

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



ONE WORLD,
OUR WORLD
#solidaction



European Centre for Global
Interdependence and Solidarity

2020

REPORT of ACTIVITIES

CONTENTS

Introduction	2
The North-South Centre	4
North-South Centre response to COVID-19	5
Activities.....	11
Involvement in partners' events.....	22
Social media presence	24
Financial statements	25

Introduction



I am pleased to have joined the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in October 2020, proudly succeeding to my dear colleague Ambassador José Velez Carço, who deserves my personal recognition and gratitude. His commitment and achievements leading the Centre are also greatly reflected in this report.

I cannot refer to 2020 without mentioning the major health emergency we are facing worldwide. This year compelled us to adapt to new circumstances and the North-South Centre was able to transform most of its programmes and activities to the new paradigm.

The NSC launched the #SolidAction campaign: One World, Our World, in response to the pandemic and to highlight solidarity initiatives led by individuals and civil society groups in different parts of the world.

The Women Empowerment programme reunited a group of young experts from both the North and the South to reflect on multiple discrimination and intersectionality while tackling today's most pressing issues such as poverty, racism, disabilities, and gender-related imbalances.

In that arena, the pandemic not only is likely to slow down progress towards ending gender-based violence but it is also worsening the situation of women and organisations advocating for their rights. To fight this challenge, the NSC awarded eight grants to civil society organisations from the Southern Mediterranean to fund their work in protecting victims.

Young people under so-called 'lockdowns' who are out of school are highly vulnerable to being harmed and to put their future at risk. Many of those, once compelled to drop out of school, will most likely never return. This grounds roots to inordinate problems in societal structures and it consequently digs the inequality gap.

One of the main concerns of the North-South Centre is how this crisis is affecting the youngest, particularly when it comes to access to education and lack of job offers and future perspectives.

As this year the NSC Youth Summer Universities could not take place, the Centre, in coordination with its network partners, developed an online Meta-University to reduce the side effects that a disintegration of physical connections is having on young people. Its sessions addressed pressing issues such as: the youth sector amidst Covid-19 pandemic, international cooperation for Youth, Peace and Security, and youth and international solidarity. Despite its success, the experience confirmed that what makes the richness of those vital activities are the face-to-face intercultural encounters, the effectiveness of non-formal education, the experiential learning, the networking opportunities during informal moments, and they

cannot be replaced by any digital initiative or online tool. The North-South Centre continues developing different scenarios to keep working on youth cooperation and participation during this unsettling period.

In these troubled times, it is vital to keep cultivating conscience on Global Citizenship and Sustainability. In November, during the Global Education Week 2020, under the motto 'It's our world, let's take action together!', five grants were attributed to initiatives to raise awareness on global development education in Europe. Moreover, a new e-learning scheme on Global Education is currently under preparation and it is expected to be launched mid 2021, building on the new version of the Global Education Guidelines

In December, as the epilogue of the #SolidAction campaign and on the 70th anniversary of the European Convention of Human Rights, the Lisbon Forum 2020: 'Learning from our global challenges: Enhancing Solidarity' was held online. Thanks to its virtual format, the Forum reached out beyond its usual constituents and offered even broader participation and strong commitments on education and citizen's global consciousness; addressing vulnerabilities through intersectionality; and intergenerational dialogue and environment protection.

For the first time in a hybrid ceremony, the 2019 North-South Prize was awarded, also in December, at the Portuguese Parliament, to Tunisian activist Nabila Hamza for her strong commitment to the protection of human rights and women's rights namely for her contribution to the improvement of Tunisian family law; and to Leoluca Orlando, Mayor of Palermo, Italy, in recognition of his efforts to support the integration of migrants and the reinforcement of human rights and rule of law at the local level.

As COVID-19 sweeps across the globe, we endure an unprecedented crisis that is having an impact on us all in different ways. The only way to put an end to a tragedy of this nature is by a global coordinated effort to find a universal response to it: we call for solidarity amongst states and peoples – this is how interdependent our world is and how relevant and vital the NSC's mandate remains. We live in an interdependent world and we rely on all to fight this calamity.

The world is everyone's. Everyone is accountable for everyone.

"One world, our world".

Jorge da Silva Lopes

Ambassador

Executive Director of the North-South Centre

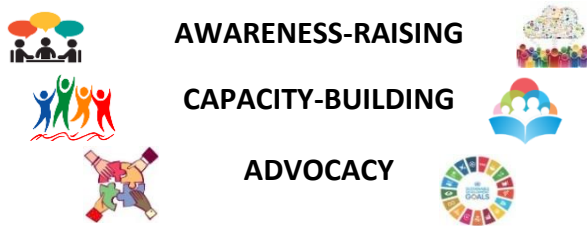
The North-South Centre

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 INGOs 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.

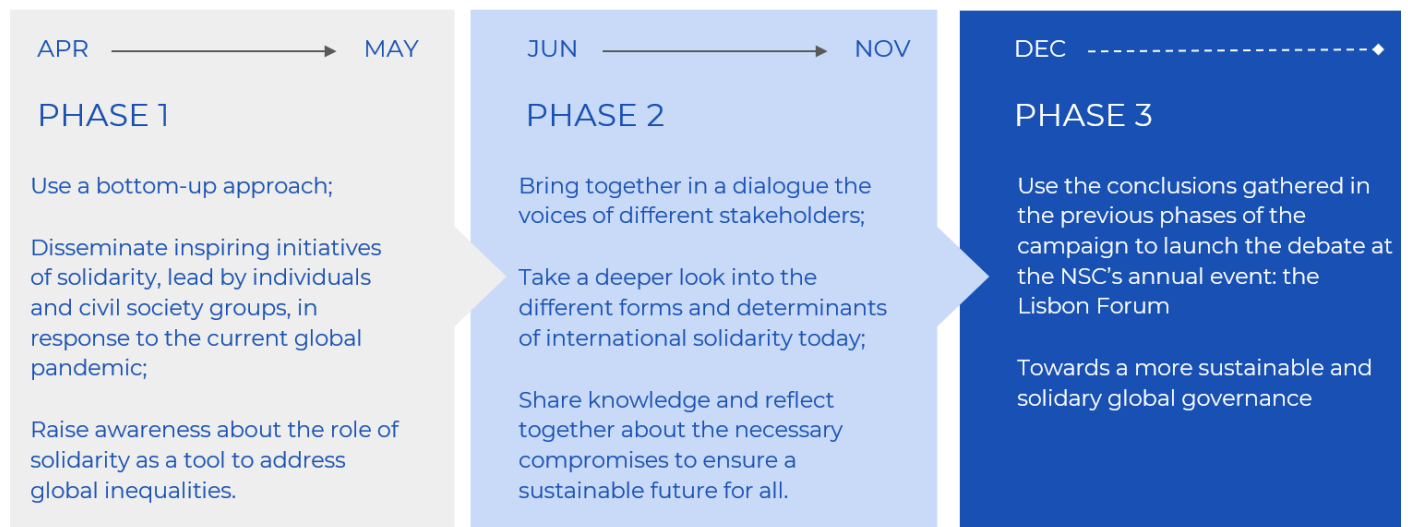
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

North-South Centre response to COVID-19



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 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, according to the roadmap below. The campaign reached out 200 000 people on social medias only.



In a first step, the campaign disseminated 17 inspiring and exemplary initiatives of solidarity on the ground to open the conversation, followed by five interviews.



The video-interviews launched a reflection around international solidarity today, its scope, its values, its main agents, and its effectiveness.

INTERVIEW # 1
SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL SOLIDARITY: FROM INDIVIDUAL TO COLLECTIVE RIGHTS
WITH
KATHRYN GWIAZDON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND LAW

INTERVIEW # 2
KEY ACTORS OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: A GENDER LENS
WITH
HIBAAQ OSMAN
FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF KARAMA

INTERVIEW # 3
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
WITH
SHYAMI PUVIMANASINGHE
AUTHOR & ADVOCATE ON INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, HUMAN RIGHTS & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTERVIEW # 4
THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA TO FOSTER SOLIDARITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE
WITH
KAARINA NIKUNEN
PROFESSOR OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION, AND AUTHOR

INTERVIEW # 5
INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING: THE GATEWAY TO INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
WITH
LOTTIE CUNNINGHAM WREN
INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST, FROM NICARAGUA

In its following phases the campaign brought together different stakeholders to take a deeper look into solidarity in a context of globalisation and the conditions required for its development and sustainability, reflecting together about the necessary compromises to ensure a sustainable future for all.

Two webinars took place:

 **WEBINAR | 17.09.2020**

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
Its changing face: how to harness the best from the new equality and social justice movements?

GUEST SPEAKERS:



Giuseppe Palmisano
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL RIGHTS



Avril Benoit
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS USA



Raúl Acosta
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

 **WEBINAR | 19.11.2020 | 15:00-16:30 CET**

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
Which paths to guarantee long-lasting changes?

GUEST SPEAKERS:



João Marecos
LAWYER AND ACTIVIST
SPECIALIZED IN MEDIA LITERACY (PORTUGAL)



Latifa Akharbach
PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF AUDIOVISUAL COMMUNICATION (MOROCCO)



Mbuki Mburu
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OFFICER AT PAWA 254 (KENYA)

As the epilogue of the #SolidAction campaign and on the 70th anniversary of the European Convention of Human Rights, the Lisbon Forum 2020, placed life, people, and the planet at the core of a debate under the theme: “Learning from our global challenges: Enhancing Solidarity”.

This year’s event reached out beyond its usual constituents and offered even broader participation and potent commitments. Spanning over three days with over 1045 viewers, the Lisbon Forum saw a myriad of diverse virtual panels, exhibition booths of partners, Ubuntu talks, expert workshops and a musical concert; conveying the synchronized messages and commitments by governments, national parliaments, local and regional authorities, civil society and other key stakeholders from across the globe for unified action to enhance solidarity.

A large panel of actors brought their insights to this event to answer the question: How can we enhance international solidarity’s impact in order to ensure a more sustainable and unified future?

Concrete responses through three specific problematics linked with the NSC programmes were heard in three thematic workshops:

- Education and citizen’s global consciousness,
- Addressing vulnerabilities through intersectionality,
- Intergenerational dialogue and environment protection.

Lisbon Forum outreach



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 were transposed to online 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.



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.

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 online 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 staff 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. During the meeting, the North-South Prize new regulations were also approved.

The North-South Centre 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, which was presented by the Chair at the GR-EXT.

Bureau meeting

28 September, KUDO online

The role and visibility of the NSC was highlighted during this challenging time, especially the #SolidAction campaign. The Chair and members of the Bureau highlighted the continuous efforts of the NSC in adapting to the COVID-19 situation and adapting to online features and new instruments, acknowledging the staff exertions to get to know these tools and transform the traditional activities of the NSC to online formats. He referred to the Lisbon Forum 2020 whose format was adapted to the new reality as well as the Universities on Youth which were transformed into a Meta University.

The four ongoing programmes were presented (on page 8) as well as the vast calls for grants and activities. The new Consul of Morocco was introduced, being his first statutory meeting of the NSC. The interim report of activities was commended due to its innovative format. The Chair thanked the outgoing Executive Director for his efforts during his mandate, briefly introducing the incoming Executive Director, former Ambassador to Croatia.

The voting for the North-South Prize 2019 was postponed to allow more time for members to analyse the nominations and discuss the background of the profiles received. The ceremony of the NSP 2019 did not take place due to the COVID-19 situation and alternative dates/means were shared.

Executive Committee meeting

13 November, KUDO online

The Executive Committee confirmed the Laureates of the 2020 North-South Prize.

The Chair reported on his political representation commitments since 30 June namely the meetings with the Secretary General and the President of PACE, where he participated with Ambassador Beglitis, Chair of the Committee of Ministers during the Greek Chairmanship; the bilateral meeting with the President of the ECHR; his intervention at the Committee of Ministers meeting on 8 July to present the NSC vision paper, strategic priorities, the #SolidAction campaign and his participation at the Informal Meeting of Ministers of Education on 29 October.

The Executive Director shared information about the NSC alignment with the CM Helsinki decisions to reinforce the role and participation of civil society in and beyond Europe:

17 Grants to Civil Society Initiatives in order to:

- Reinforce the protection for victims/survivors of gender-based violence in Southern Mediterranean countries
- Promote Global Education in Europe and North-Africa
- Support international solidarity initiatives worldwide (the #SolidAction award)

2 Interregional virtual platforms connecting participants all over the world to enhance:

- Youth cooperation: Meta-University
- Solidarity in governance: a virtual Lisbon Forum

Gathered 6 young experts addressing intersectional discrimination faced by women and girls in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

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 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; and the national coordinator of the NSC GE network.

Through plenary and working sessions, participants:

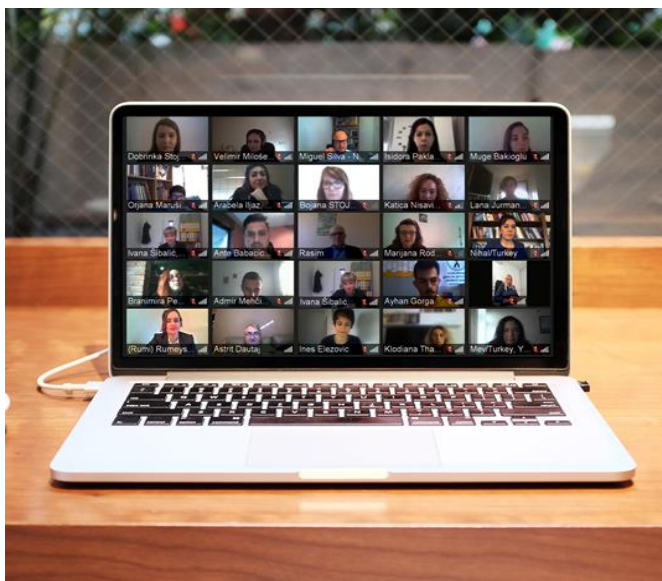
- reviewed the state of advancement of professional development of and pedagogical support to educators and institutional stakeholders at national and regional level;
- assessed the impact of sanitary contingencies due to Covid 19 pandemic and mitigation measures put in place;
- defined regional needs 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 in July for hiring a service provider for the development of the new e-learning scheme on Global Education to be hosted on the Council of Europe's HELP platform. The selection was done in October.

Meetings were held with the service provider to define the structure and content of the new eLearning scheme, as described in the project concept note, and agree on the timeline for the completion of the first course, to be delivered within the first semester of 2021.

The scheme 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.



Grants attributed for the development of initiatives in the framework of the Global Education Week 2020

Five grants were attributed following a call which was launched for grants for the development of initiatives in the framework of the Global Education Week (GEW) 2020.

The annual GEW took 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). Visuals and support materials ([webpage](#), [toolkit](#) and pedagogical resources) were updated through a consultation process with the [GE network](#) in preparation of the GEW 2020 edition.

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.



Project name	Implementing organisation	Overall objective
Fun GEeeks	Centre for Youth Work (CZOR) – Serbia	The overall objective is to raise awareness about global development education in Serbia through youth participation in new, creative and innovative way of education and socialization through the development of an interactive awareness-raising quiz.
Virus-resistant global education	Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid	Provide GE ammunition for teachers and CSO partners in the time of pandemic to tackle issues related to the 5 development pillars (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships)
Pan-European Conference on Global Education	STEP Institute – Slovenia	Empower teachers to use methods of participatory learning in global education
Address the elephant	Youth for Exchange and Understanding Cyprus	Build awareness towards SDGs in the local community as a whole and to give young people the courage and motivation to speak up about climate justice and sustainability in a creative and peaceful/non-violent manner, through on-site and on-line awareness-raising actions.
The spiral of the smartphone	CCFD-Terre solidaire delegation du Lot et Garonne – France	To question the impact of our digital lifestyles through one of our favorite objects: the smartphone. Through this project the project questions the energy and time devoted to this everyday accessory through two axes: the tool, its production and its use.

SEE-Med Experts meeting

22 October, online

30 practitioners and decision-makers from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Slovenia, jointly discussed the challenges due to COVID19 pandemic and the contribution of Global Education in this context.

Participants focused also on the opportunities and the ways that different stakeholders and practitioners can work together to put forward GE as a solution-oriented process in times of crisis at national and regional level. Based on the regional state of play on GDE, and through plenary sessions, the state of advancement of professional development of educators, pedagogical support to educators and institutional stakeholders were shared.

Balkan Experts meeting

26-27 November, online

43 practitioners and decision-makers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey discussed existing perspectives and further developments on the concept and practice of GDE - taking into consideration the challenges arise in the context of to the current pandemic situation and the contribution of GDE in this context - focusing on the competences development and pedagogical support of practitioners and decision-makers, and on awareness-raising and networking.

Youth cooperation

Meetings of the Network on Youth and Global Citizenship

28 April, 16 September, 9 December

The **Network on Youth and Global Citizenship** is a partnership coordinated by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe that gathers 12 among youth-led organizations, youth platforms, governmental and intergovernmental institutions from Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and beyond.

The meetings provided the space for young people and representatives of youth-related public institutions to come together to share their initiatives, exchange resources and discuss around youth democratic participation in view of joint initiatives in this field.

More in particular, the three meetings of the year 2020 were directed towards:

- the analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the youth sector identifying common challenges among network members;
- the re-design of new plan of action and relative reallocation of the resources for the implementation of the “Global youth” project;
- the sharing of good practices and lesson learned about digital youth work and e-participation in view of more impactful on-line initiatives;
- The monitoring of the Africa-Europe Youth cooperation initiatives, including the Africa-Europe youth summit 2020 (finally cancelled) and the drafting of a new joint project to relaunch the interregional cooperation.



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

4-5 November, online

The North-South Centre is 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, difficult to replace by digital initiatives and online tools .

Therefore, following the cancellation of the on-field universities (UYD and MedUni), it was launched a Meta-University* to keep working on youth cooperation and youth participation.

Considering the pandemic crisis 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

Following this ratio, the “Meta-University” was built as multilevel event allowing different opportunities of participation: all partners and participants had the possibility to:

- build new skills by taking part in one or more of the partners’ webinars;
- address the current key issues of the youth sector by following the plenary sessions focused on the global youth agenda;
- connect with other peers while enjoying informal gatherings such as online coffee-breaks, dynamic group chats, musical sessions and others facilitated group interactions;

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

- mingle in the “virtual youth fair” to know more about other organisations and build synergies;
- take the lead of the event by setting up new sessions to follow-up ideas and address other relevant issues not covered by the event

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.

Hence, the event became 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.

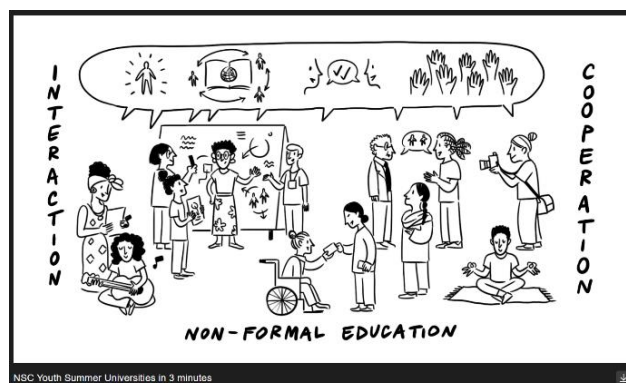
A video-report of the vent is available [here](#) and a shorter version for social media [here](#).



PROGRAMME OF THE META-UNIVERSITY	
Partners' sessions	
Organisation	Title of activity
Consiglio Nazionale dei Giovani (Italy)	Mediterranean resilient cities: youth-friendly approach
Consell Nacional de la Joventut de Catalunya (Spain)	#Unfollow gender violence in the Mediterranean
International Falcon Movement - Socialist Educational International (International Network)	COVID-19 and Violent Extremism – Youth as stakeholders for conflict transformation and shaping peaceful societies
UNDP & Observatoire National de Jeunesse (Tunisia)	Sustainable Development Goals sensemaking camp
Digital Grassroots (Pan African network)	Resetting Digital Rights Amidst the Covid-19 Fallout
Plenary sessions by the North-South Centre	
Title of the sessions	Organisations contributing to the panel discussions:
The youth sector, the Covid-19 pandemic and the shrinking of civil space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe UN Major Group for Children & Youth Advisory Council on Youth - Council of Europe United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) National Youth Council Portugal (on behalf of the Youth Forum of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries CPLP)
Digital youth work: exploring possibilities, pursuing engagement, ensuring quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth department of the Council of Europe Network of International Youth Organisations in Africa (NIYOA) Dypall Network (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level)
Africa-Europe youth cooperation: a multilevel coordination for a sustainable governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Youth Forum African Caribbean Pacific - Young Professionals Network (ACP-YPN) The African Diaspora Youth Forum in Europe (ADYFE) Commonwealth Youth Council
Music and youth workers: heal the world by connecting young people across regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ubanda (musical collective from UK, Portugal and Ghana)
Connection cafe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital facilitators from Greece and Tunisia

Explanatory “scribing” video of the University

With the purposes of promoting the “Universities” and make more clear to a wider audience the approach, the values, the objectives and the format of this unique events, it was produced a [video](#) recurring to the scribing technique: simple animated draws graphically explaining complex ideas.



Women Empowerment

Core group of 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 is 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 is contributing to develop an awareness raising strategy and actions targeting attitudes, norms, and behaviours that help sustain a stereotyped vision of women.



Progress was made with the core group long the year namely the draft of a regional analysis and key recommended actions on intersectionality, the awareness efforts to improve the understanding of the notion and multiple discrimination during the Union for the Mediterranean Regional Forum, exchanges with the African Union youth envoy and the Lisbon Forum, where a workshop took place on “Addressing vulnerabilities through intersectionality”. The workshop explored the application of an intersectional approach to vulnerability reduction and how to raise awareness on the unequal impacts of crises on women and girls. It counted with the insights of the core group.

Communicating on intersectionality

Two initiatives to improve communication and knowledge on intersectional discrimination are underway:

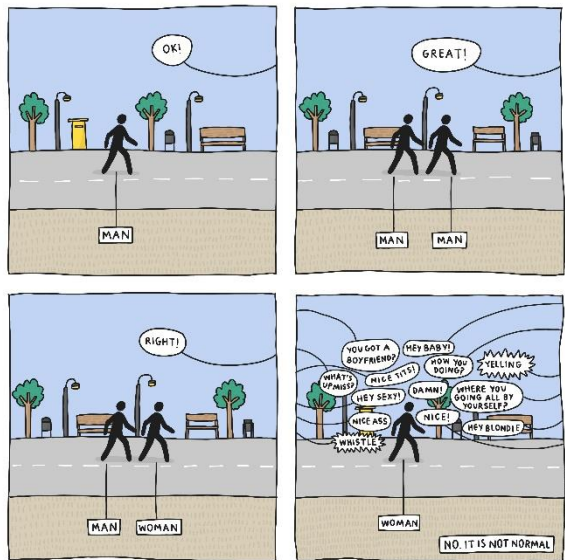
1) Launching of a survey in early 2021 whose main objective is to increase knowledge on intersectionality through the active participation in it that will foster reflection. It will also help to gather data and testimonies, being a valuable input for the development of a multi-layered awareness-raising campaign on intersectionality. Making it accessible and user-friendly is essential for reaching the widest possible audience. The survey is done and reviewed by an expert from the North and an expert from the South, assuring that intersectionality is mainstreamed from its conceptualization and design phase.

2) training for journalists and media professionals to be developed by COPEAM, on how to include an intersectional perspective in communication and journalism. The activity will take place 2021. and will be addressed to professionals from the EMEA region.

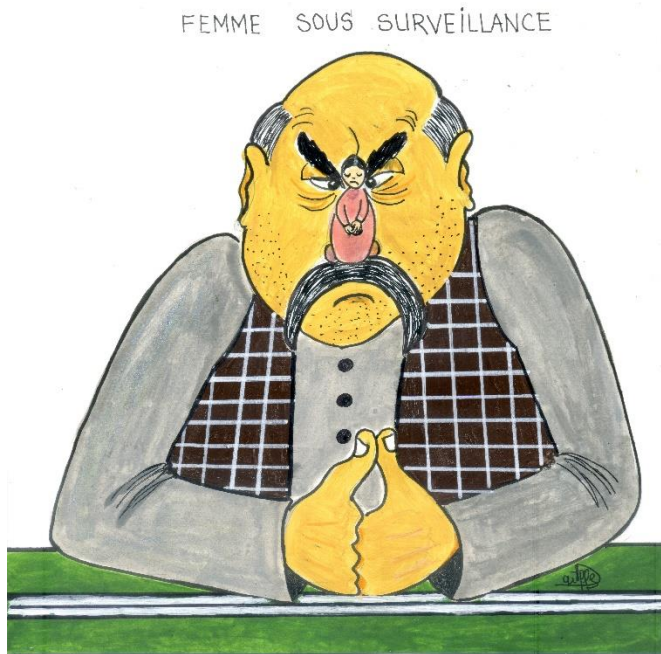
"It's not normal" campaign

Joining the UN campaign "16 days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence", the North-South Centre is developing a campaign that raises awareness on the (de)normalization of violence against women and girls.

It consists on the publication of several different cartoons/comic strips representing various forms of violence that very often are not even identified as violence, leaving no place for combatting it. The cartoons are made by women artists from Zimbabwe, Sudan, Spain, Colombia and Algeria, young and more experienced, who work upon different topics such as son preference, sexual harassment or forced marriage, always on the ground of intersectionality.



©Laura Árbol



© Daiffa

They were published in the Social Media platforms of the North-South Centre on different days, linked by the tagline "It's not normal". It was complemented by the publication of initiatives, videos and other resources linked to the topic of the campaign. Also, some cartoonists recorded themselves on video explaining their artwork, and this content was also shared. The campaign had limited scope, but it helped in opening a debate on the normalization of violence in different parts of the world, that makes gender-based violence a "shadow pandemic", and on how it interacts with intersectional discriminations.

Addressed to young people, this campaign relies not only in the North-South Centre audience but, also, in the artists engaged, that will act as multipliers within their own networks, reaching out to a further audience and engaging with the artistic sector in promoting an intersectional approach to gender-based violence.

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

From 1 March to 30 June, the North-South Centre participated in preparatory meetings organised by the South Programme IV 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.

The South Programme IV "Regional Support to Reinforce Human rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean" is a joint initiative between the European Union and the Council of Europe over the period 2020-2022 with the objective to support democratic reforms in the Southern Mediterranean region.

Since July 2020, a regional grant scheme has been articulated. In September 2020, a call for proposals was launched. It was addressed to Civil Society Organizations working on the protection of victims of gender-based violence in the Southern Mediterranean countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

71 applications were received from 7 countries. 8 organisations were selected to receive a grant of €6 000 for the implementation of their project. Moreover, the selected organizations will participate in a training on the Istanbul Convention.



This training, which is currently being developed, is tailored to the needs of CSO working in the Southern Mediterranean, and it will be an online training that will also count on the participation of government officials and experts from the Southern Mediterranean, being an opportunity to create synergies and foster relations between the official institutions and CSO.

The training will be complemented by the publication of a handbook for Civil Society Organizations working in the Southern Mediterranean. The handbook was developed during 2020 by a group of experts in gender equality coming from the Southern Mediterranean, and it is currently being revised.

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)



on trainer Fire HILMI ARICA (C... Albina Ovceare... Julia Cristina Law

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

In the framework of
25 YEARS 1995 - 2020
BARCELONA PROCESS
Union for the Mediterranean



13 October, online

COPEAM Television Commission Meeting, joint to the Cinema/Festival/Culture Commission meeting

22 October, online

High-level launch of the OECD Report “Governance for Youth, Trust and Intergenerational Justice: Fit for all Generations?”

29 October, online

“Learning to live together on an equal footing in culturally diverse societies – Finding mutual paths for inclusion”



2 November, online

4.7 Policy Working Group - Bridge 47 Network

14 November, online

PLATFORMA 8th webinar in the framework of the annual European Days of Local Solidarity

20 November, online

International seminar “Buildbackbetter: the imperative of Global Citizenship Education. A multi-stakeholder online seminar on how to bring SDGs in European Schools”

24-25 November, online

“The future of EuroMed civil society +25 5th UfM Regional Forum”

Webinar
Development Education and Awareness Raising
Tuesday 17 November 2020 - 10.00-11.30 CET
Registration: <https://bit.ly/36zdH18>
Interpretation: French, English and Spanish
#LocalSolidarityDays
#DEARProgramme

12 December, online

“Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in the MENA Region: The importance of Intra and Inter-regional cooperation”
MENA Coalition on YPS

14 December, online

“Regional Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security in the Arab States” **UNFPA**

15 December, online

Training course “Human Rights Education and Youth Participation for Euro-Arab Dialogue”
Youth Department of the CoE

16 December

Autumn session of the Conference of INGOs

16 December, online

4.7 Policy Working Group Kickoff - Bridge 47 Network

Meet our speakers

The importance of Intra and Inter-regional cooperation on YPS Agenda.

Facilitator



Graziano Tullio

Centre for global interdependence and solidarity of the Council of Europe



Olla Allsakkaf

Yemeni youth activist and specialist in YPS Agenda, Yemen



Nidal Ben Ali

President of Moroccan LYCN, Morocco








@mena4yps

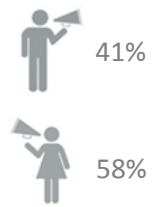
info@mena4yps.org
www.mena4yps.org

Social media presence & website






FACEBOOK

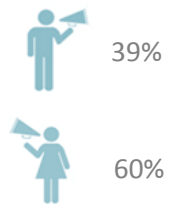
By the end of 2020 the North-South Centre **Facebook page** had a total of 8 150 fans and a total of 8 279 followers.

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








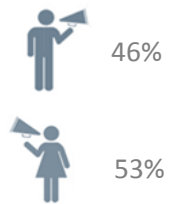
The group of fans and followers of the Global Education network **Facebook page** reached a total of 3 523 fans and 3 558 followers.

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








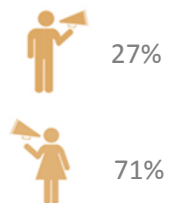
The Global YOUTH **Facebook page** of the Youth Cooperation Programme has reached a high of 10 425 followers and 10 279 fans.

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



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

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



Twitter: 1991 followers

Number of visits on the North-South Centre website:

Global Education 3469 visitors

Women Empowerment 3655 visitors

Youth Cooperation: 937 visitors

North-South Prize 2600 visitors

Lisbon Forum: 842 visitors

#Solidaction 1969 visitors

Financial statement

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (January-December 2020)

Article	Source	Amount
9999000	Contrib Member States	483,000.00
9999007/10	Voluntary contributions (Member States and other)	193,106.55
9999011	European Union	468,912.00
9999030	Financial Products	3,591.88
9999200	South Programme III dotation	200,000.00
9999040	Other Receipts	102.00
9999110	Risk Provision	7,700.00
	Total	1,356,412.43

Article	Type of Expenditure	Budget	Spent / Committed (1)	Unspent
0000001	CDI Staff	96,400.00	93,239.04	3,160.96
0000003	Temporary Staff	194,800.00	192,484.74	2,315.26
0000013	Secondements	1,000.00	609.39	390.61
0000263	Activities financed by VCs and EU funds (2)	862,018.55	288,681.50	573,337.05
0000378	Contributions to Council of Europe OB	26,100.00	26,100.00	0.00
0000379	Contributions to Pensions	17,600.00	17,600.00	0.00
6511001	Running Costs	53,000.00	41,353.60	11,646.40
6511002	Programme Expenditure	97,793.88	90,559.36	7,234.52
9999110	Risk Provision	7,700.00		7,700.00
	Total	1,356,412.43	750,627.63	605,784.80

Group of Expenditure	Budget	Spent / Committed	%
Staff Costs	343,600.00	330,033.17	43.97%
Programme implementation	959,812.43	379,240.86	50.52%
Running Costs	53,000.00	41,353.60	5.51%
Total	1,356,412.43	750,627.63	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 this financial statement. Final and certified figures will be presented in the 2020 Financial Statements and Budgetary Management Accounts that are still under preparation by the Treasury, Payments and Accounting Department of the Council of Europe.

2) The figures presented for activities financed by EU and VC funds correspond to the total budget and to the total expenditure since the start of the project. EU joint programme(iLEGEND II) will end on 23 October 2022, SPIV on 28 February 2022 and the 3 VCs projects on the 31 December 2021.



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/>

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

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

March 2021