



UNIVERSITY  
ON YOUTH AND  
DEVELOPMENT

## Focus Group: Diaspora Youth in Europe

*Within the 17<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development*

CEULAJ, Mollina (Spain) 21 – 24 September 2016

### 1. Youth Co-operation and Global Education at the North-South Centre

The European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, more commonly known as the North-South Centre, was established with the purpose of promoting dialogue between North and South, fostering solidarity and raising awareness of global interdependence. Its objective is to empower civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue and global education (GE) to play an active role in member States and neighbouring regions.

The objective of the Youth Co-operation strand of the activities of the NSC is to promote youth participation through training and capacity-building courses aimed at young people and youth organisations to promote their understanding of Global Development Education (GDE) issues and facilitate their participation in decision and policy-making processes at all levels of governance.

This work is developed in close co-operation with youth-led and youth serving organisations, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership and other relevant institutions working in the youth field.

In the context of a rapidly rising global youth population, young people must be at the centre of the post-2015 vision for sustainable development. Ensuring the active participation of youth in issues of peace and development is a demographic and democratic imperative. In this sense, GDE advocates for a rights-based approach of development and change. The right to participate in development and in policy-making at all levels and for all people is an important aspect of this. Youth participation is at the same time a pre-condition and an objective for the change the NSC seeks to promote.

The concept of Global Education (GE) has been promoted by the NSC for an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach in all aspects of interdependence based on active and participative methods. The GE strand of the activities of the North-South Centre promotes, improves and intensifies this type of education in CoE member States as well as on a global level by:

- involving stakeholders in promoting principles and concepts of GDE in policy-making and curriculum development by dialogue and networking;
- providing educators and youth multipliers with training opportunities so that they gain competences and tools to promote and disseminate principles of GDE to students and young people;

- disseminating good education practices and methodologies, thereby equipping educators and youth multipliers with relevant tools to increase commitment of students and young people to global interdependence such as the [Global Education Guidelines \(GEG\)](#); and
- raising knowledge and understanding of GDE issues among students, young people and general public.

With these objectives in mind, the NSC acknowledges that youth organisations have the expertise, pedagogical approach and capacity to reach out to and raise awareness among young people in their communities. Youth organisations are unique knowledge producers and education providers, in formal, non-formal and informal settings. The NSC activities respond to this reality and youth co-operation and GE are tied together through a complementary series of e-learning and residential training courses to promote the human rights, intercultural and democratic citizenship dimensions of GE targeting educators, policy-makers, youth leaders and youth activists.

## 2. iLEGEND: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (2016-2019)

On 25 July the Council of Europe and the European Commission signed a new Joint Management Agreement. This action will seek to build upon the successful experiences of previous Joint Management Agreements between the NSC and the European Commission (2009-2012 and 2013-2015) to raise awareness of global interdependence and solidarity through Global Development Education (GDE) and youth cooperation in Europe and beyond. It will also raise public awareness and understanding of GDE issues and will disseminate best practices and expertise.

For the next three years, the "iLEGEND, Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue", will foster inclusive and equitable quality education to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, mainly through global development education and intercultural dialogue.

The implementation of this project is undertaken by the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (the NSC) that has implemented two Joint Management Agreements, which are de-facto the predecessors of the present project:

1. 2009-2012: "Raising European public awareness of global interdependence and solidarity through global/development education", DCI-NSA/2008/168-814,
2. 2013-2015: "Raising awareness of global interdependence and solidarity through global/development education and youth cooperation in Europe and beyond", DCI-NSA/2012/302-241

The **overall objective** is to strengthen GDE in EU member States and potential EU member States, particularly where it is least established, by promoting dialogue, networking strategies, capacity building and exchange of good education practices in the field of GDE.

### Expected results

- ER1: The involvement of stakeholders in promoting principles and concepts of GDE in policy-making and curriculum development is enhanced through improved dialogue and networking
- ER2: Educators and youth multipliers gain competences and tools to promote and disseminate principles of GDE to students and young people
- ER3: Good education practices and methodologies are disseminated thereby equipping educators with relevant tools to increase commitment of students and young people to global interdependence

- ER4: Knowledge and understanding of GDE issues among students, young people and general public is improved through awareness raising activities.

The objectives of this project are in line with the Development Education Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme of the European Commission. NSC activities planned for this Action will be implemented in “quadrilogue” format, bringing various actors of governance together to inform European citizens of pressing development issues, and to raise awareness and critical understanding of the interdependent world and of their role and responsibilities in it. The Action aims at mobilising public support to bring about change, while taking global reality into account. In addition, it supports public active involvement in global attempts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights and sustainable ways of living.

*More information about the iLEGEND project in the log-frame attached.*

### 3. Diaspora youth: key dimension of the iLEGEND project

Globalisation brought about a dramatic increase in the volume and scope of international migration. This mobility is transforming societies and cultures, creating diasporas and developing transnational identities — the feeling of belonging to two or more societies at once. Community links are forming between peoples across the globe. Migrant social networks span the globe, thus facilitating further migration. However, despite all the economic and intellectual potential those migrants contribute to in both, their country of residence and their country of origin, we are often exposed to binary stereotypes of migrants as victims or criminals and in Europe we see day-by-day a rise in anti-Semitism, islamophobia and hate speech, as well as high levels of discrimination and xenophobia. The large-scale arrivals of asylum seekers in the recent years create an even more urgent need for interventions that promote tolerance and cohesion in line with the values of global/development education. In shattering negative stereotypes, diasporas play a prominent role.

As a bridge between their countries of residence/origin, diasporas contribute positively to both countries. They are not only a cultural, economic and political bridge but they are prominent actors in development too; they have a long-standing tradition of economic support towards the people living in the country of origin. At the same time, they are partners for the promotion of democratic values and human rights; diasporas play a significant role in democratic change since they are usually eager to promote in their countries of origin the values they consider positive in their countries of residence. They can also play a relevant role in fighting extremists' tendencies.

Their numerous accomplishments must be seen as success stories of double integration; success stories which encourage both the countries of origin/destination to view migration not as a problem but as a common ground, offering tremendous opportunities for dialogue between different countries and cultures . In fact, governments at both ends of the migration cycle increasingly recognize that diasporas play a unique transnational role as catalysts and connectors between countries of origin and destination, and for better development outcomes. And since decision-makers cannot build inclusive societies alone, they must engage with civil society actors such as diaspora/migrant organisations and associations.

In this context, special attention needs to be paid to the role of young migrant and diaspora youth. Young people are most directly affected by globalisation (weather positive or negative) and they are at a higher risk of being excluded or marginalised. Additionally, in the concrete case of diaspora youth, for instance, the different generations of immigrants often grow up in some kind of identity gap, neither connected to the hosting country, nor to the home country anymore. Learning from the experiences of diaspora youth/young migrants' communities/organisations can make valuable contributions to integration policies and support global/development education.

Building up from previous successful experiences with youth leaders of Diaspora – specifically African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe – the NSC will continue to develop the work with groups of Diaspora youth and young migrants who have proven to be crucial actors in the promotion of global/development education, representing for the hosting societies an immense richness in terms of global education, human resources, intercultural opportunities and possibilities for relationship with the sending societies. For that purpose diaspora youth will play a significant role in the iLEGEND<sup>1</sup> project with concrete actions to be developed in the next three years.

#### 4. Focus group: Diaspora Youth

Given the relevance that diaspora communities will play in the implementation of the iLEGEND project during the next three years and as part of the preparatory phase, the NSC is gathering a group of young experts who could contribute to narrow down the specific objectives and the main activities targeting diaspora youth in Europe in order to design a relevant flow for the upcoming three years.

Bearing in mind the overall objective and specific objectives of the iLEGEND project, the focus group mission is to:

- To help to define a specific working methodology that will allow to exchange concrete successful experiences that will contribute to build more inclusive societies in both, EU Member States (countries of residence) and countries of origin by nurturing from concrete successful experiences of diaspora youth/young migrants in Europe.
- To advise and identify strategies and approaches on how to actively involve diaspora/migrant organisations in networking and dialogue platforms that promote principles and concepts of global interdependence/development education in policy-making (at least one workshop with policy-makers/year)
- To contribute to define the basis for a research on mapping of diaspora/migrant organisations in 4 regions: Balkan, Baltic, South-East Europe and Mediterranean and Visegrad regions.
- To provide inputs that will support the design of training activities and awareness-raising activities related to diaspora youth and young migrants in Europe to help promoting understanding of issues of interdependence and global citizenship.

The focus group will gather a group of 5-7 experts from different diaspora background who will meet in Mollina (Spain) between 21-24 September in the framework of the 17<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development under the theme “connecting identities”.

#### 3. Profile of the experts

The profile we look for is as follows:

- Expertise/Background in working with diaspora youth/young migrants;
- Experienced in conceptualising/project management/training/youth work;
- Knowledge about the realities of diaspora youth/young migrants living in Europe and/or of existing networks, and other stakeholders work with such target groups;
- Previous experience in working with the NSC is helpful but not an exclusion criteria;
- Willingness and motivation to participate in the full duration of the experts meeting;

Travel costs, board and lodging of the experts will be covered fully. Transfers from and to the airport of Malaga airport will be assured by the partners of the University.

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<sup>1</sup> Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue

For the duration of your journey and stay, you will be covered by an insurance policy.

For further information please contact [rocio.cervera@coe.int](mailto:rocio.cervera@coe.int)

