

## CALL FOR ON-LINE ACTIVITIES to be organised in the framework of the **Meta-University 2020**

4-5 November 2020

### The North-South Centre and the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity of the Council of Europe - or North-South Centre (NSC) - was created in 1989 with the purpose of spreading in Europe and beyond the universal values upheld by the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy and the rule of law through intercultural DIALOGUE, interregional PARTNERSHIP and GLOBAL SOLIDARITY.

**The North-South Centre raises awareness on global interdependence, ensure spaces for networking and promote capacity building initiatives with the final aim of empowering civil society, in particular youth and women, to play an active role in the democratic multilevel governance structures.**

The Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre provides capacity, networking and confidence building opportunities to increase youth participation and foster interregional cooperation on youth policies for sustainable development.

**Within the Youth Cooperation Programme, the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship is a partnership facilitated by the North-South Centre that gathers youth-led organisations, youth platforms, governmental and intergovernmental institutions from Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and beyond.**

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

**Every year the Network promotes international youth events called "Universities".**

### The "Universities"

The "Universities" are framework 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" represents an international hub gathering for one week hundreds of youth stakeholders** (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.

So far, the North-South Centre, together with the partners gathered in the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship have organized:

- 20 editions of the University on Youth and Development (UYD) in Spain.
- 7 editions of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (Meduni) in Tunisia.
- 7 editions of the African University on Youth and Development (AUJD) in Cape Verde and Kenya.
- 10 editions of the Latin American University on Participation and Citizenship (UPC) in Uruguay.

## The 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”**.

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.**

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

- 1) Organisations wishing to take part at the Meta-University can propose an on-line activity (webinar, workshop, lecture, group brainstorm, roundtable discussion, etc...) to integrate the programme of the event bearing in mind that:
  - the activities must be promoted and organised by youth-led/youth-serving organisations or other entities having young people as main target group;
  - organisations can participate with one or more activities, also in partnership with other entities;
  - each organisation is responsible for organizing its own activity both in terms of contents (objectives, methodology, trainers, speakers) and participants (disseminate the call and select the participants).
- 2) **The activities should be focused on one of the following macro topics:**
  - The Youth sector amidst Covid-19 pandemic <sup>1</sup>
  - International cooperation and multilevel governance for Youth, Peace and Security <sup>2</sup>
  - Youth for peace and strong institutions <sup>3</sup>
  - Youth and international solidarity <sup>4</sup>
- 3) All activities must:
  - have a global or regional scope, either in terms of the participants or contents;
  - seek gender balance and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the composition of the group of participants;
  - **take place within the time period between November 4<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 am and November 5<sup>th</sup> at 17.00 pm (Lisbon time).**

## Technical specifications for the on-line activity

- Platform: Hopin
- Working language of the platform: English
- The activity can accommodate hundreds of participants but only 10 people at the same time are visible on screen (those ten people may vary during the meeting).
- The platform allows to each activity to create a specific chat room, to share screen, to create surveys with closed-ended questions and to appoint “moderators” who allow people onto camera and add/remove people.
- The ‘Expo’ area of the platform allows everyone to share information about their work through video presentations and text presentations.

More about the platform:

Hopin user's guide <https://support.hopin.to/en/collections/2208985-hopin-user-manual>

Meet Hopin video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpErMqMyNN4>

Attendee experience <https://www.loom.com/share/f4c080393c7d476f96c6bc5083592b32>

Event creation in Hopin <https://www.loom.com/share/335ba3a9da5945bdbb0df28e5002930c>

Speaker Tutorial <https://www.loom.com/share/e4060ade7ae44bbd845fd449add7805a>

**A tutorial session on how to operate within the platform will be held in advance with the responsible person of each selected activity.**

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<sup>1</sup> in line with the [outcomes of the meeting](#) of International Stakeholders active in the field of Youth

<sup>2</sup> in line with the [results of the seminar](#) "Enhancing interregional and interregional and multilevel cooperation to support local youth engagement in peace processes"

<sup>3</sup> in line with the [CoE contribution to the SDG16](#)

<sup>4</sup> in line with the [#Solidaction campaign](#)

## Networking and interaction among participants of different activities

Participant and organizers, besides follow their own initiative during the specific timeframe set for their activity, will be able for the entire duration of the Meta-University (approx. 40 hours) to:

- take part in the joint moments;
- interact with all the people involved in the other activities through dedicated spaces and sessions;
- enter in the “expo area” and visit the “digital stand” of each partner organizations where it will be possible to access documents, see videos and interact with the responsible persons through a dedicated chat room
- enjoy joint interactive moments and a musical performance of Ubunda!

## What is provided by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe acts as the coordinator of the Meta-University 2020 on the behalf of the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship, collecting, connecting and coordinating the efforts of all the partners of the event.

In particular, the NSC will provide:

- ✓ free access to a fully equipped professional digital platform where all the events will be hosted respecting the highest standard of security and privacy;
- ✓ the general framework for the different activities happens at the same time within a common architecture that will allow and encourage joint sessions, networking, one-to-one exchanges, visits to the expo areas etc...
- ✓ large outreach and visibility to all activities through the development of media products and a coordinated communication approach.

## Submission of proposal 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 1 October 2020.**

All selected partners will closely collaborate with the organizers for the success of the event and are expected to respect the event’s timeline and its deadlines as follow:

Deadline to submit application	1 October 2020
Communication of the final selection	7 October 2020
Briefing meeting with all selected partners	12 October 2020
Technical briefing on the digital platform	16 October 2020
Preparatory meeting with all staff members and trainers involved in all activities	27 October 2020
Implementation of the activity	4 and 5 November 2020
Evaluation of the event	12 November

**Enquires and further information:**

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

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