

CALL FOR ON-LINE ACTIVITIES to be organised in the framework of the **Meta-University 2021**

19-22 October 2021

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe - or North-South Centre (NSC) - was created in 1989 as an interface of the Council of Europe, in Europe and abroad, to contribute to build stronger, more resilient and critically aware societies grounded on the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

With over 30 years of experience, the NSC raises awareness about global interdependence and solidarity on the principles of global education and intercultural dialogue and provides a platform for constructive dialogue between Europe and other parts of the world.

The North-South Centre develops multilateral, regional and interregional cooperation projects that include field activities around three main programmatic areas: global education, youth cooperation and women empowerment.

The Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre provides capacity strengthening, confidence building and networking opportunities to increase youth participation and foster interregional cooperation in the youth sector.

In the period 2020-2021 the NSC is implementing the project "Global Youth". The project intends to enhance interregional cooperation between Europe, Middle East and Africa promoting a multilevel governance towards more peaceful and inclusive societies.

Within the project, specific actions aim at improving the dialogue among youth stakeholders on issues related to sustainable development and global democratic citizenship through peer-learning, networking and partnership building.

The “Universities”

Within the Youth Cooperation Programme, the [Network on Youth and Global Citizenship](#) is a partnership gathering youth-led organisations, youth platforms, governmental and intergovernmental institutions from Europe, the Southern Mediterranean, Africa and Latin America.

The Network encourages the definition of a common agenda and the implementation of common actions to foster democratic participation and global citizenship, whilst upholding the principles, values and standards of the Council of Europe and of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Every year the Network promotes “Universities”: international youth events where different youth-led and youth-oriented organisations have the possibility to run their own activities (meetings, training, seminars...) within a multilateral cooperation context.

Since 2000 the “Universities” represent an international hub, gathering hundreds of youth stakeholders for one-week (students, young people, youth workers, decision makers, experts from the field, intergovernmental organisations, members of parliaments, representatives from national governments and from local and regional authorities responsible for youth-related policies) to meet, debate, build their capacities and cooperate on youth policies’ issues.

The Universities are based on the bottom-up approach for the development of the global youth agenda and aims at involving all the actors in networking, peer education, knowledge sharing initiatives and design of common advocacy strategies. A video illustrating the format and the approach of the Universities is available [on this link](#).

The Meta-University 2021

The Meta-University is a new initiative of the NSC, launched last year as an alternative to the traditional on-field universities, in order to keep working on youth cooperation and youth participation in these challenging times.

Please check the report and the final video of the previous edition [on this page](#).

The Meta-University was developed as a new means to gather international youth stakeholders and advance the global youth agenda, being aware that the key elements of the Universities (the richness of 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, among others) 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”. 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”.

The Meta-University 2021 is designed as a platform to ensure interaction, peer-learning and partnership-building among players of the youth sector at global level, reducing the side effects that a disintegration of physical connections might bring to young people.

For four days and through a variety of activities, interactive tools and informal gatherings, participants at the event will explore the impact which the digital shift boosted by the pandemic brought to the youth sector. In particular, **the Meta-University will contribute to explore and reply to the following questions:**

1. In the current scenario where international mobility is limited and where countries are taking measures to control the pandemic, looking primarily at the national context, how can global citizenship and international solidarity still be promoted as fundamental elements for social cohesion and to guarantee the respect of human rights?
2. How to efficiently promote intercultural dialogue and work on cross-cultural mutual understanding online?
3. Which are the measures that international networks of young people are putting in place to keep working together and keep up the global agenda connected to the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and of the “Youth, Peace and Security” (YPS) agenda?

Organize an online activity in the framework of the Meta-University 2020

Organisations wishing to take part in the Meta-University 2021 can propose an online activity (webinar, workshop, lecture, group brainstorm, roundtable, etc.) to integrate the programme of the event bearing in mind that:

- the activity must be promoted and organised by youth-led/youth-serving organisations or other entities having young people as the main target group;
- the activity must have a global or regional scope, either in terms of the participants or its contents;
- the activity must seek gender balance and consider the inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations in the composition of the participants;
- the organisations can promote one or more activities, also in partnership with other entities;
- each organisation is responsible for organizing its own activity in terms of content and approach (objectives, methodology, trainers, guest speakers, size of the groups etc.);
- each organisation can decide whether the activity is open or closed:
 - Open: activity open to anyone wishing to participate, with an eventual selection in case the organizer intends place a limit to the group size.
 - Closed: activity involving only participants coming from a particular constituency and internally selected by the promoter.
- The event’s working language is English but an interpretation service in different languages for partner activities is available upon request;
- The event will take place within a fully equipped digital platform where different interacting and participatory tools can be integrated respecting the highest standards of security and privacy.

The activities should focus on one of the following macro topics connected to the three questions above mentioned:

- Global citizenship, social cohesion and human rights amid the pandemic.
- Intercultural dialogue and work on cross-cultural mutual understanding online.
- Interregional youth cooperation for SDGS and YPS agenda.

All activities will be placed within one or more slots dedicated to partner activities as described in the following table.

Meta-university 2021 TIMETABLE			
Tue 19 Oct	Wed 21 Oct	Thur 21 Oct	Fri 22 Oct.
11:00 - 13:00 Getting to know each other and exploring the platform	10:00 - 12:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>	10:00 - 12:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>	10:00 - 12:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>
	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 Official Opening + Joint session on Question 1	14:30 - 16:00 Joint team warm up + Joint session on Question 2	14:30 - 16:00 Joint team warm up + Joint session on Question 3	14:30 - 16:00 Final plenary for Knowledge sharing and partnership building
16:00 - 18:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>	16:00 - 18:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>	16:00 - 18:00 Partners activities <i>(one or more in parallel)</i>	16:00 - 18:00 Interactive evaluation and participants-led sessions
The timetable follows the Lisbon time			
<p> Activities promoted by organisations who applied through the present call for activities. The activity could last one session only or more (up to six sessions).</p> <p> Plenary sessions with guest speakers organised by the North-South Centre where all organizers and participants converge to explore, on each day, different key-questions of the Meta-university 2021.</p> <p> Informal dynamic moments led by the Meta-University's team of facilitators (Joint team) for peer-to-peer education and intercultural dialogue.</p> <p> Space for pre-designed asynchronous activities, self-navigation and participants'-led interaction.</p> <p> Throughout the duration of the event an "Expo area" will remain open: in there everyone can open a virtual stand to share video, projects and publications and interact through a private chat.</p>			

During the five-day programme, participants will have the possibility to:

- ✓ expand knowledge and build 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 and facilitated group interactions;
- ✓ mingle in the "Expo area" to know more about the work of other organisations, exchange contacts and video chat with everyone (including those attending other workshops);
- ✓ take the lead of the event by setting up sessions to follow-up ideas or to address relevant issues not covered by the official programme of the event.

All these features are meant to encourage a maximum interaction and networking within a comfortable but structured digital space.

Submission of proposals and commitments of the selected organisations

Organisations wishing to take part at the Meta-University 2020 and run an activity within its framework must **submit a proposal through [this online form](#) by the 23 August 2021.**

All selected partners will closely collaborate for the success of the event and are expected to respect the event's timeline scheduled as follows:

Deadline to submit activities' application	23 August
Communication of the final selection	3 September
Kick-off meeting with all selected partners	7 September at 15:00 (Lisbon time)
Partners providing to the NSC with elements for their call for participants	14 September
General meeting with all partners	27 September at 15:00 (Lisbon time)
Technical briefing on the digital platform	4 October
Preparatory meeting with all staff members and trainers involved in all activities	12 October at 15:00 (Lisbon time)
Implementation of the activity	18-22 October
Submission of the final activity report	14 November

Enquiries and further information:

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