemented since 2009.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA_Youth_EN.asp#Youth_Partnership_Activities

In 2008, the North-South Centre and the European Commission (EuropeAid) signed a Joint Management Agreement for a period of three years (2009-2011). The agreement has been renewed until 2014 and aims at strengthening global education in the new Member States of the European Union and supporting Africa-Europe youth co-operation.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/JMA/JMA_Youth_EN.asp

[2] As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and social development.
 [2] As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and social development.
 [2] As in 108, under civil society + 108. under the heading Monitoring, evaluation and review mechanisms.
 [4] As in the action plan of the joint strategy under the heading Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation.

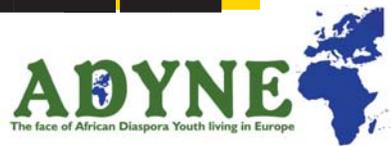
This programme also responds to the input of President Barroso in the Youth Summit in 2007 and its encouragement for the Africa Europe Youth Co-operation as well as to the outcomes and recommendations of the II Africa Europe Youth Summit held on 25-28 November 2010, in the context of the 3rd EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State.

The Africa Europe Youth Co-operation Programme implemented by the North-South Centre and its partners since 2008 includes activities such as:

- **Annual Africa Europe** Training Course for Youth Leaders and Youth Organisations
- **Long Term Training** Course for Trainers on Africa Europe Youth Co-operation,
- **Annual Training Course** for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe
- **Five sub-regional** seminars on youth policies and African youth Charter;
- **Mapping exercise** of Africa-Europe youth co-operation/work, leading to the creation of an Africa Europe Youth co-operation on-line resource centre, under the joint Management Agreement;
- **Providing** seed funding for pilot youth NGO exchanges;
- **Africa Europe** Youth Summit and Africa Europe Youth Leaders Meeting;
- **The establishment** of the Africa Europe Youth Platform
- **Institutional follow** up, monitoring and implementation meetings with key youth actors from Africa and Europe, and representatives of implementing agencies and institutions of the Africa-Europe youth strategy;
- **Annual African** University on Youth and Development.

Presentation of

ADYNE



African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe

The African Diaspora Youth Network – ADYNE is a platform of organisations, led and driven by young Africans and young people with African backgrounds living in Europe¹⁵. It aims and endeavours to serve the interests of young people from all over Europe, promoting their active participation in a constructive dialogue between African and European societies.

For the past years, a growing number of young African leaders from the Diaspora have felt the need to create a network to connect with each other and express their needs, interests and aspirations. They strongly believe that, as Africans from the Diaspora, they can be key actors and be the bridge between African and European societies. Therefore, they joined their efforts to make this vision a reality and launched a process that resulted in the establishment of the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe - ADYNE.

ADYNE is a continuous process that aims to become the face of the African Diaspora young people in Europe, actively participating and contributing, for the sustainable development of our societies!

our vision

A world where every African Diaspora youth in Europe can unite as global citizens and contribute to the sustainable development of both continents.

¹⁵ ADYNE refers to the term "youth" and "young people" according to the definition given by the African Youth Charter. These terms shall refer to every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years.

Similarly, ADYNE refers to the term "African Diaspora" according to the definition provided by the African Union Charter: "people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent ...".

our mission

To be the network that connects organisations and individuals, to collaborate and actively participate as global citizens, to shape the lives of African Diaspora young people in Europe.

our values

To be youth led and youth driven, to be responsible and inspirational citizens and leaders that exhibit courage and a positive image of Africa and the African Diaspora Youth in Europe;

To aspire to positive change and excellence in everything that we do, working with mutual understanding and respect, in a learning and involved environment;

Preserve as we promote African cultures and heritage, and the knowledge that comes from them, to enrich the diversities that strengthen the African Diaspora identity;

Live and share the spirit of "Ubuntu" that recognises coexistence, humanity, belonging and accountability, and which aims to serve and respect others.

objectives of ADYNE

- **To provide** a space for organisations and individuals to exchange and share similar interests, goals and aspirations.
- **To offer** strategic support for capacity building, networking and the dissemination of good practices.
- **To voice** the concerns of its member organisations in the political agenda of governmental, as well as European, African and international institutions.
- **To produce** policies and positions, which are based on the research, experience and expertise of young Africans living in Europe..

important steps in the creation of ADYNE

2006

Fourth Africa-Europe training course for leaders of youth organisations

(Almada, Lisbon, Portugal)

The participants from the Africa Diaspora who were present on the course inserted, for the first time, the Africa Diaspora youth concerns into the political agenda of Africa-Europe Youth co-operation. As one of the main outcomes of this training course was the formulation of a declaration that expressed the need and the will to have the 1st Africa-Europe Youth Summit.

2007

Consultation on European and African Youth Diaspora living in Europe

(Marly le Roy, Paris, France)

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in partnership with the "Institut National de la Jeunesse et de l'Education Populaire" (INJEP), the European Youth Forum and the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, organised the Consultation with representatives from the African Youth Diaspora living in Europe, as part of the process of the Africa - Europe Youth Summit. The Consultation was held at the INJEP and gathered together almost 130 youth representatives, from the members of the European Youth Forum and the African Diaspora living in Europe.

First Africa-Europe Youth Summit

(December - Lisbon, Portugal)

From 5 to 7 December 2007, representatives of youth organisations from Africa and Europe, met in Lisbon, Portugal, at the Africa-Europe Youth Summit on the eve of the 2nd EU-Africa Summit of Heads of State. They gathered to join together in a partnership for development, firmly stating that the younger generation are positive agents for change, in strengthening the partnership and setting forth a progressive agenda of co-operation. A final declaration was delivered to the Heads of State during the 2nd EU-Africa Summit (Lisbon, 8-9 December 2007).

2009

First Training Course for youth leaders of African Diaspora living in Europe

(December - Almada, Portugal)

The course organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, gathered together almost 25 leaders of African Diaspora youth organisations. During the week, participants developed their knowledge and skills and exchanged experiences and strategies to empower the youth community of Africans living in Europe. One outcome of the course was a declaration stating the urgency to develop a youth platform, called ADYNE, which would represent the needs and interests of the African Diaspora Youth living in Europe.

2010

**Second Training Course for youth leaders of the African
Diaspora living in Europe:**
(June, Santiago - Cape Verde)

The Second African University on Youth and Development aimed at creating a space for debate and reflection; affirmative youth action and the promotion of youth policies; global education and raising awareness for development; training and non-formal education; as well as intercultural and inter-regional dialogue in the context of Euro-African youth co-operation. ADYNE was presented as an outcome of the first training course held in Lisbon. The participants demonstrated an interest and some workshops helped define the role and objectives of such a platform.

**Seminar “Inclusion has to come from the inside” and
ADYNE Constitutive Meeting**
(September - Mollina, Spain)

During a 3-day seminar, participants discussed the challenges and strategies to increase the participation of African Diaspora youth in the decision making process at local, national and international levels. As outcomes, the vision, mission, values and objectives of ADYNE were defined and agreed upon. Moreover, a steering committee was nominated and a work plan for 2010-2011 was established.

The Second Africa-Europe Youth Summit
(November - Tripoli, Libya)

ADYNE had the opportunity to participate and bring another dimension to the contributions made during working sessions by organisations from both Africa and Europe. In the final declaration, African and European youth organisations urged governments to support the Africa-Europe Youth Co-operation, removing visa barriers for youth and student exchanges; creating training opportunities for youth entrepreneurship, especially in the field of fair trade; increasing youth participation to ensure a strong youth dimension in policies and programmes concerning migration, climate change, good governance and democracy, as well as employment. The reinforcement and recognition of the role and involvement of youth in the efforts to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals were also highlighted.

ADYNE priorities for 2012–2013

Over the next two years, ADYNE has identified the need to focus on the **enlargement and development of the international network** and to support the **development of formal and informal networks that gather together African Diaspora youth organisations at the national level.**

In this sense, a strategy was designed to work together with National Youth Councils in order to support ADYNE's mapping of the local youth organisations, led by young Africans from the Diaspora in different European countries. ADYNE aims at supporting them to become a voice on their national structures, to be able to influence the policies that are affecting the lives of young people from the African Diaspora.

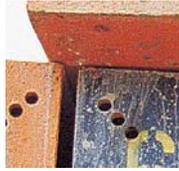
ADYNE aims to invite grass-roots organisations to get involved in this process and bring visibility to the activities that these organisations have been developing.

ADYNE's policy focus for 2012-2013 is "employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship". ADYNE aims to gather data and address those very important issues that concern all young Africans and young people with African background across Europe. We hope to influence the decision makers in developing youth policies in favour of a better social and economical inclusion of young Africans and young people with African backgrounds living in Europe.

ADYNE shall reaffirm the core value of volunteering for the personal and social development of young African Diaspora living in Europe. We shall reinforce volunteering as a tool to help us join forces to meet the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015. Furthermore, we shall promote active citizenship, democracy and human rights principles, as well as integrate the values of the African Diaspora youth at the centre of global development.

*"from millennium development goal& to millennium
development win&"*





background

In 2011, and for the third consecutive year, the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth included a Euro-African dimension implemented by the North-South Centre. This dimension arose as a result of previous Euro-African training courses, organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and of the Africa Europe Youth Summit, held in Lisbon in 2007.

Youth organisations and youth groups from the African Diaspora living in Europe are fundamental actors for the Euro-African Youth Co-operation. These groups share several aspects of the collective imagination of the Diaspora phenomenon and identity and, at the same time, they are part of the European citizenship. They become essential actors and act as important bridges when it comes to implementing youth co-operation projects, building on the common identity. Their experience of action and the response to their challenges and aspirations are fundamental resources and the aims of the Euro-African youth co-operation. The youth from the African Diaspora was a key participatory element in the process leading to the Africa Europe Youth Summit, the Summit itself and its follow-up.

At the political level, the Diaspora is considered by the African Union as the 6th region of Africa and the 6th building block of the African Union (see Annex Background - African Diaspora and Development). These groups are also important actors for youth co-operation and represent, for the hosting societies, an immense richness in terms of human resources, intercultural opportunities and possibilities for relationships with the sending societies.

Youth Leaders from Africa and Europe and the African Diaspora, gathered at the 2nd Africa-Europe Youth Summit (25-28 November 2010, Tripoli, Libya) and adopted the Tripoli Declaration and identified the importance of reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) along with other priorities such as: Employment for young people, trade and socio-economic development, climate change and sustainable development, good governance and



UNIVERSITY ON **YOUTH** AND DEVELOPMENT

democracy, migration, mobility, inter-cultural dialogue and co-development, and conflict resolution.

Noting the importance of the MDGs, and the limited progress made so far (especially in Africa), it is timely to reinvigorate this debate, with the African Diaspora Youth as a bridge between Europe and Africa. The African Diaspora Youth in Europe are well placed to address the implementation of the MDG aspirations, to work towards its awareness, and to build a renewed commitment in their pursuit.

As citizens that are aware of Africa's reality, and the urgent need to achieve the MDGs by 2015, youth leaders of the African Diaspora in Europe are very well placed to contribute to and raise this awareness among the European civil society, youth organisations and young people in general. There are 4 more years and the opportunity to reenergise the efforts to achieve the MDGs cannot be missed: the clock is ticking. The African Diaspora youth living in Europe can have a fundamental role in re-launching the campaign efforts. They can be champions for the aspirations and achievement of the MDGs, converting it from goals to real wins!

Encouraged by the successful experience of previous trainings, the North-South Centre in co-operation with the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe organised the seminar, "**From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins**". This Seminar took place at the 12th University in Youth and Development, from the 18 to 21 September 2011, and was held in the CEULAJ, Mollina, Spain.

“YOUTH VOLUNTEERING FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT”

12th Edition of the University on Youth and Development, CEULAJ,

Mollina (Spain) 18 – 25 September 2011.

The University on Youth and Development is an activity jointly organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (EYF), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Latin-American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other international youth organisations.

<http://www.uyd.me/>

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/Youth_en.asp

Since its first edition in 2000, the University takes place once a year, bringing together representatives of youth organisations and youth movements from all over the world who gather in the CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre) to discuss, train and be trained, as well as to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda.

On the occasion of the International Year of Volunteers + 10 (IYV+10) 2011, and the European Year of Volunteering 2011, the University on Youth and Development gathered for the 12th time and renewed their hopes and aspirations, objectives and challenges were launched for the partners to reinforce it as the space and home of Global Youth Work and the Global Youth Movement.

This was an exceptional opportunity to join a global effort to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism. The Partners of the University on Youth and Development, gathered from the various institutions from the different regions of the world, that are planning events throughout 2011, “to showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering worldwide, to raise the profile of volunteering and to mobilise many more volunteers”.

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/iyv-10.html>

The 12th University for Youth and Development has also been the arena for a visionary decision. The Partners decided to launch their effort towards the creation of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship. Since 2000, three Sister Universities have been developing with a shared vision and sense of process: The University on Youth and Development (Spain), the University on Participation and Citizenship (Uruguay) since 2004 and the African University on Youth and Development (Cape Verde) since 2009. These Universities have kept their own independent histories and identities.

“I am because we are”.
Ubuntu synthesises the
diversity and solidarity
that underpins the University
(UYD) into one word.

aims

This seminar aimed to:

- a.** Be a forum to discuss, identify and propose how African Diaspora youth in Europe can start to address the Millennium Development Goals agenda and come up with actions that can convert some of the aspirations and requirements into deliverables;
- b.** Develop a stronger and effective network of African Diaspora youth in Europe as part of the solution to the MDGs agenda.

objectives

- a.** Inform and increase the knowledge of youth leaders from the African Diaspora on the MDGs, to ensure an understanding of the specific involvement of the African Diaspora as part of the solution in Africa and Europe.
- b.** Provide a space for youth leaders and youth organisations in the Diaspora to discuss and develop strategies on how to contribute to re-launching the efforts to achieve the MDGs.
- c.** Strengthen and make more visible, the roles and contributions of African Diaspora youth and youth organisations in the MDGs agenda.
- d.** Develop recommendations on how African youth and youth organisations in the Diaspora form partnerships with other stakeholders that will lead to the realisation of specific MDGs in Africa and Europe.

methodology

The sessions were organised as spaces for debates and mutual learning, with the participants' voices, experiences and realities as the starting point of the process. Active participation and in-depth reflection were the keys to the success of these sessions.

The sessions were based on non-formal education, with participatory centred approaches and using experiential methods and interactive workshops.

The sessions of the seminar were in English and French, interpretation and translation services were provided for participants in French and English. During the plenary moments of the University, translations were also provided in Spanish.

The seminar profited from the presence of invited experts who contributed, feeding important aspects of debate and exchange of practices.

This activity, being held within the framework of the University on Youth and Development, gained from the synergies and exchanges with other groups also present in the University, allowing for a very fruitful opportunity to create joint moments for learning and reflection.



profile of the participants

Two preparatory meetings were organised to define the objectives, design the programme, agree the contents of the Seminar and the profile of the Participants.

Following the second preparatory meeting, a call for participants was launched (June 2011). Over 100 applications were received, and the pedagogical team of the seminar, together with the North-South Centre secretariat, selected a group of close to 40 participants.

The participants in the seminar were representatives of youth organisations and youth groups of African Origin Living in Europe. The course was open for residents of all member-states of the Council of Europe. Key representatives from Africa and the African Diaspora in Latin America were also invited.

The selection of participants was carried out, according to the following criteria:

- **Must be** a key African multiplier, or of African origin, playing an active role within a youth organisation, network or service at local, national or regional level, and who planned to continue this work in the near future;
- **Seeking** a gender balance;
- **From** diverse social and geographical backgrounds;
- **Aged** between 18 and 35 ;
- **Already** have some experience in terms of international youth work and project work;
- **Committed** to attend the full duration of the summit and be supported by a youth organisation or service;
- **Be able** to present the context of their work, their way of tackling problems, the challenges they meet and identify;
- **Be able** to work and communicate in English and / or French.

The atmosphere is something you cannot foresee.

The global aspect is something that you can only rarely experience (UYD)

The 42 youth leaders present in Mollina represented 18 different European countries, 2 Central American countries and 1 South American country. These have roots in 22 different African countries.



Some of them represent the second generation of immigrants and have always lived in Europe, others had moved to Europe alone or with their family, to study, to work or as asylum seekers from their countries.

Altogether, 66 people attended the seminar, including participants, facilitators and several guests and experts.



female: total: 19
age: Min.: 18
 Max.: 35
range: under 20: 2
 20-25: 6
 26-30: 7



male: total: 23
age: Min.: 25
 Max.: 32
range: over 30: 4
 26-30: 18
 over 30: 5

total:42 **age:Min.: 18 Max.: 35**
range: under 20: 2 • 20-25: 6 • 26-30: 25 • over 30: 9

residence country



participants' expectations : elements from the applications

A major challenge for this seminar, as for other international activities with such a diverse participation, was the diversity of expectations of participants. The seminar, as a gathering of the African youth Diaspora from various origins and a space to focus on the MDGs, generated a large number of expectations and aspirations among the applicants: overall, it can be said that they reflected a very substantive sense of commitment and urgency to address the issues.

Participants see themselves, and the African Diaspora, as a **"powerful tool" with an "important role" and "enormous potential"** to be a key actor in the international arena.

A participant recalled a famous African proverb **"Go there, look for the fire and bring it back to us, your fathers"**. Indeed, **"bringing knowledge is like building bridges"**. The Seminar was felt to be both awareness and synergy building activities. The participants' understanding is that the people present at the seminar reflected Europe and its multi-cultural, and greatly diverse, society. The African Diaspora is an essential part of this new civil, political and working society, since they constitute an integral part of the new

Some expectations extracted from the application forms:

We expect to:

Think collectively

Create leadership

"Inform" and "out-form"

Empower and lead youth

Play our role of active citizens

Build bridges and new networks

Promote change and awareness

Avoid the risk of not reaching the MDGs

Improve personal and network organisation

Transfer knowledge to our own networks and our projects

See how youth workers plan and implement strategies and goals

Learn about the MDGs, understand the state of the art and promote them Learn, gain, grow as individuals, as associations, as African Youth Diaspora.

generation of Europeans. In this new Europe that is rising, the civil society is heard, and the African Diaspora youth and their organisations (ADYNE in primis) are in the first row to be seen and heard.

This key-role is also reinforced by the specific skills and capabilities that the African Diaspora possess. The African youth Diaspora combine new and different resources that will allow them to make a difference addressing both the MDGs and the interlocutors of various regional institutions. Using their strengths, in comparison to their peers in Africa, the example of the multitude of languages in Africa was given, where the more disadvantaged and poor people have only the command of the local language or dialect. The African Diaspora, instead, live abroad, are multilingual and know and use new technological means; these skills allow them to think outside the box. They can create and implement new, high quality projects, and better influence governmental policies.

The African Diaspora youth represented, with the conscience of their important role in the socialisation process and the practice of solidarity, had expected the seminar to be: an arena for young people to express themselves; a resource towards a greater cultural, political and social awareness and responsibility; a platform that needs to enhance and enlarge its scope and therefore its results, engaging more and more young people and associations; an opportunity for synergies and to share experiences, ideas, know-how and concrete skills in entrepreneurship.

Aware that much has still to be done to reach an appropriate method to produce results in a consistent way, conscious of capabilities, needs and limitations, two important aspects were highlighted: the need to increase these types of meetings and exchanges, and to increase co-development and circular immigration.

A strong, general feeling was expressed that these meetings should be organised more often, and should be accessible to a larger number of youth leaders and association members, in order to boost exchanges between young Africans and Europeans.

Structures like ADYNE are encouraged to promote return/circular immigration in order to secure the transition of knowledge, skills, technical expertise, life experiences to the original African communities. African Diaspora has to lobby for economic and political empowerment, to promote social development policies, youth policies and quality education for all.

A major problem, identified among youngsters of the Diaspora, was the lack of coordination that weakened every effort. Platforms and networks, like ADYNE, should help towards a greater organisation

**Because we
want to:**

- Come together
- Exchange ideas
- Hear a multitude of opinions, attitudes, backgrounds, experiences
- Meet like-minded people
- Share ambitions
- Create a common and mutual understanding

of the various youth organisations of the Diaspora, it should be both a reference and a coordinator. A higher level of coordination will accomplish long lasting effects, especially in the economic field.

All the networking and resources are seen not only as the Millennium Development Goals, but more generally as an effective development

of the motherlands. Finally, a participant remembers how "[the Diaspora will really make a difference when the responsibilities linked to its role are fulfilled]."

**Because together
we can make a difference..
to a more prosperous Africa.!!!**

**We want to participate
because**

- **We** are the Young African Diaspora
- **We** we are curious

Because we care:

- **About us**, the Diaspora, our potential and our possibilities
- **About** the MDGs and their achievement
- **About** our home countries in Africa and our host countries in Europe
- **Personally** and for academic interest

daily programme "session flow"

Day 1, 19 September, 2011

Welcome Evening

The 12th UYD had a vibrant and colourful opening. For most of the 340 participants this was the first time they had experienced the University in CEULAJ. Everyone's excitement could easily be seen and heard during the Welcome Evening, on that warm and starry Sunday night. The Joint Programme Coordinators led multicultural and insightful group dynamics, which were followed by Ubanda's (University Band) delightful music under the moonlight. The jet-lagged intercontinental travellers recovered their energies by chatting and getting to know each other.

University Opening Session "Youth volunteering for global development"

The same atmosphere dominated the Opening Ceremony, as the Partners' speeches opened with a number of inspiring insights. Participants listened to the welcoming words from Marcos Andrade (North-South Centre), Gabriel Aconchel (Injuve), Rui Duarte (European Youth Forum), Ana Almario (Latin American youth Forum), and Ricardo Ibarra (Spanish Youth Council). They learned how CEULAJ was rescued from the original plan, of creating a correctional facility, and transformed into a place of liberty, where volunteers from all over the world reaffirm their beliefs and actions towards social change. The key speakers highlighted that, living in such an unequal world, to give up on changing is simply not an option. Besides, although volunteering is not economically quantifiable, in many cases, it does have a huge social and economic impact on youth and their communities. This impact, however, needs to be constantly enlarged and improved. In a nutshell, the 12th UYD kicked off with great enthusiasm. Each speech at the opening ceremony was inspiring. They worked as an imaginary framework that guided all the activities that were to take place at the 12th UYD.

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*official
opening of
the
seminar*

**“From Millennium Development Goals to
Millennium Development Wins”**

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe addressed the welcoming speeches to the group and officially opened the seminar.

The session presented the Africa-Europe youth co-operation context, and the institutional framework within which the seminar was taking place.

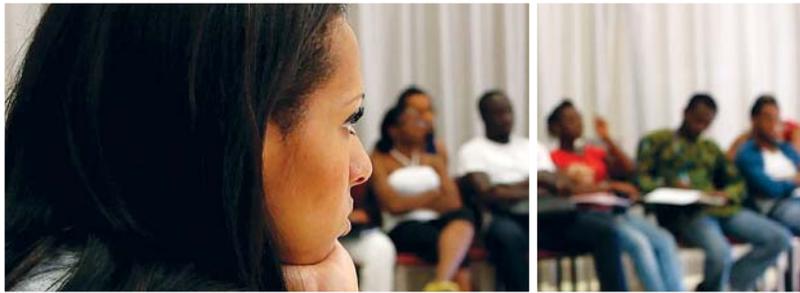
The organisers shared their expectations towards the activity, and the participants presented themselves and their own motivations and expectations for the three working days.

The 2nd part of the morning focused on creating a common understanding on the current status of the implementation of the MDGs and the challenges that needed to be addressed regarding the achievement of MDGs ([See annex: Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals](#)).

**Session: Millennium Development Goals
Tools to meet our challenges”**

The afternoon started with an introduction to the different workshops. The topics addressed were cross cutting issues that were felt to better support the achievements of the MDGs:

- **Entrepreneurship** & Co-development and Youth Employment & Decent work
- **Non-Formal** Education & Capacity-building
- **Good** Governance & Democracy



A space was created within the working groups to debate and share the knowledge and experiences on how the different fields of action could contribute to achieve the Development Goals.

It also enabled the creation of a better understanding of the specific involvement of the African Diaspora youth living in Europe, as part of a solution in Africa, and in Europe, to work for the achievement of the MDGs.

During the session, participants developed several recommendations for institutions and came up with specific actions for youth organisations on how to better contribute to achieving the MDGs.

It was also a space that allowed the sharing of different examples of good practices in the field of each specific workshop.

The workshops were implemented by facilitators, and by invited experts in the field. The workshops followed a similar flow:

1. Identify the main issues and challenges;
2. Propose recommendations for institutions (EU, UN, AU and other intergovernmental institutions and agencies);
3. Propose actions for youth organisations;
4. Identify good examples and inspirational practices.

Below are some of the main outcomes of the four thematic areas that were highlighted as a framework for discussing the MDGs at the seminar:



Workshop on Entrepreneurship and Co-Development & Youth Employment and Decent Work

I had so much to learn from experienced people

Facilitated by Bruno António

Toyin Sahmota Ashabi Dania and Peter Coelewijn animated the workshop

Peter Coelewijn presented the IntEnt Foundation and its work of helping young entrepreneurs who wants to establish projects in their country of origin. The key point of the presentation gravitated towards the fact that requirements were really strict and they appeared to be very demanding when dealing with the great challenges that they would have to face to ensure successful implementation of their ideas.

Similarly, Toyin Dania explained the supporting work carried out by the Wandsworth Youth Enterprise Centre. She kept the participants engaged with a highly motivating presentation on how youth, between 16 and 30 years old, were supported and helped to develop their dreams and ideas, giving them physical and logistical support and suggestions.

The participants felt at ease to approach the speakers, for both asking advice and sharing experiences, and the exchanges continued during the more "informal" moments at the lunches and breaks.

Issues & Challenges

- a Lack of incentives, especially for/towards immigrant (African) youth
- b Limited access to credit facilities to start up an enterprise
- c No safety nets
- d Lack of adequate tools and proper information targeted at African Diaspora's young people
- e Lack of capacity building and networking programmes
- f Lack of motivation/inspiration and fear of the unknown.

Recommendations for institutions

a. **Advertising** and mapping of good practices in Europe and in Africa

b. **Initiating** training programmes between countries in Europe and also in Africa, and between Europe and Africa; as well as knowledge sharing seminars and workshops

c. **Developing** the skills of trainers to enhance the skills of young entrepreneurs

d. **Competence** training, using formal and non-formal settings

e. **Build** safety-nets around entrepreneurs

f. **Fund** for start-ups or individual entrepreneurial ideas

g. **Info-centres** targeting, for example, African Diaspora (consultancy)

h. **Business** incubators offering free workspace and other services

i. **Free training** for anyone who wants to start a business

Working group on ENTREPRENEURSHIP and CO-DEVELOPMENT

Highlights:

The participants argued for the facilitation of access to the labour market for young African Diaspora.

Our Claim

- Recognition of our rights and skills

What we want

- Training and business opportunities
- Information and opportunities to network
- Easier access to funding and to information of existing funding opportunities.

What we do not want

- Discrimination in the access to the labour market and in the labour market itself
- Lack of autonomy
- Dependency

What should be different?

- Stimulation and encouragement by supporting agencies
- Motivation by incentives
- Policies that support our initiatives
- Business mentoring



Working group on YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

The participants argued that there should be equal opportunities for African Diaspora youth regarding opportunities for jobs.

What we want

- Young African Diaspora should have equal access to jobs
- Young African Diaspora should have decent employment

What we do not want

- Recognition of rights in reality and not just in theory
- Denial of the access and unequal opportunities, e.g., students not able to work leading to a lack of capacity
- Feeling and/or being treated as "second class" citizens
- Being paid less money for the same or even more work

What should be different?

- An international action plan to support youth employment and decent work
- More policies that recognise the particular needs of African Diaspora young people
- For the European Union and the Council of Europe institutions to have this on a major policy agenda

Workshop on Good governance and Democracy

Facilitated by Gloria Mika

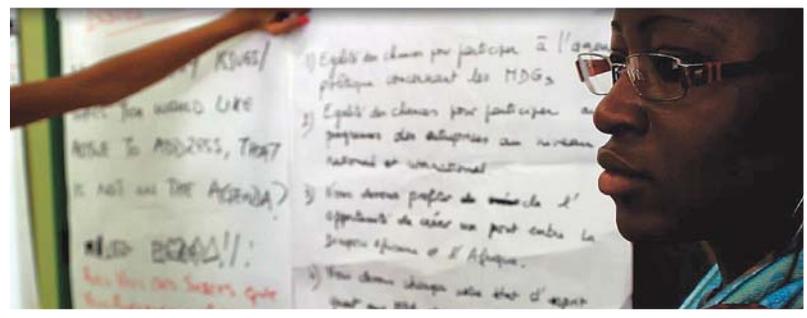
The session aimed at debating and sharing the knowledge and experiences on how good governance and democracy have an impact on achieving MDGs. The workshop promoted a reflection for a deeper understanding of the specific involvement of the African Diaspora, as part of a sustainable solution in the long term, both in Africa and Europe. It also aimed at providing a moment for concrete proposals, the sharing of good and inspirational practices, and active participation.

Issues & Challenges

1. Corruption
2. Inequalities
3. Lack of accountability
4. Racism and ethnicity
5. Bringing religion into politics
6. Neo-colonialism
7. The widening gap between rich and poor
8. Lack of education

Some good examples by participants

- a. Botswana for good management



- b.** Cape Verde for transparency
- c.** Eritrea for people focused development and self-reliance (political education)
- d.** Ghana for strategic focus and good engagement with the Diaspora.

Recommendations

- a.** Political training and institutional capacity building
- b.** Respect for sovereignty
- c.** African led peace keeping force.

Actions for youth organisations

- a.** Lobby leaders to introduce and practice transparency
- b.** Exercise democracy at local and individual level
- c.** Provide educational programmes
- d.** Advocacy action towards good governance and transparency
- e.** Be the change, become an example of the principles we promote

Workshop on GOOD GOVERNANCE and DEMOCRACY

Highlights:

The participants argued for security, rule of law and order across African states, with governance systems that are representative and democratic.

What we want

- Better governance that recognises democratic practices, "the African way"
- Recognition and fulfilment of human rights
- International policy that supports security

What should be different?

- The support systems for communities, governmental agencies and non governmental institutions

"An obstacle: too little time for discussion"

Workshop on Non-Formal Education and Capacity building

Facilitated by Ludgero Teixeira with Fernando Traversa

Issues & Challenges

- a Lack of knowledge about methodologies and techniques of non-formal education
- b Lack of resources (e.g. human resources and finance)
- c Lack of role models from African backgrounds
- d Popular wisdom is not given its true value
- e Lack of support for local government and development organisations
- f Cultural barriers to confront personal and community issues
- g Lack of awareness and knowledge about what non-formal education means and its importance
- h Lack of community awareness and commitment

Recommendations

- a Create links between formal and non-formal education
- b Create mechanisms which integrate youth into society
- c More and better mentoring programmes
- d Emphasis on involving local civic groups and communities
- e Awareness of rights and duties in order to enable more involvement of African Diaspora
- f Develop a policy and position paper about non-formal education and incorporate them into educational curricula
- g Increase the support to organisations doing good work and increase resources provided to projects aimed at non-formal education and training opportunities for teachers and educators.

Actions for youth organisations and individuals:

- Strengthening recognition of the capacities of non-formal educators
- Develop more training opportunities and capacity-building for youth leaders in non-formal education
- Provide more coaching and mentoring

- Develop the capacity for better youth integration, advocacy, and re-orientation procedures
- Generate more exchange of capacities – connect and network with successful mentors interacting with young people, in order to inspire and motivate them
- Mobilise resources to provide more training opportunities for young people
- Create opportunities and spaces where youth can express their views
- Provide information and materials in various languages
- Increase commitment to community services working on integration
- Work on developing the capacity that empowers local youth leaders
- Organise better co-operation and networking among organisations
- Share educational experiences and practices

Plenary Debriefing of the Workshops

After the workshops, there was a plenary session for debriefing with the whole group and the guests involved in the running of the workshops. Participants shared the outcomes of each workshop and discussed the conclusions with the expert guests.

After introducing some examples of successful activities, Peter Coelewij involved all the participants in a collective exercise, based on a simulation. He introduced a business idea and welcomed participants to help him develop the idea into a concrete project, briefing them on the long path towards its

Workshop on NON FORMAL EDUCATION

Highlights:

Participants argued for the development and recognition of integrated competences for all, and the transfer of good practices from Non-Formal Education into the Formal Education systems.

What we want

- Recognition of, and for, non formal education
- Integration of non formal education practices into mainstream educational systems.

What we do not want

- For Non-Formal Education not to be recognised and certified

What should be different?

- Career opportunities for people who have gone through non-formal education
- Individuals and communities to be involved and engaged in developing elements that inform on non-formal education
- Promotion of excellence in non-formal education

implementation, listing achievements and challenges that made it harder and which could endanger its evolution.

BUSINESS IDEA

By using mobile waterpurification units production and sales of potable water to the local population in Takoradi. The river is at 3 kilometres from my purification unit. Takoradi is a city of appr. 350.000 inhabitants and is situated at the coast.

- The company has to be profitable, but it also contributes to the milleniumgoals, as it will reduce child mortality rates and diseases among the population.

The Dutch partner is willing to invest in:

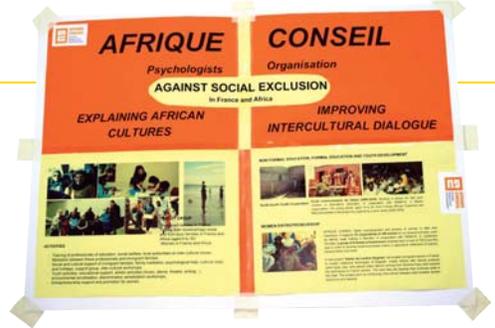
- the waterpurification units
- technical support and education
- maintenance and general support

From the start of the exercise, the group was really involved in finding solutions for the distribution of drinkable water in a small African village, simulating the process, step by step, and taking into consideration all the different aspects: the sustainability of the idea and the project; the logistics involved; the costs; the relations with national and local institutions; the competition with pre-existing companies, and, the co-operation with already established networks. Participants interacted, providing proposals and debating about which appeared to be the best solution, while Peter Coelewij kept challenging them to test their attentiveness to the reality and creativity involved in solving each and every problem and issue that could arise.

Youth Expo Evening (Joint Session of the 12th University on Youth and Development)

To close the day, participants had the opportunity to share the work of their organisations and to get to know more about others organisations and activities.

The session took place as a joint moment, where participants from the seminar had the chance to interact and get to know



about the other participant organisations present at the 12th University on Youth and Development.

The Youth Expo Evening was a great success. Its main goal was to provide an opportunity for the participants to present their organisations and learn about other initiatives. The Joint Programme team applied a highly interactive methodology to the event, introducing rewards (sweets, peanuts and chocolate coins) to guide the participants into the night. Participants learned about initiatives from diverse parts of the world, while having fun. Uganda (the University residential band) played and a spontaneous dance floor took shape, amid the banners and institutional materials.

This was an important moment to give visibility to the youth groups and organisations from the African Diaspora present at the University and open up opportunities for networking with other mainstream organisations.



**Debate: African Diaspora Youth in Europe:
“Our role to meet the MDGs?”**

Marysianne Greffeuille and Gloria Mika facilitated the session, starting with a presentation about the Millennium Development Goals, and introducing a space for participants to map existing practices and approaches to the MDGs.



In this session participants shared their activities and the engagement of their organisation, continuing the reciprocal exchange that had started the night before at the Youth Expo. The result was a display of the wide variety of projects that they were implementing. Several programmes were shared and brought the discussion towards the search for innovative approaches to accelerate the process of achieving the Goals and finding sustainable alternatives to the methodologies implemented so far.

Some examples of Youth Activities carried out by the group: What the Diaspora youth is doing to reach the MDGs:



"Promote women's community banks for generating micro projects to improve income"



"Enforcing enrolment in primary education in our community by educating and making adults aware of the need to send their children to school"

"Achieve universal primary education: The 3R's or Reading, Writing and Arithmetic should be the motto of all young African children. Let the sharp minds of African youth in the Diaspora teach their younger brothers and sisters."



"In Douala, we have started to support small businesses through microcredit and business education to create income generating activities and especially to empower women. "

"Assisting girls' education: my organisation is planning to make efforts to mobilise resources, give opportunities for the education of girls, create awareness, assist them in generating income through micro-finance and a poultry project, and give training in different technical skills"



"Currently we work on a project aimed at raising awareness and funds for a project in Somalia to tackle the issues of child mortality."



"My organisation often collaborates with an Indian foundation which manages an orphanage and a structure for single mothers"



"**YOUTH MEDIA: OUR RESPONSE TO HIV INFECTION**", is a project that uses media and communication skills produced by Youth African Diaspora to promote adequate HIV/AIDS prevention strategies for their peers coming from Africa who live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, surrounding the city of Lisbon.

"Our work will continue in other areas such as the Empowerment and Support of Young People living with HIV/AIDS in Portugal, so that they may create self help groups on sustainable counselling, health and social services."

"Promotion of Health issues on Contraceptive prevalence, adolescent birth rate and unmet needs for family planning among the youth population "



"**One** of the main topics is Sustainable Development and the contribution expected from youth to play their role in this endeavour: We are working on a document for the European Union with regard to Sustainable Development in Africa, We are working on a greening of the forest project "



"**Our** work is orientated towards the development of the human being as an intellectual and creative person. Our projects aim to contribute to the fight against poverty and support sustainable development of individuals and communities by promoting individual and community empowerment of the local population.

This assumption translates into a form of social intervention focused on empowerment as a tool to combat poverty, as the deepening awareness of citizenship and democratic coexistence and to facilitate the recognition of people as subjects of rights and duties. This process promotes the processing capacity of their own living conditions and the construction of different forms of social relationships, based on equity and social justice, and we do this in partnership with various other organisations. "

youth rights in europe: "the diaspora role towards a rights based policies approach"

The session introduced the current process of development of a youth rights based approach in Europe and on the methodology of Human Rights Education. This provided some background that allowed participants to discuss what youth rights mean for the African Diaspora youth living in Europe and to identify areas where these rights were being neglected.

Participants were introduced to the current discussions regarding the development of a Convention on youth rights in Europe and its specific results and applications regarding the African Diaspora youth.

It also gave space to the reflection on the Millennium Development Goals in the European context.

Bruno Antonio introduced the session using the exercise "Take a Step Forward" adapted from COMPASS⁶.

Participants became highly engaged in the exercise, feeling it was very close to their reality. It was also underlined how three of the expected participants had not managed to attend the seminar due to visa and residence permit issues. Finally, the exercise led participants to open up to the group, revealing and sharing different situations they had experienced. This exercise allowed the creation of an intense and very honest atmosphere for discussion.

The starting point of the debate was about personal experiences and personal challenges and the group analysed how basic rights are often neglected in everyday life.

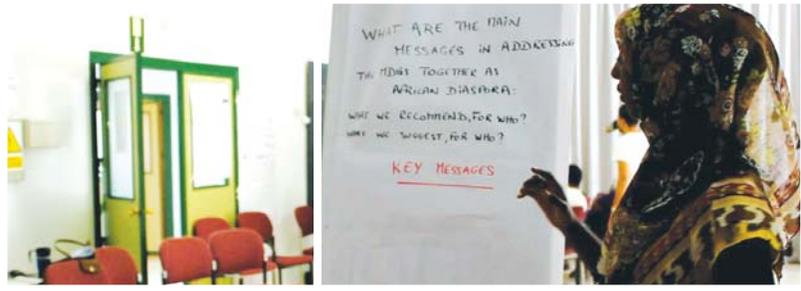
After the allocated time for reflection and debriefing, the facilitators introduced some themes to the participants, with the aim of focusing and reflecting on the topics which had emerged during the previous exercise:

- Right to freedom and non-discrimination.
- Right to autonomy
- Right to education
- Right to civic and political participation
- Right to decent employment
- Right to decent and affordable housing

⁶ "COMPASS" - A manual on human rights education with young people ©, Chapter 2, page 217, Council of Europe, May 2002 <http://eycb.coe.int/compass/>

“Take a Step Forward” (from Compass)

...if you can answer YES to the following statements:



- I have** never encountered any serious financial difficulty
- I have** never found difficulties renting a house
- I feel** my language, religion and culture are respected in the place where I live
- I feel** that my opinion on social and political issues matter, that my views are listened to
- I have** never been stopped by the police
- I know** where to turn for legal advice and help if I need it
- I have** never felt discriminated against because of my origins
- I feel** I can study and follow the

- profession of my choice
- I am** not afraid of being harassed or attacked in the street
- I can vote in national and local elections in the place where I am living
- I can** participate in an international seminar abroad
- I am not afraid for the future of my children
- I have** never felt discriminated against because of the colour of my skin
- I feel** that my competences are appreciated and respected in the society where I live
- I have** never felt attacked in the media

rights regarding sexual and reproductive health

The session introduced the current process of development of a youth rights based approach in Europe and on the methodology of Human Rights Education. This provided some background that allowed participants to discuss what youth rights mean for the African Diaspora youth living in Europe and to identify areas where these rights were being neglected.

Participants were introduced to the current discussions regarding the development of a Convention on youth rights in Europe and its specific results and applications regarding the African Diaspora youth.

rights to freedom and against all forms of discrimination

This group generated a broad debate. Participants managed to focus the discussion on the problem of structural discrimination and dialogue against extremism.

Examples of structural discrimination were taken from the education and justice system, as well as from the media and entertainment systems. To stop the gap that is growing among people carrying "differences", the participants suggested:

- Promoting the respect for culture and values of the ethnic minorities
- Enforcing the civil rights of African Diaspora youth
- Creating inclusion mechanisms towards integration, to stop the escalation of extremism

rights to autonomy

The bureaucratic obstacles (resident permits, visas, etc.) increased the complications and were clear barriers towards becoming independent, autonomous and self-sufficient. Students cannot work while holding a student visa but at the same time cannot get loans or similar aid if they do not have an income.

The following were suggested:

- The implementation of a more student-friendly bureaucracy
- The increase of allowances and a relief system for youth in socio-economic disadvantaged situations (free health care, working permits)

right to education

Many issues were raised from the participants, from professional competences to educational curricula. Schools often only offer a European centred curriculum, omitting any African perspective while, at the same time, having teachers who might not have the competences to work in multicultural environments. These and other factors create an important obstacle towards compressive learning and for the integration process.

Difficulties in finding and accomplishing exchange programmes, the high cost of translations and the acknowledgement of foreign certificates and the lack of recognition of non-formal education, are among the examples given and pointed to as causes for the difficulties of reaching equal education among citizens and migrants, and for fair recognition of a student's capacities.

The participants suggested:

- Acceptance (Synchronised) and acknowledgement of African Certification;
- Provide training to Educators on multiculturalism and inter-cultural dialogue;
- Improve recognition of non-formal education;
- Adjust school curricula by integrating a global and African prospective (facts, history, geography, etc.).

right to civic and political participation

The debate mainly focused on articulation of the issue of citizenship. The discussion started with the common diatribe between *ius soli* or *ius sanguinis*, as a principle to give the status of citizenship. The participants agreed that citizenship should be given first, as an achievement of inclusion and integration and, second, to grant social, civil and political rights for a more complete society. They discussed the principle of multi-culturality and the policies that should be implemented to reach the common goals of integration and solidarity.



They suggested that:

- The Diaspora should earn a strong voice in the decision making process (i.e. political movement for greater participation)
- Mediators should be involved in promoting cultural and linguistic diversity
- More integration and flexibility are needed to achieve civil, socio-economic participation and development.

right to decent employment

Participants debated on two main issues: the so-called "economic migrants" and the participation of youth from the Diaspora in the social and economic process.

Discrimination towards migrants (unemployment, low level jobs and salaries, lack of interest and representation from the Trade Unions, etc.) becomes structural discrimination, which turns them away from the economical-political-social environments, from their role in the society, and from their chance to stand up for their rights.

Participants suggested :

- Educating 'hosting' communities to reduce the fear of the unknown / foreign person
- Creating spaces for exchange of knowledge and experiences between African and European Youth to provide more and better information about citizens' and workers' rights
- Diversifying employment options: e.g. self employment
- Accessing structural process, through workers unions-lobbies, etc.

right to decent and affordable housing

The group focused on concrete issues that prevent youth from having decent accommodation. They underlined how the main problems are related to the lack of access to grants and loans because of the inflexibility of the system (i.e. the need for continuous income, the need for a permanent residence to which correspondence can be addressed). Discrimination happens when trying to rent a house and especially at the moment of signing contracts, which often do not exist, or there is strong abuse towards the occupants.

The participants suggested:

- Intervention of the state/municipality to standardise lack of housing opportunities (i.e. low rents, providing cheaper loans on housing for students, etc.)
- Greater flexibility in acquiring leases and obtaining grants and loans
- Renovate and renew instead of building brand new structures
- Improve neighbourhoods and public living environments and equipment to improve and complement the quality of housing.

rights regarding sexual and reproductive health

The discussion generally revolved around the lack of acceptance by families and peers. Participants pointed out how stereotypes such as inter-ethnic or homosexual relationships strongly influence access to medical care, contraception and prevention.

They suggest:

- Implementing awareness programmes about behaviour, attitudes and their impact on others



- Increased engagement in cultural activities
- Increasing formal and non-formal education activities and programmes about sexual and health issues (e.g. prevention campaigns, raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and other diseases).

plenary debriefing of the work done by the working groups on rights

After the workgroups, a plenary session began with the aim of sharing the main outcome of the groups' discussions and to highlight how all these different issues were strongly interrelated and needed to be faced in a coherent and comprehensive way.

The common debate moved towards the importance of a legal framework safeguarding youth rights, and participants discussed the importance of the development of a Convention on Youth Rights in Europe. They noticed that most of the problems were common and did not affect only the African Diaspora youth. They felt a strong urge to be part of the debate as the amount of rights which were neglected and evidenced cannot be denied any longer. They believed that such an instrument should also reflect their realities and challenges.

They also made reference to existing instruments outside Europe, where a youth rights approach had already been translated into a proper legal framework, quoting the Ibero American Youth Convention on Youth Rights and the African Youth Charter.

During the final discussion, some important questions were raised such as:

- Where is the voice of the African Diaspora in the discussions?
- Where are their needs expressed in such a process?
- Why is the African Diaspora Youth not included in these processes?

Participants agreed that there is still no structured voice of the African Diaspora youth in the discussion on youth rights and their

needs are still not expressed in the decision making process or in the political debate.

A solution was foreseen where the development of national networks, representing that African Diaspora youth, backed at the international level by platforms and stakeholders, that could be an advocate for their interests and needs. At the same time, they underlined how much effort still had to be made on the European continent, both at national and continental level.

session on the african youth charter

The session was introduced by Professor Wayne Adrian Davis, Representative of the Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA) and by Yohannes Mezgebe, Vice President of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU).

The presentation enabled participants to work on their knowledge and awareness of the process that had led to the creation of an international instrument such as the African Youth Charter and to allow them to visualise such an instrument within the framework of their efforts toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

After a general introduction about the process that had brought about the development and adoption of the charter, Wayne Davis moved the focus towards some specific articles:

Article 1: Obligation of State Parties

Article 2: Non-discrimination

Article 4: Freedom of Expression

Article 6: Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

Article 10: Development

Article 11: Youth Participation

Article 13: Education and skill development

Article 14: Poverty eradication and socio-economic integration of Youth

Article 15: Sustainable livelihoods and youth employment

Article 17: Peace and security

Article 21: Youth in the Diaspora

Article 26: Responsibilities of youth

Article 27: Popularisation of the Charter

The 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Banjul, Gambia, and adopted on 2 July 2006, the "African Youth Charter" was the first legal framework of action for the African Youth and invited Member States to take appropriate steps for the signing and ratification of the Charter, as well as for its popularization.

The 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union also proclaimed 1 November as African Youth Day and declared 2008 as the Year of the African Youth.

The African Youth Charter entered into force at the ratification by the 15th member State, on 8th August 2009.

On 13 July 2011, it was signed by 39 countries and ratified by 28.

The spotlight went immediately to the synergies and complementarity between the Charter and the Millennium Development Goals. Connections were then made with the work done in the previous sessions, especially regarding discrimination and freedom. The choice of these articles was also highlighted the Charter's inclination towards increasing youth participation and the particular attention and recognition given to the African Diaspora youth and its empowerment.

The session then focused on raising awareness on the importance of the involvement of the African Diaspora youth to become part of the solution and the many challenges that Africa faces and for the overall development of the continent.

The importance of the increasing recognition of the African Diaspora youth was clearly highlighted, as a definite opportunity to unlock its unique potential and added value in favour of, and aid to, both Africa and Europe.

international solidarity evening (joint session of the 12th university on youth and development)

"To volunteer is to be willing to touch hearts and transform minds. The University on Youth and Development International Solidarity Evening allowed for that, as it generated a deep reflection on Solidarity and the events that shaped the world in 2011. Participants shared their thoughts and reactions towards the Arab Spring, Famine in the Horn of Africa, the Spanish Protests, the Massacre in Norway, violence against women in the Congo, the nuclear disaster in Japan, Osama Bin Laden's death and other



issues. Solidarity takes place when one is able to feel and relate to other people's struggles, regardless of their faith, region, or skin colour. This was the feeling shared by all volunteers and youth workers present at the International Solidarity evening. The Volunteering Evening was a dynamic celebration of both volunteering and the International Day of Peace. Group activities and discussions on volunteering experiences were followed by music, as participants sang for Peace, and Ubanda played and interacted with the public."

Extract from the report of the 12th UJD from Anna Maria Forsberg





Day 3, 21 September, 2011

The day opened in a really symbolic way with all the participants dressed in white. It was indeed a group action to express their concerns and to raise awareness among the group and among the whole University towards the International Peace Day that was being celebrated. In 2011, on its 30th anniversary, the Day's theme was "Peace and Democracy: make your voice heard"; a theme that fitted perfectly into the flow of the seminar and the topics that were touched upon during those three days.

workshops: personal development

The first part of the morning developed into two parallel workshops. The plenary split in the two workshops focused on personal development from two different perspectives, sharing a common aim of empowering participants, both on a personal and professional level: one of the workshops concentrated on tools and skills to become a more influential leader; and the other workshop was devoted to the importance of understanding policies and how to develop them.

workshop 1: influencing skills and leadership

Facilitated by Bruno Antonio and Toyin Dania

The facilitators steered the group through a process of self analysis and skills development. Participants had the opportunity to improve their leadership skills focusing on the role of the leader in a team and on the different leadership styles.

With an experiential learning exercise, participants were put into a situation where they had to face a challenge and then analyse their own behaviour. From the analysis of the different behaviours,

the group understood the several faces of leadership, and connecting them to their personal experience, they oversaw the diverse skills they have and identified those they lack or need to be improved.

Key skills and competences

A Perfect Leader

- Self-confidence
- Self-awareness
- Trustworthiness
- Visionary
- Adaptability
- Change agent
- Credibility
- Sociable communicator
- Decision-maker
- Analytical
- Political awareness
- Energy
- Empathy
- Open-minded
- Strategic
- People-focused

workshop 2: policy development

The facilitator conducted the workshop by introducing the subject with a Powerpoint presentation and then facilitating a concrete exercise.

The presentation clarified what a policy is and what its content should be. A policy should be a way to generate a solution to an issue. However, both the solution and the issue have to be properly identified and analysed.

When the issue is researched, missions and the objectives of the policy have to be agreed.

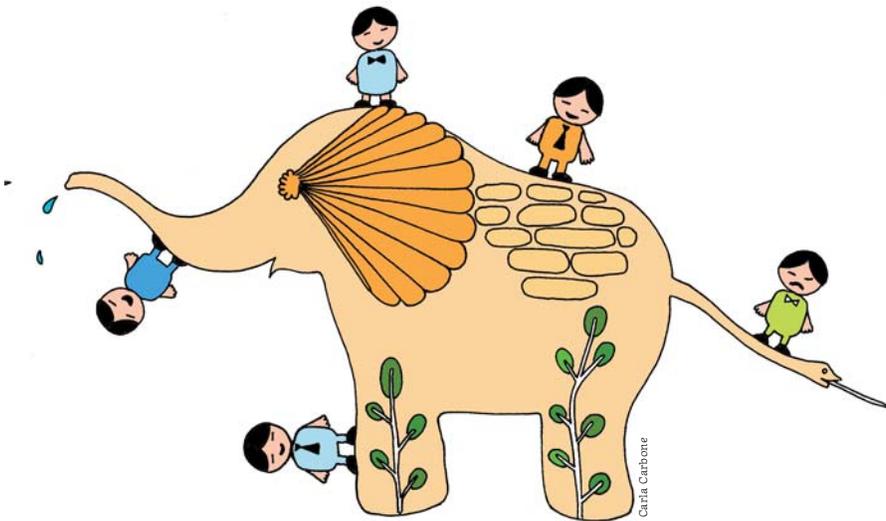
Depending on whether it aims to be a general guideline, a statement of procedure, or a plan or a position on a specific issue, the policy will state different objectives and it will be developed in different ways. Research: the policy will have to be based on evidence on the current situation and not on personal perception.

Common Steps:

- 1 ■ Purpose: why the policy

- 2 Statement: our claim, what we want
- 3 Context-background
- 4 Current status and situation
- 5 Our big asks: what should be different, benefits, etc.
- 6 Other relevant policy, legislation, values, etc.
- 7 Stakeholders: who will benefit from this and who are the key players
- 8 Written by
- 9 Review date

The Elephant Metaphor



5 blind were asked to identify an object.

- One touched the ear and he said it must be a fan
- Another touched the leg - said it must be a tree
- Another touched the tail - said it must be a rope
- Another touched the body - said it must be a wall
- Another touched the nose - said it must be a hose

Thus, reality is only our reality, it is determined by our experience and personal perceptions... therefore respect other people's view points and recognise that there is no one answer to an issue...

At the end of the morning sessions of the workshops, the groups came together in plenary session to share, provide feedback and debrief on the work carried out in the workshops. This was a very lively session, with much engagement and participation from the group.

identifying funding opportunities

Facilitated by Gloria Mika

Gloria Mika presented the concept of fundraising and introduced some funding opportunities to participants which would be useful for their respective organisations. This presentation and the following debate showed that the group had very different levels of knowledge about the topic, and that many potential sources of funding were known by the group.

At the end of the session, Bruno Antonio presented two major youth support programmes: the Youth in Action programme (European Union / Commission) and the different youth support grants available under the European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe). In order to empower participants for the use of the funding possibilities, a question and answer session was run. This enabled concrete training and references on how to apply, and use, these tools as a means to implement projects and programmes, by the organisations present.

round table on the institutional framework for africa europe youth co-operation

Facilitated by Simona Mursec, Trainer, Co-facilitator of the Joint Programme of the University on Youth and Development.

Speakers: Marcos Andrade, Programme Manager, Youth Co-operation and Euro-African Dialogue, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

Peter Matjasic, President of the European Youth Forum

Ludgero Teixeira,

Chair of the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE)

Gloria Mika, Member of the Steering group of the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE)

This round table aimed to provide participants with the background, and future challenges and opportunities, within the framework of the Africa Europe Youth Co-operation. Participants engaged in very interesting debates with the speakers about the role of the African Youth Diaspora in this co-operation process and in the ways to implement the priorities of the Youth Diaspora. The round table was a useful session in which to understand and debate the institutional framework of the Africa Europe Co-operation and the future challenges in this co-operation.



closing session seminar: "making mdgs a reality"

This session was mostly developed by participants themselves. They presented a series of creative initiatives to promote pro-activeness and to raise awareness, in a highly interactive session that demonstrated their enthusiasm and motivation to work and follow-up on the work initiated during the seminar.

The focus was on the concrete work done by their respective organisations and the future activities these organisations could implement, keeping the attention on which Goal each activity would help to achieve.

The session also allowed space for participants to share many of the issues, anxieties, concerns and aspirations that were raised during the previous working days.

some of the conclusions of the session:

Participants expressed their high expectations of the achievements of the MDGs, taking into considering that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would represent a deep transformation for both African and European societies.

During the closing debate, the African Diaspora youth as a vital link between Africa and Europe was highlighted. African Diaspora can bring together the best of both of these two worlds, by knowing the challenges and opportunities each one faces.

1. First of all, African Diaspora can represent Africa on a continental and international level. It must become a goodwill ambassador. It has to be an inspiration and a role model to help eradicate stereotypes in the eyes of Europeans.

2 **Secondly**, African Diaspora should raise awareness of the MDG's not only to its members, but in their communities of provenance, through promotion of their aims and objectives.

The role of the African Diaspora is fundamental and functional in several areas: economic, intellectual, development. Therefore, it has to mobilise ability in all these sectors, transferring not just capital and giving financial assistance, encouraging investments and providing labour, but also training, knowledge, best practices and skills.

Economically, the African Diaspora remittance towards their countries is a vital input for the wellbeing of their families and of their society as a whole. They can mobilise funds for projects and partnerships. However, this transfer of financial resources

should not lead to dependences but definitely contribute to a sustainable and autonomous development of African communities.

Concerning the specific approach on the Millennium Development Goals, participants express the strong need to understand what these goals really mean for, and within, Africa.

"This Seminar on the Millennium Development Goals will be the beginning of a strong involvement of the African Diaspora Youth towards undertaking a real commitment".

Build a
more prosperous
Africa
together, despite
the
difficulties

African Diaspora is seen as a very important tool for achieving these Goals, a resource capable of breaking existing and perceived barriers. For example, greater education can break taboos, especially those on diseases like HIV/AIDS, dyslexia or related topics such as the health system, access to essential medicines, undesired pregnancy, fair trade, assistance to development, technology access, etc.

Being a minority group in Europe, African Diaspora can share with Africa their experience in safeguarding the dignity of minorities and disadvantage groups like women, youth, children and ethnic groups.

On one hand, a platform that represents the African Diaspora youth living in Europe, such as ADYNE, should become a source of information for policy makers and government leaders. For example, it should collect, monitor and analyse data and provide reliable information to the competent authorities, giving them the right tools to shape and implement their policies. On the other hand, it should raise awareness to the general public and help provide commitment towards reaching the MDGs.

The group is aware and concerned that the MDG's are far from being reached by the 2015 deadline. They are requesting new ways, creative and participatory plans to be activated and enhanced in order to get the results that that have not been reached as yet.

For example, as an umbrella for organisations, ADYNE has to lead its members, bundling their respective strengths into focusing on the MDG's.

round table – on youth volunteering for global development joint session, 12th university on youth and development

The final day of the seminar included a Roundtable, part of the Joint Programme of the 12th University on Youth and Development, devoted to the theme of "Youth Volunteering for Global Development". All the participants from the seminar took part on this activity and the group from the youth Diaspora was very participative in the round table.

The roundtable was facilitated by Fernando Traversa, Joint Programme Facilitator of the 12th University on Youth and Development. It included the following speakers:

- **Simona Costanzo**, IYV + 10 Project Manager from UN Volunteer,
- **Yassine Ennaem**, Member of the Steering Group of ADYNE;
- **Peter Matjasic**, President of the European Youth Forum
- **Thais Zimbwe**, Board Member of the Espacio Iberoamericano de Juventud
- **Jeeban Panthi**, Youth representative from Nepal
- **Wayne Adrian Davis**, representative of the Network of International Youth Organisations Africa



The Round Table on Youth Volunteering for Global Development was also part of the Joint Programme. It received decisive input from Simona Costanzo, from the United Nations Volunteers, as well as from a number of inspiring panellists from Latin-America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Participants were eager to pose questions, as well as to give their input to the debate. The key message may be summarised as follows: volunteering, all over the world, allows for community involvement and participation.

keep
working but
with more
energy

As agents of social change, young people ought to be supported and recognised for their volunteering efforts. Panellists and participants also agreed that volunteering should be more intensely promoted, and always from an inclusive and representative perspective.

extract from the general report of the 12th university on Youth

Development by Anna Maria Forsberg.

For the participants from the African Diaspora, the roundtable represented an opportunity to reaffirm the value of volunteering for the personal and social development of African Diaspora young people in Europe, and their communities, as well as the contribution it represents for their organisations to promote a rights-based approach towards volunteering. The roundtable and the final declaration of the University also recognises the role that volunteering, and particularly youth volunteering, has had as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Participants highlighted the importance of securing that their act of volunteering and their contributions are recognised, in order to raise the visibility of volunteering among African Diaspora young people in Europe. They also express the desire that contributions to the development of Africa should be intensified and partnerships among organisations, that support African Diaspora young people in Europe, should be encouraged.

They reaffirm the place of volunteering in the promotion of active citizenship, democracy and advancing human rights' principles, and the importance of integrating the volunteering roles and values of the Africa Diaspora youth at the centre of global development, and the need to encourage and facilitate grass-root perspectives in volunteering and engage with diverse forms of volunteering, with particular recognition of cultural context and cultural sensibilities.

"crossing euro-african with global youth work"

Many of the participants of the Seminar also accepted the challenge to meet on the following day and engage in discussions with participants from the group of National Youth Councils from the South of Europe and the Portuguese Speaking countries of Africa and get to know their project, "Crossing Euro-African with Global Youth Work".



This was a very useful follow-up session, presented and facilitated by Andreia Henriques, the pedagogical coordinator of the project "Crossing Euro-African with Global Youth Work."

The participants from the African Diaspora had, therefore, the chance to meet and interact with participants and potential new partners from Portugal, Angola, Spain, Cape-Verde, Italy, Guinea-Bissau, Catalonia, Mozambique, Cyprus and Slovenia, thus enlarging their networking opportunities.

The same evening, there was another moment of great visibility of the group with the holding of the African Diaspora Evening. The participants had set up a very lively, evening event, full of music and dance performances, all wearing traditional costumes. They created a vibrant environment and allowed for a great intercultural and learning experience, including theatre, entertainment, folklore and engaged other university participants from Africa or with African origins/background.

drivers of change

During the three days of learning, exchange, networking and much more, the participants gained awareness of the reality that surrounds them in Europe. They profited from the several different points of view that were brought to their attention everyday.

After all these moments, a brief brainstorming exercise served as the start of their reflection to identify the different factors that are influencing the lives of African youth and young people with African background living in Europe, today.

Legal factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- There are no common definitions and standards at the European level that addresses African Diaspora Youth;
- National bureaucracy concerning issues such as nationality, social policies, labour, migration, human rights;
- Lack of representation in the decision making process at the EU level;
- Lack of common legislation that caters for/concerns African Diaspora, i.e. a convention on Youth Rights would be very important to recognise and assess the African Diaspora living in Europe in particular situations

Technological factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- Networking awareness
- Access (or lack of it) to technology
- Use of technology to reach African Diaspora Youth in Europe
- Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Lack of training/competences in the use of I.T. is still a reality for some African Diaspora Youth in Europe
- Technological gap between Europe and Africa

Environmental factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- The "green" agenda
- The cultural values, dress code, ways of worship, climate change, etc.
- Pollution (which affects health issue)
- Language barriers
- Proximity to nature (green land)
- Different approach to governmental issues
- Environmental awareness and consciousness
- Living conditions (housing)
- Different food (more preserved food)

Economic factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- Employment, access to job markets and opportunities for self sufficiency are very limited
- Social welfare system
- Social mobility - limited
- Access to equal education is limited due to economic circumstances

Social factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- Lack of integration policies
- Entrenched discrimination in some European countries
- Reduced intercultural exchange between the African Diaspora community and European hosting communities
- African Diaspora is not very active on social issues within their home countries and Africa
- African Diaspora is usually connected to the disadvantaged community stereotypes
- Negative Media image

Political factors that affect african diaspora youth in europe

- African Diaspora is not participating in, or represented at political levels within and outside Africa
- In most European countries migration policies are not clear regarding the Diaspora
- Lack of recognition
- Political power of African Diaspora in the elections - limited



brief conclusions and recommendations

By the end of 2015, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are supposed to have been met – some will have been and some will not. There will

be a huge gap and policy-makers need to start to think about what might come next.

Participants present at the seminar argued for the need to explore new global agreements where youth is involved, from the early stages of the discussions and design, to ensure that implementation is more effective and participatory at all its stages. Putting considerations into practise would better promote the development in Africa, for Africa and by Africans.

A new and more effective action plan should result from this completely innovative approach and it should focus on the most urgent problems that confront the poorest people. This would represent a unique opportunity to re-think global development co-operation: what and how it can be achieved? After all, the world is very different from the one that produced the concept of the MDGs in the 1990s, and it would be a waste to move straight to a process of target setting, without first thinking if there was a better way to do this.

These needs should be included in a greater strategy made up of comprehensive and inclusive political, practical and intellectual processes. The answers and solutions will have to be filtered through a political negotiating process – hopefully one that involves the governments and citizens of the countries that bear the brunt of global poverty.

Part of the role of ADYNE is to open up options and generate opportunities for young people from the Diaspora, to take an active part in creating and implementing these new processes, to be a part of, and benefit from, their achievement.

As a first step towards this change, locally-led strategies should find be recognised and the importance they deserve should be given more space and more funding, acknowledging their efficacy in tackling the most pressing development problems and acting at their roots.

Therefore, there is a need for a new participative process, one that ensures several steps that have been so far neglected: Awareness, consciously involving people at the grassroots level (2015 and beyond);

a willingness to share good practices; shared responsibilities, informing and consulting the people and governments of Africa; synergies, better combining capacities and means to better seek and reach the solutions and granting the right tools to face each specific problem.



Participants' Evaluation :
elements from the evaluation forms

The following tables and statements were collected from the participants' individual evaluation forms.

From four (Fully reached) to one (Not reached at all)

+4 **+3** **+2** **-1**

DAY 0

<i>Welcome evening (joint activity)</i>	8	12	1	1
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DAY 1

<i>Diaspora & MDGs Seminar Opening</i>	8	14	2	1
<i>Workshop: Entrepreneurship & Co-development - Youth Employment & Decent work</i>	7	12	3	0
<i>Workshop: Non-formal Education & Capacity-building</i>	8	7	4	2
<i>Workshop: Good Governance & Democracy</i>	4	10	4	1
<i>Organisation Exposition Evening (Joint Session)</i>	9	12	3	2
<i>Presentation by Peter Coelewij</i>	14	10	2	0
<i>Presentation by Toyin Dania</i>	12	11	3	0

DAY 2

<i>Debate: African Diaspora Youth in Europe: "Our role to meet the MDGs?"</i>	12	12	1	0
<i>Youth Rights in Europe</i>	10	12	2	1
<i>Presentation of J. Mezgebe and W. Davis</i>	12	5	5	4

DAY 3

<i>Personal development workshops on: Leadership</i>	7	15	2	1
<i>Personal development workshops on: Policy development...how to</i>	8	13	2	0
<i>Identifying Funding Opportunities</i>	11	8	2	3
<i>Seminar Closing Session: "Making MDGS a reality"</i>	11	10	3	0

1. Do you think the aims have been reached in this MDGs seminar?

From four (Fully reached) to one (Not reached at all)	+4	+3	+2	-1
Main Goals				
Inform and increase the knowledge of youth leaders from the African Diaspora on the MDGs, to ensure an understanding of the specific involvement of the African Diaspora as part of the solution in Africa and Europe.	13	10	2	0
Provide a space for youth leaders and youth organisations in the Diaspora to discuss and develop strategies on how to contribute to re-launching the efforts to achieve the MDGs.	9	14	1	0
Strengthen and make more visible the roles and contributions of African Diaspora youth and youth organisations in the MDGs agendas.	10	12	2	1
Develop recommendations on how African youth and youth organisations in the Diaspora form partnerships with other stakeholders that will lead to the realisation of specified MDGs in Africa and Europe	7	12	5	1

How can your target group / youth work context / organisation benefit from the knowledge and competence you have gained as a result of this seminar?

["We are not alone in the world, fighting for our rights and integration in Europe. We are not lonely and there are various organisations in Europe, active in that field, the African diaspora is active and we can reach our Goals together"]

"Networks, probably the greatest gains would be future opportunities that this creates"

"Youth work towards MDGs' innovation"

"My plan is to firstly arrange an information exchange within the organisation presenting ADYNE and the processes of strategic and contact development. Key priorities and MDGs and see how the members feel about the future co-operation. "

"By discussing and informing about the MDGs and proposing the solutions to my organisation since we also have the same goals and aspirations"

"Talk and share the important points and the objectives"

"By talking about ADYNE to my organisation, by creating relevant projects and strategies in common with ADYNE members"

"being realistic"

"That I'm filled with new fresh ideas/ new perspectives/ new agendas to move for youth and even more"]

["Great atmosphere, motivation enthusiasm, group building worked really good"

The entrepreneurship session was AMAZING

Workshop on entrepreneurship , co-development, Youth employment and decent work was completely an amazing session for me. "]

As a youth leader, what do you feel more confident in doing or undertaking as a result of the seminar?

[*“That united we can reach greater goals. MDGs are something that as individuals and organisations we can help to achieve.”*

“To create new projects at an African/European level”

Listening

“Training”

“Giving constructive feedback”

“Mentoring”

“Working on partnerships/relationship building”

“Capacity-building”

“Creating partnerships for mutual benefit, sharing and exchange”

“One of my plans in the future is to work on these goals by any means in Africa” **]**

“To popularise the need for change in our communities and tell them there is HOPE”

“Advocacy, grass roots work”

The Group

The Pedagogical Team

[*“give different people a chance to have the leader role”*

[*The Pedagogical Team*

“Diversity”

“Nice informality to facilitate the flow of productivity”

“Very inspirational people”

“Enjoyed listening to the team”

“Excellent”

“I love you all and am very proud of your hard work”

“Willing to learn”

“Very committed”

“Invested in diaspora”

“Inspirational characters”

“Please consider me as a friend and a supporting member to the work you are doing”

“Motivating participating and involving”

“the dynamic was amazing”

“Resourceful and approachable”

“Very present in contributing and sharing experiences”

“Beautiful people”

“Rich and diverse backgrounds “

“Good leaders”

“Open and creative”

“Hats off!”

“Super”

“Skilled”

“Talented”

“Team did best to support us”

“Very smart”

“Looking forward to work with diaspora again” **]**

“Diverse and competent”

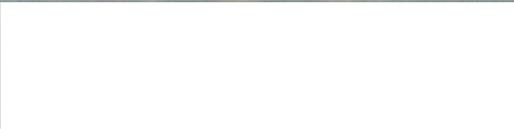
“Inspirational youth leaders “

“Very pro-active & Participative”

“Fun, enthusiastic, full of love, hard workers”

“However it’s necessary to get more young people for these types of initiatives.” **]**

Annexes



annex .01

Background

1. the millennium declaration

The United Nations General Assembly convened the 2000 Millennium Summit from 6-8 September 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York in order to discuss the role of the UN in the new millennium.

Over 150 world leaders participated in the discussion, including 100 heads of state, 47 heads of government, three Crown Princes, five Vice Presidents, three Deputy Prime Ministers, and 8,000 other delegates.

The principal outcome of the Summit was the adoption of the 'Millennium Declaration'. This document reaffirmed the United Nations and its Charter as "indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world." The Declaration reaffirms Member States' commitment to "establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter." It also states that the "central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people."

The document is divided into eight chapters:

1. Values and Principles
2. Peace, Security and Disarmament
3. Development and Poverty Eradication
4. Protecting our Common Environment
5. Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance
6. Protecting the Vulnerable
7. Meeting the Special Needs of Africa
8. Strengthening the United Nations

The Millennium Declaration gave birth to the **Millennium Development Goals**.

2. millennium development goals

The MDGs set to be achieved by 2015, provide a framework for the entire international community to work together towards a common aim. This is to make sure that human development reaches everyone, everywhere. They are time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights-the rights of each person on the planet to health,

education, shelter, and security. If these goals are achieved, it is anticipated that world poverty will be cut by half, tens of millions of lives will be saved, and billions more people will have the opportunity to benefit from the global economy. The eight MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators.

(<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>).



Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1a: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Target 1c: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger



Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 2a: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling



Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015



Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 4a: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five



Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 5a: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 6a: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases



Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Target 7c: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation



Goal 8: A global partnership for development

Target 8a: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction; both nationally and internationally

Target 8b: Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

Target 8c: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly

Target 8d: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Target 8e: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 8f: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

Along with global partners, the various Agencies of the United Nations are committed towards the goals of their concern. For example, the UNICEF has taken the Goals as part of its mandate. Six of the eight goals relate directly to children and meeting the last two will also make critical improvements in their lives since children are most vulnerable when people lack essentials like food, water, sanitation and health care. They are the first to die when basic needs are not met. Each

child is born with the right to survival, food and nutrition, health and shelter, an education, and to participation, equality and protection.

Helping children reach their full potential is also investing in the very progress of humanity. For it is in the crucial first years that interventions make the biggest difference in a child's physical, intellectual and emotional development. And investing in children means achieving development goals faster, as children constitute a large percentage of the world's poor.

From working with local policymakers toward health care and education reform to delivering vaccines, each UNICEF action is a step toward a Millennium Development Goal. The Millennium Development Goals Set Priorities for Children.

The UNHCR and the UNWRA monitor how refugees and other people of concern are included in this process and how much progress has been made in achieving the MDGs. The UN refugee agency is also a member of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators, which produces an annual report on the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals.

UNEP works to promote environmental sustainability, the object of Millennium Development Goal 7, underpins global efforts to achieve all of the Goals agreed by world leaders at the Millennium Summit. UNEP supports assessments of environmental conditions and trends including building the capacity of its many partners to generate the information necessary for sound environmental decision making to support sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Goals.

The ILO, as the lead UN agency promoting full, productive employment and decent work for all, has central responsibility for ensuring that the employment indicators (target 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 and 3.2) are used in national and international labour market monitoring systems. In 2009, the ILO released the **Guide to the new Millennium Development Goals Employment indicators**. The Guide provides concepts, definitions, and formulas for each of the new employment indicators and is part of the ILO's wider support to strengthen national level labour market information and analysis to inform decision makers. The ILO organizes workshops to support country-level analysis of the indicators and highlight the linkages between the MDG employment indicators and the broader set of decent work indicators that is being discussed in the ILO.

The United Nations Statistics Division has dedicated a specific

research section only to the MDG indicators. It presents the official data, definitions, methodologies and sources for more than 60 indicators to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The data and analyses are the product of the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators, coordinated by The United Nations Statistics Division

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG Indicators includes various Departments within the United Nations Secretariat, a number of UN agencies from within the United Nations system and outside, various government agencies and national statisticians, and other organizations concerned with the development of MDG data at the national and international levels including donors and expert advisers.

IAEG is responsible for the preparation of data and analysis to monitor progress towards the MDGs. The Group also reviews and defines methodologies and technical issues in relation to the indicators, produces guidelines, and helps define priorities and strategies to support countries in data collection, analysis and reporting on MDGs. Over the past few years, the IAEG has worked to promote improvement and better documentation on the standards and methods used in compiling and analyzing MDG indicators, including finding ways to aggregate country data in a meaningful way, overcoming problems of comparability and, even more importantly, providing a meaningful analysis of the aggregate figures that represents the local situation. This work is undertaken through thematic sub-groups established within IAEG and through other inter-agency mechanisms bringing together specialized agencies in the various fields covered by the MDGs.

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3. implementation of the millennium development goals

In response to the world leaders' request, UN Secretary-General presented in 2001 the "Road Map Towards the Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration," an integrated and comprehensive overview of the situation that outlines potential strategies for action designed to meet the goals and commitments of the Millennium Declaration.

The road map has been followed up since then with Annual Reports (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011) and Progress Chart (2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011) .

The world has made significant progress in achieving many of the Goals. Between 1990 and 2002 average overall incomes increased by approximately 21 percent. The number of people in extreme poverty declined by an estimated 130 million 1. Child mortality rates fell from 103 deaths per 1,000 live births a year to 88. Life expectancy rose from 63 years to nearly 65 years. An additional 8 percent of the developing world's people received access to water. And an additional 15 percent acquired access to improved sanitation services.

The 2005 Report: "In larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All" was the first comprehensive five-year report on progress toward achieving the MDGs. The Report reviewed the implementation of decisions taken at the international conferences and special sessions on the least developed countries, progress on HIV/AIDS, and financing for development and sustainable development.

The 2011 Report draws on data from numerous international agencies and national governments to present an accounting to date of how far the world has come in meeting the MDGs. It outlines the significant progress made by some countries towards the MDGs, but also demonstrates that efforts to reach the MDGs by 2015 still need to be intensified. They must address disparities in progress between urban and rural areas, and increase efforts to target the world's hardest to reach populations, namely the extremely poor and those disadvantaged due to their sex, age, ethnicity or disability.

Some Highlights

- Despite significant setbacks after the 2008-2009 economic crisis, the world is on track to reach the MDG poverty-reduction target by 2015.

- Some of the world's poorest countries, including Burundi, Rwanda, Samoa, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania, have made the greatest strides in education.

- Every region has made progress in improving access to clean drinking water.

- Investments in preventing and treating HIV have caused new HIV infections to drop by 21 percent since 1997, when they peaked.

- The number of deaths of children under the age of five declined from 12.4 million in 1990 to 8.1 million in 2009.

Thus, although progress has been made, we are still far from uniform across the world-or across the Goals. There are huge disparities across and within countries. Within countries, poverty is greatest for rural areas, though urban poverty is also extensive, growing, and underreported by traditional indicators

Asia is the region with the fastest progress, but even there hundreds of millions of people remain in extreme poverty, and even fast-growing countries fail to achieve some of the non-income Goals.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the epicentre of crisis, with continuing food insecurity, a rise of extreme poverty, stunningly high child and maternal mortality, and large numbers of people living in slums, and a widespread shortfall for most of the MDGs.

Other regions have mixed records, notably Latin America, the transition economies, and the Middle East and North Africa, often with slow or no progress on some of the Goals and persistent inequalities undermining progress on others.

Along with the approaching deadline, the current global financial and economic crisis has worsen the situation, severely impaired social and economic progress throughout the world. No country has been spared by the negative impact of the various crises (financial and economic, food, energy, and environmental).

On the other hand, some of the goals, such as that addressing poverty and hunger, have been around for centuries and will remain relevant as long as societies have significantly large numbers (or a high proportion) of poor and disadvantaged citizens. Thus, scaling-up of current MDG efforts is thus even more important now because the overall mission and the *raison d'être* of the MDGs remain fundamentally relevant but new and incremental approaches are to be sought and adopted

After all, one thing is certain: there is no 'invisible hand' to address

the MDGs and other core issues of the social and economic progress of nations despite the fact that the MDG targets for 2015 have been compromised.

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4. african diaspora and development

As the awareness towards new approaches increases, it has been realised that it is a renewed opportunity for MDGs if new partners are engaged in their pursuit and the African Diaspora are one of the most entitled.

Diaspora is fast emerging as one of the forces for development in the globalizing world.

Diasporas are increasingly seen as positive actors. Diaspora themselves now feel that they are in a strategic position to facilitate the process of trans-national activities and networks and to act as development bridge-builders between the West and Africa.

The African Union defines the African

Continent as being divided into 6 geographical regions:

North Africa , South Africa , West Africa , East Africa , Central Africa , the Diaspora.

In 2005 the AU defined the Diaspora as "...peoples of African descent and the heritage living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship, and who remain committed to contributing to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union."

Geographically, this large population, (estimated between 150 – 350 million people), is to be found in The USA, Canada, The Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe.

The World Bank has been giving growing attention to the Diaspora and its economics role and now has several initiatives related to Migration and Remittances.

The World Bank publishes a comprehensive dataset on remittances flows across the world, as well as monthly remittances data for 22 countries and remittance prices for 200 remittances corridors (from 29 major remittance sending countries to 86 receiving countries).

The World Bank is closely involved in global partnerships to develop policy coherence on the treatment of migration and remittances.

The African Diaspora Program (ADP) is assisting the African Union Commission to create an African Institute for Remittances (AIR).

African Governments and the African Union started to address them directly and this has been the key factor for major international institutions, such as the World Bank and the United Nations among others, to increasingly acknowledge Diaspora communities as the 'fourth development aid actors', along with international organisations, governments and mainstream development agencies.

This step is a precondition for engaging the Diaspora in the overall development of their respective home countries of origin.

The role that African diasporas play in democracy-building and development on the continent is an area which has not yet been sufficiently studied, despite its critical significance.

The Africa Diaspora is the key strategic agents making the nexus between migration and development a reality.

It should be understood that the diasporas can contribute to democratic governance in much the same way that they currently contribute to economic welfare and development in their home countries. They can do so by making their knowledge, professional experience and expertise available for strengthening the capacity of political institutions in Africa. For the Diaspora, democratic governance is critical in the creation of an enabling environment on the ground in the homelands. Creating an enabling environment in the home countries is, in effect, a precondition for sustainable development in Africa.

Financial capital accumulated by diasporas abroad is often repatriated to the country of origin in the form of remittances or direct

investments that benefit the home community and the population as a whole.

But the Diasporas accumulate not only economics and financial capital but also human, and social resources for the development of their home communities. Indeed, in the long run, the influence and impact of the social capital that the Diaspora transfers will be more enduring than that of their financial remittances.

Human capital can result from higher education, training, and cumulative experience in diasporas that establish themselves in more developed countries. These forms of human capital can contribute to the development of the home country through return of skills by return migration, or "virtually," by using communications technologies in the host country.

Social capital in the form of migrant networks with links to both host and home countries can provide developing countries with access to more developed markets. Access can be instrumental in orienting foreign direct investment towards the home country. Diasporas often organize themselves and form associations that are able to promote the flow of investments and know-how to their home countries.

They transfer information, innovative ideas, intellectual capacities, new technological skills, smart and innovative business and trade practices, peacemaking tools and techniques, and democratic political habits and practices from the West to Africa. These modern resources equip the African Diaspora in Europe with the capacity to play a significant role in promoting peace, democratisation and social stability in their respective countries of origin.

Governments of countries of origin can have a crucial role in channelling the initiative, energy, and resources of diasporas into economies and societies and institutionalizing the linkage of the Diaspora to the socio-economic activities of their home countries. Transnational communities establish and reinforce multi-sectoral links between countries of origin and destination. The challenge for policy makers in developed and developing countries is to create an environment that encourages and supports contributions by migrant Diaspora to development.

Diasporas can play a similar role also in their host communities, contributing to economic and social development with human and financial capital.

Researches show how it is less active in the traditional development co-operation sector which is the domain of governments, but has an active and leading role in the migration and development field.

Diaspora communities may have the linguistic and cultural background to make easier and deeper contacts with local communities.

Therefore, the African Diaspora Youth is part of the solution to achieving the MDG goals.

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5. further reading:

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African Youth Charter

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programme of the seminar

Sunday 18th september: Arrival of delegates

Activities

- Arrival of delegates
- Dinner
- Joint University Welcome Evening & Welcoming to Seminar group

Monday 19th september: Policy day

Activities

- 12th University Opening Ceremony
- "Youth volunteering for global development"
- Tea/Coffee Break
- Seminar Opening

Lunch

- "MDGs: Tool to meet our challenges"

Working groups:

- a Entrepreneurship & Co-development
- b Youth Employment & Decent work
- c Good Governance & Democracy
- d Non-formal education & Capacity-building

Tea/Coffee Break

- Plenary feedback from Working Groups

Dinner

- Youth Exposition Evening (Joint Session)

Tuesday 20th september: Engagement day

Activities

- Debate: African Diaspora Youth in Europe:
"Our role to meet the MDGs?"

Tea/Coffee Break

- Youth Rights in Europe: "The Diaspora role towards a rights based policies approach"

Lunch

-
- African Youth Charter

Tea/Coffee Break

- Conclusion of the day

Dinner

- International Solidarity Evening (Joint Session)

Wednesday 21st september: Youth as agents of change: Developing the skills & competencies

Activities

- Personal development workshops on:
 - Influencing skills and leadership
 - Policy development...how to

Tea/Coffee Break

- Identifying Funding Opportunities

Lunch

- Round Table on the Institutional Framework for Africa Europe Youth Co-operation
- Seminar Closing Session: "Making MDGS a reality"

Tea/Coffee Break

- Round Table – Joint Session

Dinner

- Volunteering Evening (Joint Session)

list of participants

Participants

Diaby ABDOURAHAMANE

Associação de refugiados em Portugal
Portugal – Ivory Coast

Jackie Yvette ABHULIMEN (Apologies)

ASANTE
Greece – Nigeria and Kenya

Amarildo Valeriano AJASSE (Apologies)

Africa Friends Association – Africaquerote
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Winnie AMOAKU

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Italy – Ghana

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France – Senegal

Amin BARKHADLE

Ogaden Youth & Students Union
Sweden – Ogaden

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African Empowerment Centre
Sweden – Nigeria

Daena COSTA NETO

Association of Student from Sao Tome
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Portugal – Sao Tome and Principe

Israel-Abdulai DAYO

GLEEDH Foundation for Leadership
and International Development
United Kingdom – Nigeria

Med Yassine ENNAEM

International Student Association in
Cyprus
Cyprus – Morocco

Urenna Akenke Best GAYLE

Centro de La Mujeres Afropanemeñas
Panama

Cecilia GARDING

Muzicadelic Entertainment
Sweden – South Africa

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Koudjo Mawuli KLEVO

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Final Declaration

let's keep on volunteering for global development!

We, the partners gathered in this University on Youth and Development (UYD) in the framework of the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) and the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV2011) hereby:

- Acknowledge the overall purpose of the EYV2011 to encourage and support volunteering and to increase the visibility of voluntary activities and youth organisations as providers of learning and voluntary activities;
- Recall the initiative of the United Nations General Assembly on follow-up to the implementation of the IYV+10, where Governments are encouraged to establish partnerships with civil society in order to build up volunteer potential;
- Take into account the views expressed by the 340 representatives of youth organisations from all over the world attending this UYD on youth volunteering in contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Having spent an amazing week filled with diverse activities and workshops exploring and experiencing volunteering in action we want to:

- Reaffirm the value of volunteering for the personal and social development of young people and their communities as well as its importance for youth organisations;

- Promote a rights-based approach towards volunteering, aimed to ensure an enabling environment that guarantees the quality, recognition, protection and equal access to volunteering opportunities;
- Recognise the challenges facing volunteering, such as lack of information, equal access to volunteering opportunities, adequate and sustainable funding as well as lack of recognition of the economic and social value of volunteering, of non-formal education and of the role social media as a tool for social change;
- Raise visibility of volunteering at all levels, from local to global, demonstrating how much volunteering contributes to local and national economies;
- Stress the valuable contribution that young people and youth organisations give to development and the need to invest in effective partnerships among youth civil society, governments and international institutions;
- Reinforce volunteering as a tool to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and sustainable development principles, including the Millennium Development Goals, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Agenda 21, and progress towards the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;
- Reaffirm the role of youth organisations as providers of volunteering opportunities and emphasise the value of youth volunteering in promoting poverty reduction and sustainable development, including a rapid and just transition to a low carbon world;
- Confirm the essential role of volunteering in promoting active citizenship and democracy and advancing human rights principles, including the respect for diversity and equality, fostering solidarity and social inclusion, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue as well as developing the sense of community;
- Call upon governments and international institutions to further acknowledge the potential of youth volunteering as regards development, with a focus on the effective engagement of youth organisations in development strategies and actions in particular towards Rio+20 (UN Conference on Sustainable Development), accompanied by an adequate support to volunteer work so they can fulfil their role and responsibility as development actors;

- Recognise and value the role played by youth organisation in promoting non-formal education and global education, promoting values and attitudes that contribute to social, economical and environmental development, through a global active citizenship, enabling young people to undertake their responsibility in building societies of greater justice, solidarity and equality of opportunities;
- Integrate the volunteering roles and values of the Africa diaspora youth at the centre of global development and harness the volunteer resources of youth from minority communities;
- Encourage and facilitate grass-root perspectives in volunteering and engage with diverse forms of volunteering with particular recognition of cultural context and cultural sensibilities;
- Place young people's and youth organisations' needs and rights at the centre of the development agenda beyond 2015 which mainstreams sustainable development in binding goals and renews our commitment to a global partnership with youth, enhancing the development goals perspective in our own work;
- Seek a stronger support to youth organisations and the regional and global youth dialogue and co-operation to maintain and foster the partnership between youth organisations, governments and international institutions
- Emphasise and renew the current commitment of the UYD partners to the global partnership for development, providing key development actors a space to learn from the experiences and best practices and bringing significant value to youth work and co-operation.

Volunteering is an opportunity to raise awareness about issues that affect us and get involved in changing and improving our own lives and the lives of those around us.

Let us keep on enriching the life of our communities! **Let's keep on volunteering!**

Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers

volunteering for a sustainable future

The Global Volunteering Conference - Budapest, Hungary 15-17 September 2011

Organized by
*The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and
The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme*

Final Declaration

Volunteering is universal, inclusive, and embraces free will, solidarity, dignity and trust.

We value, recognize and encourage the contribution of volunteerism to the well-being of people, their communities and our planet. We celebrate volunteering as an essential expression of common humanity.

Volunteers bring sustainable development, poverty reduction, debt relief, HIV/AIDS awareness, and environmental campaigns to communities. They play an important role in disasters and crises, help build livelihoods, strengthen social cohesion, and contribute to human development.

The world has changed since the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000.

Much has been achieved through the efforts of volunteers. In the run-up to Rio+20 the post MDG sustainable development agenda must put volunteering at the centre.

For the full potential of volunteering to be realized, volunteers must be recognized, protected and supported by government, civil society, academia, the private sector, and inter-governmental entities.

As advocates, policy-makers, supporters and practitioners of volunteerism we will strive to:

a. Incorporate volunteerism, civic engagement and volunteers into national and local plans and priorities for sustainable development, human rights, peace and security;

b. Recognize the role of volunteerism in social inclusion and as a means to involve and benefit all segments of society, without discrimination, including volunteering for and with refugees and internally-displaced persons;

c. Adopt a holistic approach to sustainable development and human rights through gender-sensitive community-centred initiatives that build on the values that volunteering contributes, so as to foster economic growth and social change;

d. Document and exchange good practices on the role, impact and effectiveness of international and national volunteers in peace,

sustainable development and human well-being;

e. Incorporate volunteering and cross-sector volunteer networks into the planning and management of crisis; and mainstream volunteer disaster risk reduction and disaster management into overall development programming;

f. Highlight the crucial post-conflict contribution of volunteering towards building institutions, local capacity, and social cohesion. Engage young people as agents for peace, development and behavioural change, as well as in building skills and leadership development;

g. Promote the participatory development of national volunteerism policies, legislation and rights-based approaches, including fiscal frameworks, appropriately tailored to contexts and maximizing the promotion, protection and recognition of volunteerism;

h. Continue to explore new ways to volunteer by connecting and engaging people through information and communication technologies;

i. Enhance existing and create new forms of volunteerism in the private sector through collaborative corporate social responsibility, including employee volunteering and training in disaster management;

j. Measure both the economic and social value of volunteering at the local, national and global levels to provide concrete and comparable evidence of the power of volunteerism for the public, media, and decision-makers. Measurements of national GDP should include the added value created by volunteering and recognize civic participation as an indicator of growth.

There must be greater investment and better institutional collaboration to quantify and give value to volunteer work, in particular volunteering for equity and social inclusion. Therefore, we call upon all stakeholders to take effective steps at the local, national, regional, and global levels to advance volunteerism in building communities for peace and sustainable development. We urge:

a. Governments to recognize the economic and social value of volunteerism to achieve national development goals and well-being, and to provide an enabling environment for volunteerism as well as support for infrastructure and recognition of the values of civic participation; this includes incorporating volunteerism in their forthcoming deliberations for 'Rio+20';

b. The Private Sector to engage in employee volunteering and partnerships in enhancing the capacities of volunteer-involving organizations for achieving sustainable development and peace;

c. The Media to communicate the value of volunteerism and promote a supportive environment for community engagement;

d. Civil Society to mainstream volunteerism and civic engagement into sustainable development and peace programming;

e. Educational Institutions and Academia to integrate volunteerism and

an understanding of civil society into curricula to promote universal recognition of the value of volunteering;

g. *The Educational and Private Sectors* to ensure that the skills volunteers are gaining through non-formal education as part of their volunteering activities are recognized, and the flexibility to take part in volunteering activities is given to every volunteer;

g. *The Research Community*, including National Statistical Offices, to intensify study of the value and impact of volunteerism on development and crisis prevention and response; and to develop indicators of progress that incorporate civic engagement, voluntary action and human well-being;

h. *Faith-based groups* to affirm volunteering for peace and sustainable development as an appropriate response to the spiritual call to service;

i. *Volunteer-Involving Organizations* to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of volunteerism through sound governance, sustainable principles, development of the capacity to manage volunteers, and monitoring and evaluation of impact;

j. *United Nations Entities* to further recognize and integrate volunteerism in its various forms into their policies, programmes, and reports;

k. *Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies* to further their efforts to protect, promote and recognize volunteers in their capacity as auxiliary to Governments.

l. *All Stakeholders* to call for a volunteer coalition to provide a platform for promotion, knowledgesharing, capacity development, and collective actions on volunteerism.

We call on Governments, the United Nations system, the Red Cross Red Crescent and other stakeholders to renew efforts to implement resolution 56/38 and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on measures to support, promote and advocate for volunteerism.

We commit to bringing this declaration to the attention of our constituencies in fora such as the 31st International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 2011 and the forthcoming sessions on volunteerism taking place at the UNGA in December 2011.

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Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

"From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins"

*report of a seminar for youth leaders of the african diaspora
living in europe*

September 18-21, 2011

*at the 12th university on youth and development,
euro-latin-american youth centre,*

CEULAJ, Spain

