

META UNIVERSITY 2021

**Networking, capacity building and
peer learning in youth sector**

19-22 October 2021, online

Call for Participants & Programme

Deadline for registration:
12 October 2021

Organised by:



In partnership with:



With the financial support of:



Activity in the framework of the project:
VC 2606 "Global Youth - Interregional Cooperation
for Youth Participation and Global Citizenship"



MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS
ESTRANGEIROS



The North South Centre of the Council of Europe (NSC) has a long-standing tradition of organising on-field “Universities” bringing together the youth sector actors. Launched in 2020, the Meta-University is an alternative to traditional universities, aiming to continue the work on youth cooperation and youth participation through digital youth work, despite the critical circumstances we are all currently facing. The current pandemic crisis is, in fact, challenging the traditional spaces for dialogue and is accelerating the process of shrinking space for civil society. The Meta-University is designed as a platform to connect youth organisations and advance the global youth agenda, reducing the side effects that a disintegration of physical connections might bring to young people.

A space of transformation and innovation

One of the etymological streams of the Greek word “meta” is connected to the concept of “in-between”, an oscillation between future, present and past. The Meta-University 2021 brings together young people, youth workers and youth policy makers from all regions to harness the possibilities of the offered by the “in between” space we live in. Learning, dialogue, and cooperation remain key to keep working on intercultural dialogue and global citizenship, even though they now happen online.

The Meta-University is:

- ✔ a platform to ensure interaction and mutual understanding addressing the current challenges of the youth sector;
- ✔ a space to build capacities, innovate, share knowledge and gather new insights;
- ✔ an opportunity to mainstream youth works' achievements and concerns, share good practices, and build new synergies.

A multilateral global partnership

The programme is built together with partner organisations from different regions of the world, representing youth constituencies at different levels: youth-led organisations, governmental bodies, international umbrella networks, and intergovernmental institutions. With the support of a team of professional facilitators, the event will encourage interaction with a variety of entities and youth representatives within a comfortable but structured digital space.

A multi-level experience

The Meta-University relies on the educational model developed in the previous Universities based on global education and adapted to the digital setting. The programme is implemented. Through a variety of activities, interactive tools and informal gatherings, participants can choose among different levels of engagement.



During the four-day programme, participants can experience different possibilities of participation:

- ✔ expand knowledge and develop new skills by taking part in one or more of the webinars promoted by partner organisations;
- ✔ contribute to the development of the global youth agenda by following the plenary sessions focused on current key issues of the youth sector;
- ✔ connect with other peers and practice intercultural dialogue while enjoying informal gatherings such as online coffee-breaks, dynamic group chats, speed networking and other facilitated group interactions;
- ✔ mingle in the “Expo area” where participants can set up their own virtual stand to share projects and opportunities, meet new organisations, exchange contacts and build new partnerships;
- ✔ take the lead of the event by proposing a session to follow-up ideas and proposals, to deepen a conversation started in previous sessions or to address a relevant issue not yet covered by the event.

Meta-University 2021 PROGRAMME

All times in GMT+1 (Lisbon time)

Tue 19 Oct		Wed 20 Oct			Thur 21 Oct		Fri 22 Oct
10:00 - 13:00 Getting to know each other and exploring the platform		10:00 - 12:00 Prevention of violent extremism through youth employment in WB6 and MENA Region YPN	10:00 - 12:00 Youth e-participation matters: transferring youth participation to the digital sphere DYPALL Network	10:00 - 12:00 Youth development and global citizenship Global 21st	10:00 - 12:00 Youth work and resilient communities in transition times I-Dare Italy	10:00 - 12:00 Meeting of the international stakeholders active in the field of youth	
		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point			12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point		
14:00 - 14:30 Meta-Gathering!		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point			12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point		12:00 - 13:00 Global Meeting Point
14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"National concerns and global citizenship"</i>		14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"Intercultural dialogue in online settings"</i>			14:30 - 16:00 Joint Session <i>"Interregional cooperation for a global youth agenda"</i>		14:30 - 16:00 Final Plenary for knowledge sharing and partnership building
16:00 - 18:00 What is Europe doing to combat online hate speech? CNG	16:00 - 18:00 Youth rights during the pandemic in Southern Europe CJE	16 - 18 Boosting online intercultural competence through gamification Dramblys	16 - 18 Let's learn about the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda! ONJ	16 - 18 10-Year implementation plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security AU-Y4P Part I	16:00 - 18:00 Women in crisis: impact and consequences of a global pandemic on women IUSY	16:00 - 18:00 10-Year implementation plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security AU-Y4P Part II	16:00 - 18:00 Interactive evaluation and participants-led sessions

-  **Partners' Activities**
-  **Joint sessions**
-  **Global meeting points**
-  **Independent navigation**
-  **Special Meeting upon invitation**

- Partners' Activities:** workshops promoted by partner organisations covering a wide range of topics.
- Joint sessions:** plenaries organised by the North-South Centre where all partners, participants, guest speakers and institutional representatives come together once a day to explore the key questions of the Meta-University 2021.
- Global meeting points:** informal dynamic gathering led by the Meta-University's team of facilitators enabling peer education, partnership building and intercultural dialogue.
- Independent navigation:** interactive pre-designed content and asynchronous activities to get to know each other, the platform, collect messages and feedback. In the final phase of the event this is also a place for participants to propose their own session to follow-up insights and proposals gathered during the event.
- Special Meeting upon invitation**
- Virtual fair:** Throughout the university, an "Expo area" will allow everyone to open a virtual stand to share ideas, projects and opportunities and get to know new organisations.

Discover all the activities and choose the ones you want to follow!

JOINT SESSIONS

All times are in GMT+1 (Lisbon time).

Dynamic conversations will contribute to explore the impact that the digital shift, boosted by the pandemic, brought to the youth sector. Collecting a variety of inputs and connecting the insights gathered in the different partner activities, participants and guests will address, in each plenary session, one of the following key questions:

National concerns and global citizenship

When: Tuesday, 19 October, 14:30-16:00

Language: English, French (with simultaneous interpretation)

How can global citizenship and international solidarity be promoted as fundamental elements for social cohesion in the current scenario, where, to control the pandemic, international mobility is limited and countries take measures looking primarily at their national context?

Intercultural dialogue in online settings

When: Wednesday, 20 October, 14:30-16:00

Language: English, French (with simultaneous interpretation)

How to efficiently promote intercultural dialogue and work on cross-cultural mutual understanding online?

Interregional cooperation for a global youth agenda

When: Thursday, 21 October, 14:30-16:00

Language: English, French (with simultaneous interpretation)

What measures are international networks of young people putting in place to continue working together on the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and Youth, Peace and Security Agenda?

Partners' Activities

Listed in chronological order following the programme.
All times are in GMT+1 (Lisbon time).

What is Europe doing to combat online hate speech?

When: Tuesday, 19 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: English

The pandemic has consistently accelerated the digitalization of social life. In this new context, online hate speech is increasingly impacting the real life of many youngsters and posing important challenges to our institutions. The webinar aims to delve deeper into the different effective means to combat online hate speech and explore what member states of the Council of Europe are doing to combat this phenomenon.

Promoted by: [National Youth Council of Italy \(CNG\)](#)

Youth rights during the pandemic in Southern Europe

When: Tuesday, 19 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: English

Housing, youth employment and poverty are pressing issues of today. The round-table will address these three concerns allowing a great interaction between participants and representatives of the National Youth Councils from Southern Europe, the European Youth Forum and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

Promoted by: [National Youth Council of Spain \(CJE\)](#)

Youth e-participation matters: transferring youth participation to the digital sphere

When: Wednesday, 20 October, 10:00-12:00

Language: English

Considering the limits of traditional forms of participation, it is now necessary to develop alternatives to promote youth engagement in decision-making processes, such as e-participation. The workshop builds on results from two recent study sessions on youth civic participation in the digital era and focuses on identifying benefits and good practices, but also barriers and challenges of youth e-participation.

Promoted by: [DYPALL Network](#)

Prevention of violent extremism through youth employment in WB6 and MENA region

When: Wednesday, 20 October, 10:00-12:00

Language: English

Though having different historical backgrounds, nowadays the Western Balkans and the MENA region share similar challenges regarding youth unemployment, migration, and youth participation leading to possible cases of radicalisation and extremism. The webinar will unravel the impact of socio-economic empowerment on interregional youth cooperation while promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

Promoted by: [Young Professional Network \(YPN\)](#)

Activity available only for participants selected directly by YPN.

Boosting online intercultural competence through gamification

When: Wednesday, 20 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: English

The training workshop will share the lessons learnt from Anti-discrimination Pack 2.0, and through a game tackling online discrimination, participants will explore scenarios of exclusion and will have the opportunity to design individual development plans of intercultural competence. The objective is to create a safe space where youth leaders worldwide can learn tools to promote online intercultural dialogue.

Promoted by: [Dramblys, in collaboration with 4C and The Academy for Diversity and Innovation.](#)

Let's learn about the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda!

When: Wednesday, 20 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: English

Designed in collaboration with Search for Common Ground and UNFPA, this training workshop targets young members of different peace clubs in Tunisia with the aim to enhance their knowledge on the [United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250](#). Through interactive activities, young peace activists will increase their capacity to contribute to the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 in Tunisia.

Promoted by: [National Observatory of Youth \(ONJ\)](#)

Activity available only for participants selected directly by ONJ.

10-Year implementation plan for the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security

When: Wednesday, 20 October and Thursday, 21 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: Arabic

The webinar promotes youth inclusion in policymaking for a meaningful implementation of the [African Union Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security](#) for the decade 2020-2029. The session will raise awareness about the crucial role African youth play to prevent violence and will discuss ways to amplify youth voices while reflecting on programmatic actions to address security challenges.

Promoted by: [African Union - Youth for Peace programme \(AU - Y4P\)](#)

Activity available only for participants selected directly by AU - Y4P

Youth development and global citizenship

When: Thursday, 21st October, 10:00-12:00

Language: English

How do young people manifest their power? How can the youth build strong institutions, and design sound and fair policies? The roundtable will highlight possible ways to motivate young people to care beyond their own surroundings, to take greater responsibilities and leadership roles. Unfolding their role as driving forces for socio-economic development will allow young people to become changemakers at the local and global levels.

Promoted by: [Global 21st Century Entrepreneur initiatives](#)

Youth work and resilient communities in transition times

When: Thursday, 21 October, 10:00-12:00

Language: English

Considering the various impacts of the pandemic on youth – especially on fragile groups and regarding online hate speech - the roundtable will explore the role of youth work in preventing violent radicalisation in transition times. The session will provide competences to build resilient communities, prevent violent radicalisation and foster social cohesion at the local and regional level.

Promoted by: [I-Dare Italy](#)

Women in crisis: impact and consequences of a global pandemic on women

When: Thursday, 21 October, 16:00-18:00

Language: English

Through storytelling and small group exchanges, the session will discuss intersectional feminism, the unequal impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women* and the various institutional responses that may or may not have responded to support them. Gender roles, gender-based and sexualised violence, and women's healthcare during the ongoing pandemic will be discussed with a focus on youth engagement, looking at possible social and political measures to close the gap.

Promoted by: [International Union of Socialist Youth - feminist working group \(IUSY\)](#)

Practical information and registration

Language

The Meta-University will take place in English language primarily. Two Partner Activities are held in Arabic language (see description). Interpretation in French will be provided for the Joint sessions and the Final plenary.

- ✔ Participants can enroll in one or more of the Partners' Activities and the Joint Sessions. Participants enrolled in the Partners' Activities are automatically entitled to take part in the Joint sessions.
- ✔ Participants of any of the Partners' Activities and Joint Sessions are automatically entitled to take part in any of the other types of activities: Global Meetings, Independent Navigation, and Virtual Fair.

Certificate

A certificate of attendance will be provided to participants who have been engaged for at least 8 hours, comprising ideally participation in 2 Global Meetings, 2 Joint Sessions, 1 Partner Activity, and 1 hour of Independent Navigation.

Registration

You can register online until 12 October 2021 at this link:

<https://cutt.ly/uEWRhOt>



On 15 October, all registered participants will receive, via email, instructions on how to access the online platform of the event.

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe Youth Cooperation Programme

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