North-South Centre
of the Council of Europe

INTERIM
REPORT of ACTIVITIES
1 JANUARY – 31 AUGUST 2019
2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 30th anniversary of the North-South Centre. In 1989, in quite a different time and world, the North-South Centre, was born as the right and appropriate response of the Council of Europe to the urgent question of inequalities and the need for solidarity on a global scale.

Three decades ago the recognition of humankind’s diversity with equal opportunities for development for all was fundamental in the context of the disparities in both hemispheres, with people aspiring at the same rights in a peaceful and sustainable manner in all corners of the Earth.

We have since productively pursued our work, in a constructive trend, bridging cooperation between people, governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society, from Europe and beyond. The Centre has always worked towards more peaceful and inclusive societies, with justice for all, in line with the universal principles of human rights, through dialogue, education, pedagogical tools and technical expertise.

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

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

We enthusiastically pursue our work in all our programmatic dimensions - youth cooperation, global education and empowerment of women - strengthening our commitment to the principles and values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Thirty years, passing through different moments, living all sort of challenges, some ups and downs, with lesson learned, we gained long and vast experience and resilience capacity useful to understand what we are facing in the world right now, taking into account the evolution and current dynamics in Europe and beyond. The new and difficult global challenges are testing the stability and peaceful development of our democratic societies. Current threats, such as the growth of extremism, radicalism, terrorism, populism, misleading nationalism, racism, xenophobia, harassment and hate speech manifestations and attacks of all sorts to men and women jeopardize human dignity and the respect for justice.

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

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

José Rui Velez Caroço
Executive Director of the North-South Centre
WHO ARE WE

The **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY**, more commonly known as the "North-South Centre of the Council of Europe", was created in November 1989, as a result of the European public campaign on North-South Interdependence and Solidarity launched in 1988 by the **Council of Europe** in cooperation with the then European Community.

WHAT DO WE DO

The North-South Centre promotes active global citizenship among governments, parliaments, local & regional authorities and civil society, by raising awareness of global interdependence in Council of Europe member states and neighbouring regions.

HOW DO WE DO THIS

**AWARENESS-RAISING**

**CAPACITY-BUILDING**

**ADVOCACY**

Under the principles of **dialogue, partnership and solidarity**, through a **bottom-up approach**, we bring together **Quadrilogue** representatives - governments, national parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society - building bridges between the relevant actors with different cultures, from diverse backgrounds and multiple approaches.

WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS

21 **Member States**: Algeria, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Holy See, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Kingdom of Morocco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain and Tunisia.

**Other stakeholders**: European Union, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Parliament, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, EU Committee of the Regions, Conference of NGOs and representatives of three civil society organisations.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

YOUTH COOPERATION

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

TRANSVERSALITY

Council of Europe values, standards and priorities and the United Nations 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular:

**Goal 4**: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.

**Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**Goal 16**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

**Goal 17**: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE’S KEY DATES

2019
30th anniversary of the creation of the European Centre for global interdependence and solidarity

2017
The North-South Centre launches the movie “Listen to us” to raise awareness on violence against women and victim blaming

2016
Algeria and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s accessions to the North-South Centre

2015
Migrant, Refugees and Asylum-Seeking Women and Girls: specific needs and vulnerabilities are put on the Agenda

2014
Signature of a new joint management agreement with the European Union

2013
Adoption of the Report on the new Mission of the North-South Centre in the framework of the Council of Europe neighbourhood policy

2012
Resolution PACE 1996 on Equality between women and men: a condition for the success of the Arab Spring

2011
Renewal of the Joint Management Agreement with the European Union

2010
Adoption of a new Statutory Resolution for the North-South Centre

2009
Celebration of the 20th Anniversary

2008
First Joint Management Agreement between the European Union and the Council of Europe for the development of Global Education

2007
Accession of Morocco and Cape Verde, the first non-European countries to become members of the North-South Centre and 1st African University on Youth and Development (Praia).

2006
First Africa-Europe Youth Summit

2005
Launch of the programme Intercultural Dialogue

2002
First Global Education Congress in Maastricht

2000
Launching of the University on Youth and Development (Mollina) and First meeting of the Global Education Network

1995
Launching of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe (Lisbon)

1994
1st meeting of the Lisbon Forum “Human Rights in North-South dialogue”

1993
Launching of the “Transmed Programme” and first Euro-Mediterranean cooperation of the Council of Europe

1992
Existence of the North-South Centre confirmed by Resolution (92/8) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

1990
Set up of the North-South Centre in Lisbon

1989
Resolution 89/14 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe endorses the creation of the North-South Centre following a proposition by the government of Portugal, with 10 founding countries.

1988
European public campaign on North-South interdependence and solidarity organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Community

1984
The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe holds a conference, in Lisbon, on the theme: “North-South: Europe’s role” and the “Lisbon Declaration” is adopted (9-11 April).
### ACTIVITIES FROM 1 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capacity Building</td>
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<td>Global Education Network annual meeting</td>
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<td>North-South Centre Pool of Experts' working meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>eLearning course - global education the Citizenship dimension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visegrad regional seminar follow-up meeting on Global Development Education (3rd)</td>
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<td>7th Mediterranean University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diaspora Youth Training Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quadrilogue seminar on youth participation and multilevel governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balkan regional seminar follow-up meeting on Global Development Education (3rd)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Workshop for the Empowerment of Women</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth for Gender Equality</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

We organised 10 activities with 445 partakers participated in 17 partner activities
In this programme we bring together different stakeholders to **strengthen global development education through intercultural learning, dialogue and networking** in Council of Europe member states and neighbouring regions.

In this period we organised a capacity building and advocacy activity, two awareness raising and advocacy activities and an advocacy action **121 participants from 31 nationalities**

**Europe:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom

**Southern Mediterranean:** Morocco

**Find out more:**

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**GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING**

**When & where?** 25-26 February Lisbon, Portugal

**Who?** 26 national coordinators of the GE network, practitioners and institutional representatives

**What?** To share experiences and practices on issues related to Global Education advocacy, partnerships, outreach and funding. Based on the recommendations of the 2017 meeting and building on the 2018 progress assessment the network coordinators concurred to set up three task forces to cover the three areas - advocacy, partnerships and outreach – which will meet regularly, allowing a greater involvement of the **GE network coordinators** throughout the year.

The meeting was also an opportunity to choose the theme for the Global Education week 2019 edition: “Wake Up! This is the final call for climate.”

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**ELEARNING COURSE**

**GLOBAL EDUCATION: CITIZENSHIP DIMENSION**

**When?** 4 February - 3 March

**Who?** 23 educators, social transformers, researchers, youth activists, civil society practitioners, social innovators, social entrepreneurs, new media journalists, policy makers and civil servants.

**What?** An online training course which inspires and strengthens democratic citizenship - through conceptual and methodological approaches and tutored individual and collective assignments, as well as a discussion forum - among learners, aiming at transformation towards social justice and sustainability in a globalized world.

The course complements the **Global Education Guidelines**, a pedagogical tool for educators and policy makers to understand and implement global education.
VISEGRAD REGIONAL SEMINAR FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (3RD)

When & where? 23-24 May Budapest, Hungary

Who? 24 stakeholders representing educators, academia, CSOs, Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs and UNESCO national commission

What? Discussions on the state of play in each country and on the contribution of research in the field of global education and how to reinforce the work with academia in the field of teacher training, continuing professional development and impact measurement.

The level of implementation of the recommendations in the field of GDE policy and curricula development, pedagogical support and advocacy in the region, since the last follow-up meeting, was assessed.

BALKAN REGIONAL SEMINAR FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (3RD)

When & where? 27-28 June Podgorica, Montenegro

Who? 36 stakeholders: including educators and representatives from youth organisations, CSOs, Ministries of Education, Parliamentary education commission and the Council of Europe office in Montenegro

What? Through working sessions on policy development, professional development of educators, pedagogical tools and awareness-raising, the GDE state of play in Balkan countries since the last follow-up meeting was discussed, good practices shared and expertise in the field of advocacy, policy support, competence development of educators and awareness raising.

The testing phase of the Reference Framework on Competences for Democratic Culture in the region was also shared. It was also an opportunity to present the iLEGEND II draft project and the draft revised version of Global Education Guidelines.
In this programme we provide training and capacity building for young people and youth organisations across the Mediterranean and facilitate their participation in decision and policymaking.

In 2019 we organised three capacity building and awareness raising activities.

**200 participants from 50 nationalities**

**Europe:** Albania, France, Greece, Italy, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

**Southern Mediterranean:** Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia

**Other:** Angola, Armenia, Benin, Cameroon, Columbia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Republic of Congo, Togo

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**7TH MEDITERRANEAN UNIVERSITY “YOUTH AND JUSTICE”**

**When & where?** 9-16 June Hammamet, Tunisia

**Who?** 200 youth policy/cooperation quadrilogue representatives from Europe and the Southern Mediterranean, international organisations, academia and researchers, diaspora groups in Europe

**What?** 11 activities*, promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, allowing also for synergies between stakeholders in the region.

- Diaspora youth for inclusive decision making and global citizenship *
- ALTERNATIVES - Countering hate speech & injustice through dialogue & human rights education
- Quadrilogue seminar: Broadening the space for Youth, Peace and Security *
- Youth empowerment through local youth councils
- Ending sexual violence in the Mediterranean region
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Simulation
- Youth Innovation for Political Participation
- Training for leaders of Peace Clubs
- The role of Youth in achieving sustainable development goals
- Annual Meeting of International and Regional Stakeholders
- Blind Football for inclusion and social justice

*organised by the North-South Centre

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

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

Its main objectives are to:

- Enhance youth cooperation, youth work and youth empowerment through peer-learning, networking and the exchange of good practices;
- Increase the mainstreaming of the youth-related issues and address them through a bottom-up approach and a multilateral cooperation effort of a large number of youth stakeholders;
- Engage with young people in decision and policy making, building together recommendations on youth-related issues;
- Improve the capacity of youth organisations to contribute to the global agenda on youth participation being able to identify and address new challenges;
- Foster a structured dialogue among governments, parliament, local and regional authorities’ representatives and youth organisations and youth leaders;
- Promote human rights, intercultural dialogue and

In this programme we provide a platform for cooperation for women and women organisations across the Mediterranean to achieve gender equality and combat violence against women.

During this period we organised two awareness raising and two advocacy actions

124 participants from 26 nationalities

Europe: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom

Southern Mediterranean: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine*, Tunisia, Syria

Find out more: https://www.coe.int/en/web/north-south-centre/activities-empowerment-of-women

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE POOL OF EXPERTS’ WORKING MEETING

When & where? 20-22 February Lisbon, Portugal

Who? North-South Centre pool of experts on women’s rights in the Southern Mediterranean - eight experts from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia

What? Inputs were collected for the development of a Handbook for Victims’ protection which provides guidelines for coordinated action in combating violence against women built on the expertise of women civil society organisations from the Southern Mediterranean. A roadmap was therefore defined.

HANDBOOK ON THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

Who? Actors of public, private and associative sectors

What? Developed by experts from Southern Mediterranean civil society, who are working in close cooperation with the North-South Centre since 2018, the handbook will provide guidelines for a coordinated national action based on regional examples of good practices, tools and field experiences. The handbook is anchored to the reality of the field, since it is based on the inputs of experienced women's organisations from Southern Mediterranean countries. The latter will also offer points for consideration in future policy debates on the paramount issue of the fight against violence against women and domestic violence.

The 25th Lisbon Forum, next 25 November 2019, also the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, will be the occasion to launch the North-South Centre’s Handbook on the protection of women victims of violence.
Conclusions collected among youth representatives in the Euro-Mediterranean region in the framework of the North-South Centre’s Workshops for the Empowerment of Women. Young representatives of European and Southern Mediterranean civil society were invited to draft common conclusions and recommendations for region’s decision makers and to drive the future projects of the North-South Centre in relation to women’s rights and gender equality. Through these exchanges of grassroots experiences and challenges faced and future priorities, young people from the North and South of the Mediterranean shared their perspective on how to achieve gender equality through cooperation, intercultural dialogue and media.

Accordingly, the preparatory meeting should enable relevant organisations, which pursue the same objective of promoting gender equality and North/South cooperation, to have an in-depth reflection to capitalise respective work to achieve greater results.
PARTNER EVENTS

5 February, Lisbon, Portugal

Project "Challenges for Global Citizenship: Migration as a pillar to the construction of peaceful and inclusive societies"

21-22 February, Belgrade, Serbia

13th Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) Plenary Session

8 March, Lisbon, Portugal

Conference: "Igualdade de Género e Mobilidade: Desafios e oportunidades para o Desenvolvimento na Lusofonia"

8 May, Bonn, Germany

Symposium "European-African Youth Exchange: Making the case for active citizenship and solidarity"

18-20 March, Strasbourg, France

Council of Europe's Steering Committee and joint Council on Youth

21 March, Strasbourg, France

Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Education

9 April, Strasbourg, France

Council of Europe Education and Culture Committee Spring Session

2-3 May, Baku, Azerbaijan

5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue

6 May, Lisbon, Portugal

"Triângulo Estratégico: América Latina - Europa - Africa" of IPDAL
22 March, Warsaw, Poland
Warsaw Conference: role and position of NGOs in the Council of Europe

28 March, Lisbon, Portugal
Dialogue Café "It’s time for gender equality"

22-25 May, Strasbourg, France
Council of Europe’s 15th Gender Equality Commission

22-24 May, Barcelona, Spain
Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Regional Dialogue “Shared views on key issues in the Mediterranean”

27-29 May, Carcavelos, Portugal
Estoril Conferences “Empowering Humanity: from global to local justice”

28-29 May, Lisbon, Portugal
International Conference “Education, Citizenship and the World”

21-22 June, Lisbon, Portugal
World Conference of Ministers for Youth and Youth Summit (Youth +21)

3 July, Lisbon, Portugal
"Walk the Global Walk" SDG Summer School on “Sustainable Cities and Communities”
COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK

By 31 August 2019 the North-South Centre Facebook page had a total of 7 678 fans and a total of 7 767 followers.

The group of fans and followers of the Global Education network Facebook page reached a total of 3 333 fans and 3 344 followers.

The Global YOUth Facebook page of the Youth Cooperation Programme has reached a high of 9 901 followers and 9 791 fans.

The fan base of the EuroMed Women Network reached a high of 3 795 followers and 3 760 fans.

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TWITTER

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### FINANCIAL STATEMENT (January-August 2019)

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**Notes:**

1) Expenditure figures are still subject to variation after final closing of Purchase Orders that were still open at the date of production of the financial statement.
To know more about each programme and activity we invite you to visit the North-South Centre on:

http://www.nscentre.org

https://twitter.com/NSCentre

https://www.facebook.com/NSCentre/

https://www.facebook.com/Global-Education-networkers

https://www.facebook.com/nsc.youthcooperation/

https://www.facebook.com/nswomennetwork/

If you wish to subscribe to our newsletter please visit
https://www.coe.int/en/web/north-south-centre/newsletter

24 September 2019