

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



European Centre for Global
Interdependence and Solidarity

2020 INTERIM REPORT of ACTIVITIES January – July

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
The North-South Centre	4
COVID-19 adjustments and initiatives	5
Initiatives in face of the COVID-19 crisis	7
Activities	9
Upcoming events.....	15
Involvement in partners' events.....	16
Social media presence	17
Financial statements	18

Introduction



Mr José Velez Carço, Executive Director

The current COVID-19 global pandemic has critically and dramatically shown us the real meaning of interdependence as human beings and the importance and urgent need of solidarity worldwide.

More than ever only together, listening and understanding each other, in a constructive dialogue, carrying and helping one another, joining efforts and act in a coordinated manner, in all diverse corners of the World, we will be able to successfully overcome the current global crisis and all of its negative social, economic, security and environmental

In this extraordinary and exceptional period the mission of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre) becomes even more relevant, namely as a valuable credible safe platform that brings together institutions, authorities, organisations, communities and individuals, from national, regional and local governments, parliaments and NGO's from civil society, of so many different countries, to exchange knowledge and expertise, share experiences and ideas, think and reflect, in order to find better solutions and more appropriate approaches to the problems affecting us all.

Facing the difficulties during this peculiar pandemic time, similar to all of the Council of Europe structures and other international organisations, having to respect confinement sanitary measures, rapidly adapting work methods and mainly teleworking, pursuing activities online or in a digital format and making full use of the new technologies, thus mitigating the constraint of not being directly on the ground nor organising the traditional residential activities, the North-South Centre nevertheless successfully managed to quickly adjust and promptly positively respond to the occasion, namely by timely putting in place a call for solidarity action.

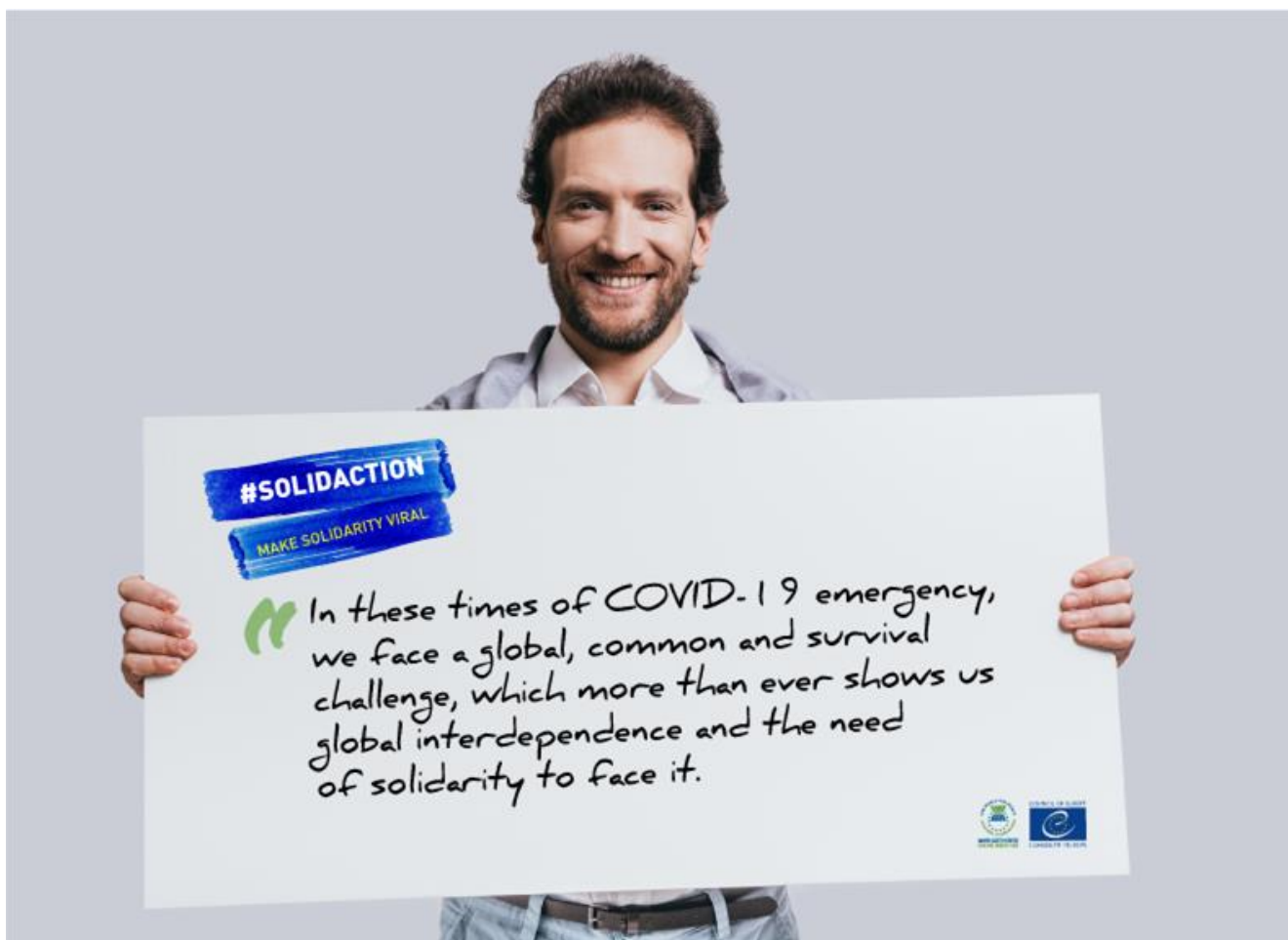
As a specific response to the COVID-19, the North-South Centre proudly launched in early April a new wave of solidarity: "The One World, Our World #SolidAction campaign", as a global call for collective mobilisation for solidarity to fight against inequalities.

The campaign reached out to 15 countries and 85 000 people through facebook and featured 17 solidarity initiatives so far. Concluding at the Lisbon Forum 2020, the aim is to foster an open dialogue at global level, in which representatives from all countries, as well as citizens worldwide, will be able to engage.

We also had to adapt all of our projects keeping them running in a different and more appropriate way due to these circumstances. It is true that there is an important dimension of the work of the Centre that relies on “living and experiencing together on the spot” and really “living” an intercultural learning process that cannot be fully developed at the moment due the sanitary restrictions and the social distance that we are obliged to follow, but we developed some innovative formats to combine the physical dimension of our work with e-learning to digital webinars and hybrid summits.

We also managed to carry out all of our statutory body institutional meetings and proceed with the designation of a newly appointed Chair, Vice-Chair and Bureau members, for another two years term, in an efficient and consensual manner with the full support of all of our members.

Ending my mandate as Executive Director in September and having witnessed and actively participated and happily engaged in this quite complex exercise during those past months facing COVID-19 constraints, where the work and activities of the Centre had to be somehow “transformed and reinvented” to fulfil its mission - now more needed than ever - I would like to sincerely thank all stakeholders and supporters and highlight and be grateful to the remarkable effort, strength and tremendous commitment of a highly motivated team in Lisbon that I had the privilege and enormous pleasure of being part.



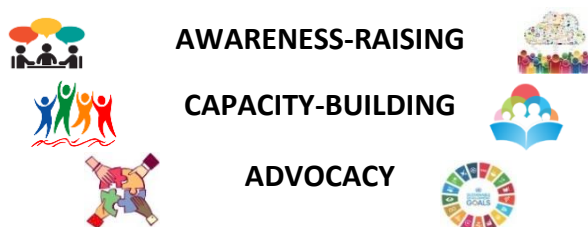
The North-South Centre

WHO ARE WE

The **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY**, more commonly known as the "North-South Centre", an Enlarged Partial Agreement 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 beyond.



HOW DO WE DO THIS

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
- civil society

By doing this we build bridges between the relevant actors with different cultures, from diverse backgrounds and multiple approaches.

WHICH ARE OUR PROGRAMMES

GLOBAL EDUCATION

YOUTH COOPERATION

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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.

TRANSVERSALITY

Council of Europe values, standards and priorities & the UN 2030 Global Agenda for Sustainable Development:

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.

COVID-19 adjustments and initiatives

Workplan adjustments

The roadmaps of projects and activities for 2020-2021 were adjusted taking into consideration this unforeseen crisis. This was done in close collaboration with all stakeholders involved and by identifying the virtual platforms that could be more conducive of each activity.

Some of the activities whose benefits come from its “living together” dimension and have a strong component of intercultural learning had to either be transposed to other formats or postponed to next year.

During the confinement period, teleworking proved to be efficient, according to a collective teleworking plan prepared and shared among the team. Some unprompted operational challenges were experienced due to working environments at home or technical issues, but these were surpassed.



© unsplash

Ongoing projects

WE for Diversity and Equality



January 2020 - December 2021

The project addresses intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls to promote the gender mainstreaming in intercultural dialogue aiming to reach a minimum of 30 000 people (audience) in Europe, the Middle East and Africa through an awareness raising campaign.

Global YOUTh



January 2020 - December 2021

The project fosters Interregional cooperation and a greater coordination among youth stakeholders in Europe, the Middle East and Africa to promote youth participation and global citizenship for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (iLEGEND)



October 2019 - October 2022

The project entails different capacity building, advocacy and awareness activities to strengthen Global Development Education in the Balkans, Baltic, South East Europe and Mediterranean and Visegrad regions.

WE against gender-based violence (within South Programme IV)



March 2020 - March 2022

The project supports the on-the-ground enforcement of key practices focusing on the protection of victims/survivors of violence against women in the Euro-Mediterranean region, aiming to support the implementation of eight sub-grants in Southern Mediterranean countries.

Initiatives in face of the COVID-19 crisis



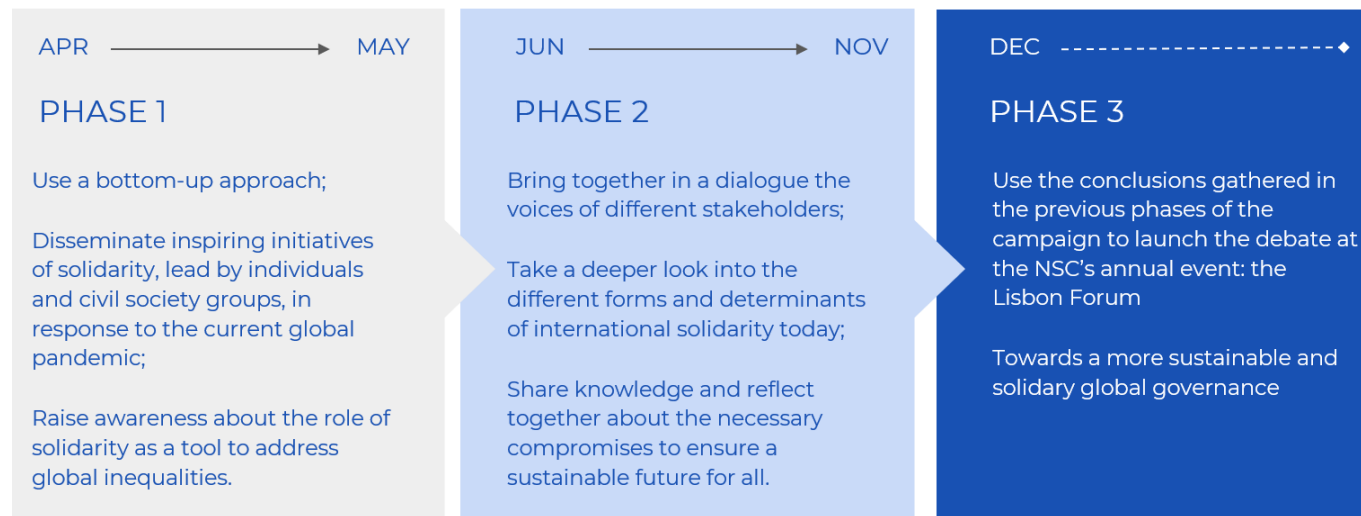
The COVID-19 crisis is a clear reminder of how we are all part of the same humanity. It also shows that inequalities are still deeply embedded in our global system. The virus made clear that we are not all equally equipped to ensure our own safety and protection and for those who are already suffering from other collateral crisis - famine and droughts, the harsh consequences of climate change, wars - the stake is much higher. But even in this context of emergency many are the attempts of seeking shelter under newly built walls of repression and social control, that put for democracy and human rights at risk.

The role of the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity is now more relevant than ever. The **#SolidAction campaign: One World, Our World** was launched in response to the pandemic to highlight solidarity initiatives led by individuals and civil society groups in different parts of the world.

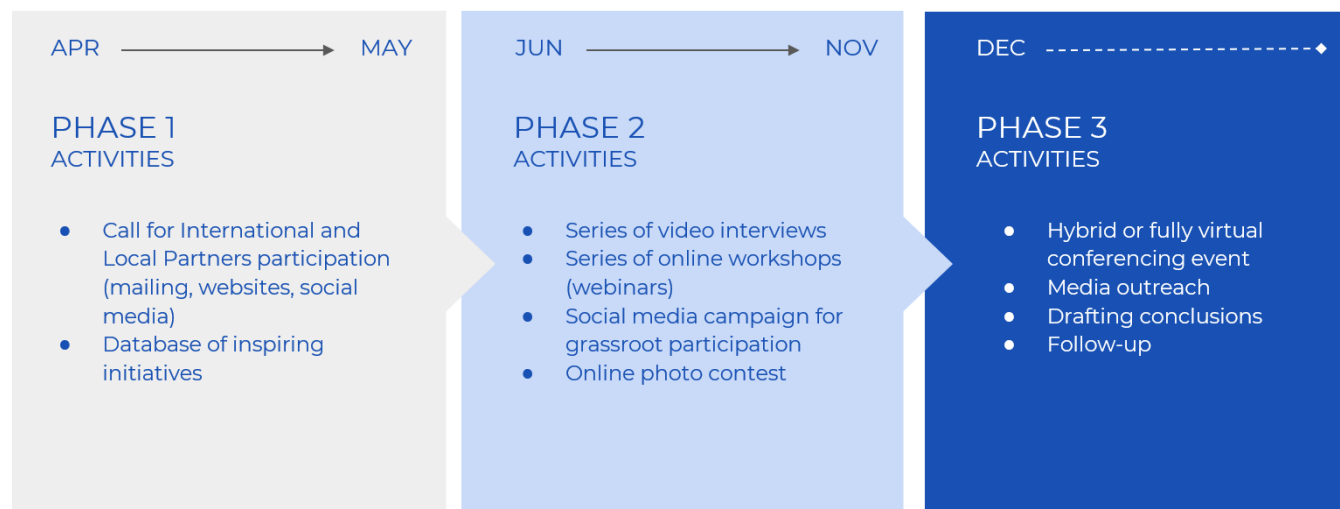
In a first step, the campaign disseminated inspiring and exemplary initiatives of solidarity on the ground to open the conversation. In its following phases, concluding at the Lisbon Forum 2020, the campaign is bringing together different stakeholders to take a deeper look into solidarity in a context of globalisation and the conditions required for its development and sustainability, with the aim to reflect together about the necessary compromises to ensure a sustainable future for all.

So far, the #Solidaction Campaign has gathered 17 different projects from all over the world. A social media campaign and the first series of interviews were launched, bringing on board a large panel of stakeholders to join the global reflexion. The campaign has reached out to 15 countries and 85 000 people through facebook.

Roadmap - Goals



Roadmap - Activities



Activities

Statutory meetings

Bureau meeting

29 April, KUDO online

This was a pioneer experience - the first ever statutory body meeting held via videoconference. It was an opportunity to inform about the recent activities since the last meeting in October.

Among the highlights were, in late 2019 and early 2020, the signature of the EU Joint Programme iLEGEND II, the 25th Lisbon Forum, the Centre's 30th Anniversary in Strasbourg, the Programme of Activities for 2020-2021, and the COVID-19 situation and its challenges, forcing a rapid adaptation and an engaged and positive response.

The meeting counted with the presence of the Director General of DGII, Ms Snežana Marković, who expressed her satisfaction in participating in the first enlarged partial agreement statutory meeting. The fact that the meeting took place amid this COVID-19 crisis demonstrated the great engagement of all the Centre's stakeholders and the staffs proactiveness in pursuing the Centre's mission within this challenging context.



Executive Committee meeting

30 June, KUDO online

On its 23rd meeting, the Executive Committee of the North South Centre elected its Chair, Bureau members and Vice-Chair for a new mandate of two years (2020-2022). All candidates presented, who were previously undertaking the positions of Chair and Bureau in the last term (2018-2020) were elected by consensus, being so renewed the mandates of Spain (Chair), Greece, Kingdom of Morocco (Vice-Chair), Malta, Portugal and Serbia (Bureau members).

The seats of the European Youth Forum and CONCORD, as two of the four civil society representatives of the Executive Committee, were also renewed.

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe now has all its statutory bodies fully in place and operational for another term in office committed and fully engaged to continue and further develop the Centre's mission and activities in the current challenging times we all face in Europe and beyond.

During the meeting, the delegates were presented with an update on how the work of the North-South Centre has been adjusted in response to the current global pandemic and they were encouraged to join a global call for collective mobilisation on solidarity to fight against inequalities supporting the #SolidAction campaign.

Global Education

Global Education Network Meeting

29-31 January, Sintra, Portugal

The **Global Education Network coordinators** meet annually to exchange expertise in advocacy, pedagogical support and networking mechanisms, and assess the work developed during the year to reinforce the main dimensions of the iLegend II programme.

On the first day 33 participants were presented with the iLegend II programme and timeline, as well as the revised Global Education Guidelines. Members were provided with a presentation on the Composition and Role of the Network followed by working group discussions. The day concluded with presentations from other global education partners active at a European level.

On the second day, participants met in working groups, representing the regional clusters: Balkan, Baltic, South-East Europe & Mediterranean countries, Visegrad, and Western Europe. They shared reflections on state of play of GDE in their respective countries and regions, focusing on achievements, obstacles and needs within the sector. Subsequent sessions were forward looking, focusing on the advocacy and capacity development dimensions of the iLegend II programme. Regional working groups aligned their earlier reflections to the advocacy dimension, identifying priorities for the regional seminars taking place in 2020.

On the third day a facilitated session reviewed the outreach work of the network, principally through a review of 2019 **Global Education Week**, and through a reflection for an increased coordinated outreach and campaigning plan of action. A number of members shared good practice and approaches for GE within their respective countries.

Baltic Regional Experts online meeting: Sustaining national partnerships to support global education

29 June, online

22 practitioners and decision-makers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania discussed existing perspectives and further developments on the concept and practice of GDE, focusing on competences development and pedagogical support of practitioners and decision-makers, and on awareness-raising and networking.

Each national delegation was composed of four to five participants representing formal/non-formal education sector; CSO platform; local authorities; Ministry of Education and/or of Foreign Affairs; parliamentary commissions on education and the national coordinator of the NSC GE network.

Through plenary and working sessions, participants:

- reviewed the state of advancement of professional development of and pedagogical support to educators and institutional stakeholders at national and regional level;
- defined regional needs and priorities in terms of GDE competencies development of main stakeholders (both practitioners and institutional stakeholders) in terms of policy development;
- proposed a roadmap to increase GDE capacity-building and advocacy at national and regional level.



E-learning scheme

A call was launched for hiring a service provider for the development of the new e-learning scheme on Global Education to be hosted on HELP platform.

It will comprise self-learning courses and tutored/interactive master classes and offer an overview of the concept, competences, methodology, resources and knowledge assessment related to global education/global citizenship education.

The courses will follow the structure of the Global Education Guidelines and be complemented with a list of existing GE/GCED (Global Citizenship Education) resources.



Call for grants – Global Education Week 2020

A call was launched for grants for the development of initiatives in the framework of the Global Education Week 2020.

The annual Global Education Week (GEW) will take place from the 16-20 November 2020, with the objective to raise awareness about global development education in Europe, under the overarching GEW motto “It’s our world, let’s take action together!” and in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 5 development pillars (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships).

The Global Education Week is a worldwide awareness raising initiative and a call to rethink our world together, using Global Education as a tool for solidarity and change.

It is an opportunity to join other global citizens in this action week and contribute for a more and sustainable and equitable world.



Youth

Network on Youth and Global Citizenship meeting

28 April, online

The **Network on Youth and Global Citizenship** is a partnership facilitated and coordinated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe that gathers youth-led organizations, youth platforms, governmental and intergovernmental institutions from Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and beyond.

The meeting - attended by 21 participants for all the 12 partner organisations - was the kick-off activity of the project “Global Youth” setting the basis for cooperation for the next biennium in light of the current challenging circumstances.

The meeting provided space to:

- share updates about the activities of the network’s members in order to identify possible synergies and current challenges;
- reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the members’ network activities and for the implementation of the “Global youth” project;
- agree on a new plan for the implementation of the project and the reallocation of the resources
- Provide elements for the concept note on “Youth and strong institutions” guiding the next cycle of Summer University



Online meeting of International Stakeholders active in the field of Youth

3 June, online

The meeting ensured a space for interaction, partnership building and mutual understanding among 40 players of the youth sector at inter-regional level who usually have scarce opportunities to share, learn and cooperate if not within specific project/programme frameworks or at the margins of institutional public fora.

Connections were created or reinforced among like-minded organisations who:

- shared the different ways in which the youth sector is adjusting agendas, programmes and initiatives according to the current unexpected circumstances,
- assessed the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on entities working with young people drawing a picture of the current situation at interregional level
- found a common ground in terms of priorities and challenges to preserve the centrality of youth policies and of the role of young people also during these challenging times.
- Identified the critical points of the current state of inter-regional youth cooperation and agree on a few recommendations for a more efficient coordination.

Meta University 2020

Based on the developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, following the recommendations of the WHO and in agreement with our partners, the universities, planned to happen in 2020, have been cancelled.

Nevertheless, the North-South Centre explored different on-line scenarios to keep working on youth cooperation and youth participation in these challenging times, being aware that the richness of the face-to-face intercultural encounters, the effectiveness of the non-formal formal education methodology, the mutual understanding flourishing by experiential learning, the networking opportunities happening during informal moments are the key elements of the Universities and cannot be replaced by any digital initiative and online tool.

Therefore, instead of setting up an online version of the Universities (same format, topics, objectives and methodologies) it was decided to launch a “Meta-University” to happen on the 4 and 5 November 2020.

One of the etymological streams of the Greek work “meta” is connected to the concept of “in between”, an oscillation between future, present and past, here”; it takes into account the “here”, it affects the “there” yet got inspired by the “elsewhere”.

Therefore, rather than being a space to advance the global youth agenda and go in-depth on the annual focus related to the SDGs as it happens in the regular Universities, the 2020 Meta University is a space to connect and re-connect among different organisations at global level while reflecting about the recent critical circumstances, sharing the current challenges and drawing plans for the future.

Considering the current pandemic crisis, which is challenging traditional spaces for dialogue and accelerating the process of shrinking space for civil society, the Meta University was conceived as a platform to ensure interaction and mutual understanding among players of the youth sector, reducing the side effects that a disintegration of physical connections might bring to young people.



A call for online activities was launched: youth-led and youth-related organisations from any region are invited to take part to the event by integrating the programme of the University with their online activities (webinar, e-learning course, talks etc.)

During the two days of the event, all partners and participants besides developing their own activities, will have the possibility to get involved in plenary sessions, networking meetings, digital stands and get engage with everyone through different forms of digital interaction facilitated by professional trainers.

Women Empowerment

Call for Young Experts on Intersectionality & Gender Equality

In the framework of the project “Promoting diversity and equality” within the Women Empowerment programme for 2020-2021 the North-South Centre launched a call for young experts in order to establish a core group that will address intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls in Europe, Middle east and Africa.

The core group will be constituted by six experts with complementary competences and experiences in intersectionality of gender equality in the EMEA region.

Its objectives will be to promote understanding of the issue of intersectionality and the causes and consequences of discrimination against women and girls by raising awareness among the public and decision makers.

Through a dynamic of cooperation and exchange of ideas and innovative solutions, the core group will contribute to develop an awareness raising strategy and actions targeting attitudes, norms, and behaviours that help sustain a stereotyped vision of women.



South Programme IV: inception phase of Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation for the protection of women and girls against violence

From 1 March to 30 June, the North-South Centre participated in preparation meetings organised by the South Programme coordination and carried out the project preparation through partners' consultation with the aim at reinforcing synergies, complementarities and project's impact in the area of combating violence against women in Southern Mediterranean.



From the 1 July, a regional grant scheme which will support the implementation of national or local activities in Southern Mediterranean countries is under preparation. The latter aims at promoting the multi-sectoral cooperation and/or coordination for the protection of victims/survivors of gender-based-violence in compliance with both human rights-based and victim-centered approaches.



Upcoming events

Dates	Programme	Titles
16 September	Youth	2nd meeting of the Network of Youth and Global Citizenship
17 September	Covid-19 initiative	One World, Our World #SolidAction 1st webinar
30 September-14 October	Women empowerment	WE for Diversity and Equality Core Group training
28 September	Statutory bodies	Bureau meeting and North-South Prize Jury meeting
20-23 October	Global Education	South East Europe and Mediterranean Global Development Education experts meeting
20 October-15 December	Women empowerment	WE for Diversity and Equality Focus Group
13 November	Statutory bodies	Executive Committee meeting
27-28 October	Youth	2nd on-line meeting of International Stakeholders active in the field of Youth + MetaUniversity
26 November-04 December	Women empowerment	Training of Regional Grant Scheme beneficiaries on multi-sectoral cooperation in victims/survivors protection
5-31 December	Women empowerment	Online training on Council of Europe standards
4-5 November	Youth	MetaUniversity
10 November	Covid-19 initiative	One World, Our World #SolidAction 2nd webinar
20-24 November	Women empowerment	Working session of NSC pool of experts and Regional Grant Scheme beneficiaries
November (tbc)	Global Education	Balkan Global Development Education expert meeting
1 December	Youth	3rd meeting of the Network of Youth and Global Citizenship
2-3 December	Flagship events	Lisbon Forum 2020
2-4 December	Global Education	Global Education Network meeting

Involvement in partners' events

18 February, Lisbon, Portugal

EU-Brazil roundtable on gender equality
EU Delegation to Brazil

22 February, online

Online High-Level Symposium on
Youth, Peace and Security in Libya
UN Major Group for Children & Youth



Graziano Tullio (North-South Centre)



14 May, online

Euro-Mediterranean Youth Voluntary
Response to the Covid-19 Crisis
Union for the Mediterranean

13 May, online

DEAR COVID Hub
DEAR, European Commission

21 May, online

Conference Desafios para a Cidadania Global:
A Agenda 2030 da ONU e as Migrações
Associação Renovar a Mouraria

16 June, online

4.7 Policy Working Group Kickoff
Bridge 47

1 July, online

Youth Peace Week online - "the role of the Council of Europe in
peacebuilding
CoE Youth Department

4 July, online

Communication campaign for the 25th Anniversary of the
Barcelona Process
Union for the Mediterranean



The global challenges we face today need global and solidary answers with the engagement and support of all, at international, regional and local level. **For the next 25 Years we must pursue and increase the cooperation in all shores of the Mediterranean**, fulfilling People's aspirations in building equal, sustainable and fair societies for all.

JOSÉ VELEZ CAROÇO
Executive Director of the North-South
Centre of the Council of Europe
#25BCNProcess



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الاتحاد من أجل المتوسط



25 YEARS 1995 - 2020
BARCELONA
PROCESS
Union for the Mediterranean



Social media presence

FACEBOOK

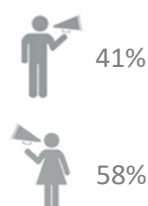
By July 2020 the North-South Centre **Facebook page** had a total of 8 150 fans and a total of 8 279 followers.

The group of fans and followers of the Global Education network **Facebook page** reached a total of 3 523 fans and 3 558 followers.

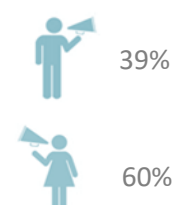
The Global YOUTH **Facebook page** of the Youth Cooperation Programme has reached a high of 10 425 followers and 10 279 fans.

The fan base of the **EuroMed Women Network** reached a high of 3 987 followers and 3 941.

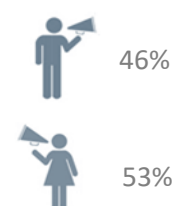
Country	Followers	Fans
Portugal	851	836
Tunisia	502	493
Italy	487	479
Egypt	463	449
France	339	337



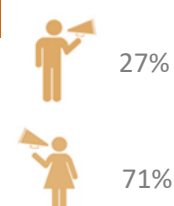
Country	Followers	Fans
Portugal	261	259
Egypt	195	191
Romania	188	181
Tunisia	170	168
Algeria	162	162



Country	Followers	Fans
Tunisia	1017	1 007
Egypt	564	557
Spain	479	475
Portugal	457	454
Morocco	410	405



Country	Followers	Fans
Tunisia	485	497
Italy	255	271
Egypt	255	266
Morocco	228	226
France	226	233



TWITTER

By July 2020 the North-South Centre had a total of 811 visits, 1 900 followers and 46 423 impressions* during this period.

*Impressions on Twitter is a total tally of all the times the Tweet has been seen. This includes not only the times it appears in a one of your followers' timeline but also the times it has appeared in search or as a result of someone liking the Tweet.

Financial statements

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (January-August 2020)

Receipts	Article	Source	Amount
	9999000	Contrib Member States	483,000.00
	9999005/7/10	Voluntary contributions (Member States and other)	120,774.06
	9999011	European Union (3 years programme)	301,555.57
	9999200	South Programme IV dotation	200,000.00
	9999030	Financial Products	2,000.00
	Total		1,107,329.63

Expenditure	Article	Type of Expenditure	Budget	Spent / Committed	Unspent
	0000001	CDI Staff	96,400.00	62,159.36	34,240.64
	0000003	Temporary Staff	194,800.00	186,653.64	8,146.36
	0000013	Secondements	1,000.00	1,000.00	.00
	0000263	Activities financed by VCs and EU funds	622,329.63	152,935.32	469,394.31
	0000378	Contributions to Council of Europe OB	26,100.00	19,575.00	6,525.00
	0000379	Contributions to Pensions	17,600.00	11,728.16	5,871.84
	6511001	Running Costs	53,000.00	30,458.93	22,541.07
	6511002	Programme Expenditure	96,100.00	21,561.66	74,538.34
Total			1,107,329.63	486,072.07	621,257.56

Group of Expenditure	Budget	Spent / Committed	% of Total Spent/Committed
Staff Costs	335,900.00	281,116.16	57.83%
Programme implementation	718,429.63	174,496.98	35.90%
Running Costs	53,000.00	30,458.93	6.27%
Total	1,107,329.63	486,072.07	100.00%

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/Global-Education-networkers)

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

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

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

Rua São Caetano, nº 32
1200-829 Lisboa
Portugal

Tel: +351 213 584 030
Fax: +351 213 584 072

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