

# NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

NSC/EC(2023)4 – 2023 Programme of Activities



European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity



The **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND SOLIDARITY**, more commonly known as North-South Centre, is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe created in November 1989.

The North-South Centre (NSC) was the result of a European public campaign which aim was to raise public awareness of the complex structural relationship which affected European and Southern countries, and to promote policies of solidarity.

The North-South Centre has over 30 years of experience in raising awareness about global interdependence and solidarity on the principles of global education (GE) and intercultural dialogue. It provides a platform for constructive dialogue between Europe and other parts of the world from a win-win perspective.

The North-South Centre gathers people from different backgrounds and cultures to learn from each other and together build stronger, more resilient, and critically aware societies grounded on the values of human rights, democracy, and equity. In doing so, the North-South Centre acts as an interface of the Council of Europe in Europe and abroad, a window to the South, and an instrument of its policy towards neighbouring regions.

The North-South Centre develops multilateral, regional, and interregional cooperation projects that include field activities around three main topics: global education, youth cooperation and women empowerment. The main mechanisms of intervention are:

- **Advocacy and confidence-building:** encouraging a structured dialogue among elected representatives and other sectors of society to act on legislation for everyone to enjoy their universal rights in a more sustainable planet.
- **Capacity building:** expanding expertise, knowledge and critical understanding through dialogue, peer education and intercultural learning.
- **Awareness-raising:** spreading the message that every individual has a role and responsibility in building inclusive and sustainable societies.

The activities of the North-South Centre gather four main partners: governments, parliaments, regional and local authorities, and civil society. The latter is especially relevant to the work of the North-South Centre, which aims at taking its lead from experiences at the grassroots level by empowering, supporting, and working hand in hand with civil society, in particular with women and youth organisations.

## STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

Socio-economic inequalities, aggravated by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, are not only at the root of today's global threats but they also contribute to polarise societies and erode social cohesion. The rising tide of populism, nationalism, and xenophobia, the dangers and complexity of the abuse and misuse of information, or the micro-level trend that privileges local versus global, are compromising the capacity to rely on a critical and united society who engages in combating common challenges. In response, the North-South Centre contributes to promote human rights-based policies hand in hand with a culture of inclusion, democracy, and mutual understanding. Yet this process is never complete: our rapidly changing societies demand the continuous nurturing of the values, attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and policy makers to hold a constructive dialogue and to make the decisions that ensure a sustainable future for all.

Over the period between 2022-2025, the North-South Centre will put emphasis on the four strategic axes set in its Vision Paper on the occasion of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary<sup>1</sup>:

- strengthening the Council development and human rights, rule of law and democracy;
- contributing to intercultural and intercivilisational dialogue;
- interaction with the Euro Mediterranean diplomatic architecture and being a useful tool of the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions;
- contributing to promote Council of Europe's conventions.

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1 «European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity : Looking ahead»  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/north-south-centre/30th-anniversary>

As well as in the following priorities:

- **Education towards an active global citizenship:** by strengthening the competences of educators, trainers and youth workers in the formal and non-formal sectors, so they can relay to learners/beneficiaries the skills and values needed for a democratic culture and critical citizenship in an interdependent world.
- **Human rights and equal treatment by combating discrimination:** by raising awareness and encouraging action to combat multiple discrimination and intersecting inequalities, including those related to the abuse and misuse of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), with a strong focus on the promotion of intercultural dialogue as a tool for sharing democratic values and safeguarding peaceful and inclusive societies and on the promotion of gender equality and on combatting violence against women and girls.
- **Fighting growing socio-economic inequalities at the root of global challenges:** by providing insights about the socio-economic negative impact of environmental degradation, climate change and loss of biodiversity, seeking to raise awareness and commitment to systems of sustainable production and consumption and promote the economic, civic, social, and cultural inclusion of the most vulnerable groups, with special attention to women, youth and children.
- **Supporting the role and diversity of civil society acting on transnational issues, including human rights defenders:** by empowering NGOs within and outside Europe.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND INDICATORS

Indicators of the immediate outcomes	Target 2025	Milestone 2023	Annual Baseline
Immediate outcome 1 – Beneficiaries from targeted organisations/institutions, in particular from civil society, gained knowledge, competences, and tools to improve critical understanding and better engage in combatting global threats and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.			
Number of people trained (online and onsite).	>300	>200	160
Evidence of the broad diversity of the people engaged in the outputs produced (e.g. 50% men – 50% women and depending on the activity/project: at least 2 parts of quadrilogue represented; most countries per target region represented including South-East Europe (6), Visegrad (4), SEE Mediterranean (6), Baltic (3), South Mediterranean (8); at least 30% participants from Africa).			
Number of good practices exchanged.	>50	>25	15
Percentage of participants who considered the activity adapted to their expectations/needs.	>80%	>80%	>80%
Percentage of participants who declared having increased their knowledge.	>70%	>65%	>65%
Percentage of participants who declare to have used the knowledge gained in practice.		>80%	
Number of projects supported that took into consideration gender equality and intersectional inclusion criteria. (All call for grants set clear criteria to assess gender equality and intersectional inclusion factors in the proposals).			
Indicators of the intermediate outcomes			
Beneficiaries from targeted organisations/institutions, in particular from civil society, change methods by applying and sharing the knowledge, skills and tools in their professional practice and relaying them.			
Evidence of changes in methods of beneficiaries from targeted organisations/institutions to improve critical understanding and better engage in combatting global threats and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.			
Evidence of commitment of member States to global interdependence and solidarity (including through new accessions to the enlarged partial agreement).			

JOINT PROGRAMMES CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

## INTERCULTURAL LEARNING EXCHANGE THROUGH GLOBAL EDUCATION, NETWORKING AND DIALOGUE (iLEGEND III)

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December 2022 - December 2026

The project seeks that citizens - in particular young people - from the EU, candidate and potential candidate countries are empowered and actively engaged in safeguarding sustainable development and confronting global challenges and inequalities at local and global level. It does so by promoting global education as an interdisciplinary approach that supports learners with the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to reflect, understand, and assume individual responsibility for social, ecological, political, economic, and ethical issues of common concern. The project aims to enhance interregional co-operation to build bridges between the European youth and youth from partner countries; better integrate global education into formal and non-formal education sectors; reinforce the capacities of strategic stakeholders; and raise public awareness of the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals, the European Consensus for Development and everyone's co-responsibility to achieve those goals.

## SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP TO COMBAT GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN (South Programme V)

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September 2022 - September 2025

The project is integrated in the fifth phase of the South Programme: Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean.

The project aims at enhancing civil participation and regional cooperation in the Southern Mediterranean by supporting dialogue between Civil Society Actors (CSAs) and public authorities and by supporting the capacities of the latter to combat global challenges.

It seeks:

- to enhance the capacities of CSAs in the region - with emphasis on youth CSAs - to address global challenges through common tools and responses based on European and international standards.
- to support civic participation by promoting cooperation, confidence-building and dialogue among various actors in the definition or revision of policies to improve practices that contribute to address global challenges.

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

### PEACE YP: PROMOTING EURO-AFRICA COOPERATION TO ENHANCE YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR PEACE

Voluntary contribution from Spain, Malta and Portugal

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January 2022 - December 2024

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of youth civil society in their efforts to build peace and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through a more coordinated and inclusive Euro-Africa interregional cooperation, as well as enhance interregional youth cooperation to foster cross-sectorial policies and multilevel governance. It will do so through designing training courses, organising grant schemes, an African University on Youth and Development, and an annual meeting in the *Europe Middle East Africa* region.



### ALL INFORMED ALL CONCERNED: PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

Voluntary contribution from Spain and Portugal

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January 2022 - December 2023

The project intends to raise awareness of the negative consequences of global digital inequalities, communication biases and media misrepresentations. It will do so by creating a platform of intercultural amplifiers/influencers - journalists, media agents and social media influencers - to promote diversity through an intersectional approach, as well as by setting up a mechanism to produce an annual analytical report that will feed into the annual campaigns of the NSC and the Lisbon Forum, contributing to relaying the issues to decision-makers.



# FLAGSHIP EVENTS

## THE NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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*June 2023 (tbc)*

*Target group: Decision makers, civil society organisations (CSO), local and regional authorities and parliaments.*

The North-South Prize is awarded each year since 1995 to two candidates who have stood out for their exceptional commitment to promoting North-South solidarity. The candidates, preferably a man and a woman, must have distinguished themselves in the following areas: protection of human rights, defence of pluralist democracy, public awareness raising on issues of global interdependence and solidarity.



## THE LISBON FORUM

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*November 2023 (tbc)*

*Target group: Representatives of governments, civil society, local and regional authorities, parliaments and international organisations.*

The Lisbon Forum is an annual distinctive platform for dialogue for policy makers and activists from around the world on issues related to global interdependence and solidarity. It allows networking, sharing of knowledge and mainstreaming of good practices among people from different areas of expertise who can work together on solutions to respond to global challenges.



## JANUARY

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### **CAMPAIGN DEVELOPMENT**

ALL INFORMED ALL CONCERNED:  
PROMOTING DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

*January-December*

*Target group: Citizens in Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

At the beginning of the year, in consultation with groups in situation of vulnerability, researchers, professionals in the information, culture and media sectors, the NSC will identify a theme to raise awareness on a specific situation of intersecting inequality and discrimination.

The campaign will include at least two meetings with an Intercultural Platform of Influencers to amplify its outreach and a workshop (side-event to the Lisbon Forum) to exchange good practice and knowledge on the subject.

## MARCH

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### **ONLINE TUTORED COURSE: GLOBAL EDUCATION AND MEDIA (ILEGEND III)**

*6 March to 2 April*

*Target group: Education practitioners and media professionals mainly from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

The tutored online training courses aim at going deeper on the knowledge and competences of different dimensions of Global Education with specific target groups. The training course on GE and media seeks to:

- reflect on Global Education, its concept, principles and methodology;
- explore the concept of Media Literacy, its link with Global Education and its impact on society;
- develop specific competences focused on Media Literacy and Global Education for practitioners;
- promote networking among participants involved in global awareness-raising or educational actions.

### **THE EURO-MED CIVIL SOCIETY LAB**

HOW TO REINFORCE A  
MEANINGFUL, EFFECTIVE AND  
SUSTAINABLE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN  
DEMOCRATIC REFORMS?  
(SOUTH PROGRAMME V)

*15 March*

*Target group: CSO representatives from Europe and MENA.*

The Euro-Med Civil Society Lab will be a space for knowledge-exchange where youth representatives from civil society from the region will have the opportunity to discuss about the challenges they are facing in the work they are doing now, among other, vis-à-vis the thematic of the South Programme V. They will reflect on how they may need to evolve and incorporate new actors and strategies to adjust to the complex challenges - old and new - that are most impactful to their well-being and livelihoods.

The Lab will provide the participants with the opportunity to brainstorm and integrate proposals for the future work of the South Programme and the NSC to address the suggested needs and challenges regarding human rights, democracy and rule of law with the participation and full engagement of young people.

## MAY

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### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL EDUCATION NETWORK**

(ILEGEND III)

*16 and 17 May*

*Target group: National Coordinators of the Global Education Network.*

Annual meeting of the Global Education Network of Coordinators: i) to assess national progress on the year before, ii) to evaluate the preceding Global Education Week and agree on the priorities and roadmap for the next one, iii) to share feedback on the progress and upcoming milestones of iLEGEND III.



## **GLOBAL EDUCATION THEMATIC SEMINAR** (ILEGEND III)

18 May

*Target group: Formal and non-formal educators; quadrilogue representatives; NSC institutional partners (Bridge47, CONCORD, GENE, UNESCO); NSC beneficiaries/networks of GE/Youth cooperation and Women programmes mainly from Europe, Middle East, and Africa.*

Annual thematic seminars with the aim at gathering a multi-stakeholder audience to exchange knowledge and practice on a GE issue of common concern. The topics of the seminars follow the recommendations put forward by the 2022 Pan European Congress (June 2022) and the 2050 Global Education Declaration and the consultation carried out within the GEN to collect their feedback with a view to iLEGEND III.

The seminar happens back-to-back with the annual meetings of the GEN.

The 2023 thematic seminar will focus on the reinforcement of competences of education practitioners to manage intercultural and interfaith diversity with their students.

## **JUNE**

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### **GLOBAL EDUCATION EXPERT TALKS** (ILEGEND III)

June

*Target group: Education practitioners and policy officers mainly from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

iLEGEND III foresees a series of short online expert talks to reinforce practitioners' knowledge on specific topics such as: resilient behaviors and crisis resolution, creating local actions, implementation of the SDGs, or inclusion and social cohesion, among other potential topics identified as relevant by the beneficiaries during the implementation of the project.

## **MEDUNI**

SOUTH PROGRAMME V

5-11 June

*Target group: Students, youth workers, youth leaders, policy makers in the youth field, experts in youth policies Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

The Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) is part of the North-South Centre's network of youth summer universities. Since 2013, the MedUni represents an opportunity to explore the concept of global citizenship education, to encourage dialogue between decision makers and young people, to advocate for youth participation and to empower young people towards their rights and duties.

The MedUni aims:

- to provide training and capacity building for hundreds of young people and Youth Civil Society Actors (YCSAs) from across the Mediterranean region and the Middle East.
- to promote youth work and youth participation in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean.
- to foster political mainstreaming of youth related issues and youth policy development in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean based on shared experiences and Council of Europe and other international standards and mechanisms, considering regional needs and quadrilogue initiatives.
- to encourage participation of young people in decision and policy making by promoting their involvement and interaction in quadrilogue initiatives.
- to foster Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation as well as Global Youth Work, consolidating the development of networks that serve as trans-Mediterranean communities of practice.
- to mainstream human rights, intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship as essential dimensions of global education and the work with young people, in the framework of Euro-Mediterranean Youth Cooperation.

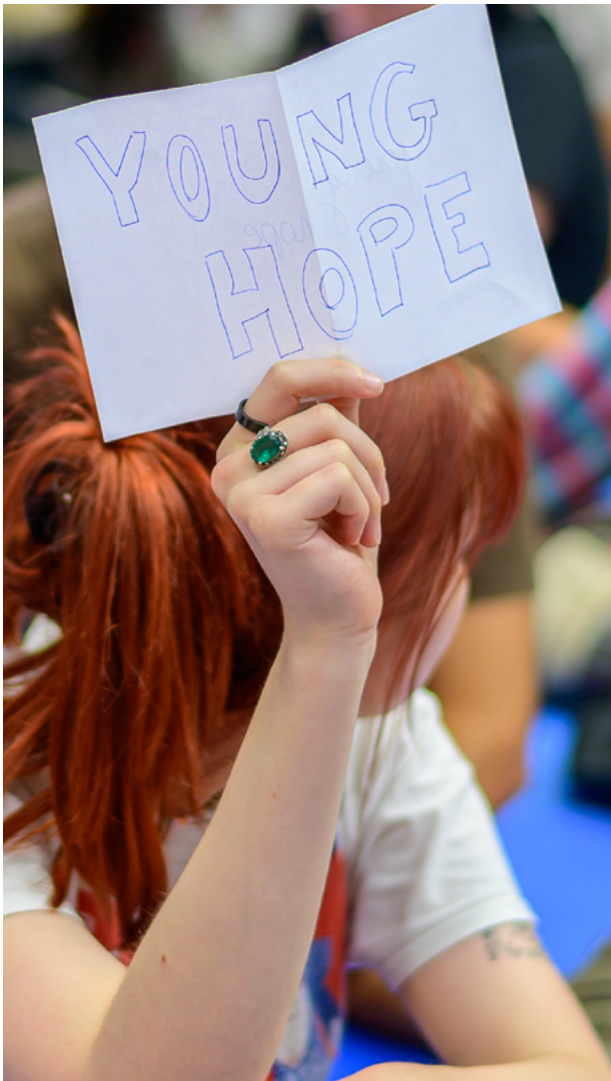
## **TRAINING COURSE ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY: PARTICIPATION**

PEACE YP

*June (in the framework of the MedUni)*

*Target group: Youth associations, youth-led organisations, grassroots youth initiatives from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

Residential training course on Youth, Peace and Security developed through the Council of Europe's human rights approach and focused on the pillar of "Participation" of the UNS-CR 2250 linked to the contribution of young people to the SDG16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions".



## **SEPTEMBER**

### **LAUNCHING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEED FUNDING SCHEME FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

PEACE YP

*September*

*Target group: Youth associations, youth-led organisations, grassroots youth initiatives from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

The seed-funding scheme will sustain five youth-led grassroots initiatives in the EMEA region to localise the Agenda 2030 while expanding the space for youth civil society. The grant scheme is accompanied by several supporting actions:

- two meetings of grant beneficiaries to build a community of practice, exchange of lessons learnt and support follow-up plans among grants' beneficiaries following a global approach.
- one external evaluation study will be commissioned to reports and assess the impact of the projects implemented in order to provide reliable data for follow-up project and partner's advocacy actions.

### **UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

(ILEGEND III)

*18 September to 24 September*

*Target group: Students, youth workers, youth leaders, policy makers in the youth field, experts in youth policies from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

The youth Summer Universities are a week-long youth event integrating multilateral capacity building activities carried out by several partners from different regions, following a peer-to-peer educational approach. The University is built around a rich common programme fostering intercultural dialogue and encouraging networking and exchange of good practices between partners and young participants who come from different regions of the world.

The overarching annual theme of the universities addresses the role of young people to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and their engagement in the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda.

## **ANNUAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION**

PEACE YP

September

*(in the framework of the UYD)*

*Target group: Youth associations, youth-led organisations, grassroot youth initiatives from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

An informal but structured recurrent meeting gathering the most relevant players of the youth sector to share their work, identify common priorities, explore synergies and promote more coordinated and inclusive youth policy development processes.

## **ONLINE TUTORED COURSE: INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE (ILEGEND III)**

18 September to 15 October

*Target groups: Members of Civil Society Organisations and Faith-Based Organisations; Media professionals; Education practitioners in the formal and non-formal sector. From the 46 Council of Europe Member States plus Algeria, Cabo Verde, Morocco and Tunisia (North-South Centre Member States). A quota is available for citizens from other countries.*

Objectives:

- to introduce concepts, principles and methodology of Global Education, Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue and explore the interrelations among them.
- to analyse relevant notions related to GE and Intercultural dialogue / interfaith dialogue such as discrimination, racism, majority/minority, inclusion/exclusion, etc.
- to develop competences, based on Global Education, in order to defuse and recognise potential conflicts and actively promote a culture of peace and non-violence and mutual understanding between peoples of different cultures and religions.
- to promote networking among participants involved in global awareness-raising or educational actions on Intercultural-Interfaith Dialogue, in the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **NOVEMBER**

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### **GLOBAL EDUCATION WEEK (ILEGEND III)**

13 to 19 November

*Target group: Students, youth workers, youth leaders, policy makers in the youth field, experts in youth policies mainly from Europe, Middle East and Africa.*

The annual Global Education Week is a Europe-wide annual campaign involving a broad spectrum of stakeholders and a large variety of activities (debates, workshops, training sessions, campaigns, etc.) that contributes to largely raise awareness about global development issues in schools and with young people in the EU member States, candidate and potential candidate countries.



## REINFORCED COOPERATION WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE POLICY TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

During its 132<sup>th</sup> session, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Council of Europe's member States meeting in Turin in 2022 stressed that the NSC is a key instrument of the Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Policy and, more globally, of the Organisation's contribution to international order and global governance, as well as to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Against this background, in September 2022, the North-South Centre was administratively transferred to the Directorate of Political Affairs and External Relations (DPAER) and more recently its capacities have been reinforced by giving the regional co-ordinator of the neighbourhood policy with the Southern Mediterranean the responsibility to supervise the work programme of the NSC as regards the Southern Mediterranean region and foster synergies with the South Programme and other relevant co-operation activities implemented by the North-South Centre in the region.

Based on the above developments, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe has proposed to develop a new strategy aiming to further ensure relevant synergies between the work carried out in the Southern Mediterranean as part of the Council of Europe Neighbourhood Policy and the action of the North South Centre in this region. Such synergies will result in maximising the impact of activities and of financial resources available in common areas of work. In the medium-term it should also contribute to raising the profile of both the NSC and the South Programme.

During the next two years the Centre and the regional coordination team of the neighbourhood policy with the Southern Mediterranean will work closer together to further consolidate co-operation in response of global challenges. The work programme responds to three dimensions:

- Reinforcing areas of convergence
- Establishing new synergies
- Exploring new fields for future work





Besides reaching out to young people in its Programmes, the North-South Centre also offers traineeships which are a career-development opportunity for nationals of non-member States of the Council of Europe, members of the North-South Centre, such as Algeria, Cabo Verde, Morocco, Tunisia, and those from Council of Europe member states. The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe ensures a monthly flat-rate grant as well as an insurance coverage.

Applications for traineeships are only open for specific periods, depending on the session the candidates wish to apply for.

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North-South Centre  
of the Council of Europe

Rua São Caetano, nº 32  
1200-829 Lisboa  
Portugal  
nscinfo@coe.int  
Tel: +351 213 584 030

