

3rd Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe



Hold from the 21st to the 27th of May 2012 in Braga, Portugal, the Training Course was organized by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the African Diaspora Youth Network Europe (ADYNE) and Braga 2012 – European Youth Capital. The Course was an opportunity to strengthen the role of youth leaders and youth workers from the African Diaspora and to empower and promote the capacity to organize, network, take action and foster our political participation in Euro African Cooperation and Global youth Work.

Here is a brief report of this awesome week!

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Programme of Day 1:

Intro to the TC
Getting to know each other
Africa Europe Youth Cooperation and African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe
Building the Group
Our organization and Networking
I'm African Diaspora

The image shows a hand-drawn program schedule for Day 1, May 22nd to 26th. The schedule is organized into a grid with columns for each day and rows for different time slots. The activities and goals are written on sticky notes and include:

DO	22 ND MAY TUESDAY	23 RD MAY WEDNESDAY	24 TH MAY THURSDAY	25 TH MAY FRIDAY	26 TH MAY SATURDAY
9:00	Intro TC GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER	AFRICAN DIASPORA IDENTITIES	REVEALING OUR CONTINENCES AND WORKING TOGETHER	SEMINAR ON AEYC	DISCUSSING AFRICAN DAY
10:00	AEYC ADTNE				AFRICAN DIASPORA YOUTH IN ACTION
11:00	BUILDING THE GROUP	GROUP CHALLENGES OF AFRICAN YOUTH DIASPORA	LUNCH	SEMINAR AFRICAN DIASPORA	SHARING NEXT STEPS AND SYNERGIES
12:00	OUR ORGANISATION AND NETWORKING		SESSION ON DISCOVERING BRAGA		EVALUATION AND CLOSING
13:00		Free	DINNER	CELEBRATING AFRICAN DAY	SEE YOU SOON!

Additional sticky notes at the top of the board include:

- To develop a better understanding of the importance and relevance of the African diaspora in Europe
- To cooperate in a network with others: Job and their projects
- To raise awareness of the importance of the diaspora in Europe
- To get acquainted with institutions, organisations of African youth in Europe
- To reflect upon topics of importance to youngsters: Active citizenship
- To raise awareness of the importance of the diaspora in Europe
- To share thoughts and experiences, connect with the diaspora in Europe
- To develop a better understanding of the importance of the diaspora in Europe

Methodological approach of North-South Center, part of council of Europe:
Non formal education

<http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/>

- Learned centred: we are the engine of the learning and the source of knowledge
- Collective responsibility: you are responsible for the learning of the group
- Use a variety of training methods and approaches
- Learning to learn together
- Learning to live together
- Community of practices and a community of action
- Foster enthusiasm, promote collective action
- Promote importance to diversity and intercultural learning

- Non-hierarchical: the knowledge is in all of us, there are no teachers, no chief, we are all equal

Objectives of the TC

- Strengthen the role of young people from the African diaspora active in youth organization in the hosting societies or leading African diaspora groups.
- Empower and promote the capacity to organise take action and foster their political participation in Euro-African
- To strengthen individual and organisational actions for youth participation and youth leadership
- To develop a common understanding of the situations and challenges faced by young people from the African diaspora in Europe
- To live through an intercultural experience with the opportunity to develop expertise and know-how on intercultural learning
- To reflect upon topics of importance to strengthen active citizenship
- To cooperate in a network with other pax and their projects
- To reinforce the responsibility of participants as multipliers by passing on the training and knowledge
- To get acquainted with institutional framework of Africa Europe youth cooperation

Chronology



- 1998 Youth World Forum**
- 2002 1st Africa Europe training course for youth : Tiago**
- 2007 2nd training course - Lisbon December**
- 07-09 Long term training course**

2009 14st African University on youth end development – Cap vert
2009 1st youth leaders diaspora training course – Almada
2010 2nd youth leaders diaspora training course – Cap vert
2010 Youth summit Tripoli / ADYNE represents Diaspora
2010 2nd Diaspora training course – Cap Vert
2012 3rd Youth leaders training course – Braga Portugal
Now Vision

To know: History of Africa

- *Martin Luther King*
- *Lumumba*
- *Kuwame Krumah*
- *Senghor: Mouvement de la négritude*
- *Approach from the south to the north*
- *Mandela*
- *Most important thing you have is the vision*
- *Most important thing to fight is excellency and manage to not being killed by self-esteem*
- *Myriam Makeba*

Programme of Day 2

African Diaspora identities Common challenges of African Diaspora Youth



Results of the brain storming on the identity of the African Diaspora:

Living in Europe
Attached to Family values
Common History
African origins
Identity crisis
Attached to Religion
Tolerant
Respectful
Integration facilities

African diaspora: people of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent.....” (African Union Charter)

Results of the brain storming on challenges of Diaspora in Europe



Permit of stay
Racism & discrimination
Local political inclusion
Media coverage
Identity crisis
Integration

We have to be represented in different scales of decision to be heard

Debrief of the day with Tiago:

- 1- Political engagement is necessary to make diaspora's voice heard**
- 2- Clarify the identity in order to reach individual freedom**

Programme of DAY 3

Developing our competencies and working together
 Launching Networking possibilities
 Session out discovering Braga
 Debrief session out and preparing contribution for Seminar

Participation in decision making



Results of the brain storming on participation in decision making at different levels: Local, national, international

	Strength	Witnesses	Opportunities	Threats
LOCAL LEVEL Municipalities, Youth councils, Youth forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People willing to volunteer - Support from embassy - Experts on youth/African diaspora - Our municipalities need us (making ourselves available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization structure (responsibilities, ideas) - Lack of participation of members - Lack of initiative/strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with other organization and define common agendas agreement with council/municipalities - Possibility to cooperate with others - Initiatives developed by national/international create opportunities for local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of the organization - Change of government

NATIONAL LEVEL Governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of members - Network - Professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decisions - Lack of resources - Lack of representation - Lack of knowledge - Organization structure - Visibility in taking part - Gender representation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technologies (communication) - National council & forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic and financial - Discrimination
INTERNATIONAL LEVEL European union Council of Europe European Youth Forum YFG African Union Panafrican Youth Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different level of qualifications - Identify as African diaspora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-interested - Lack of political engagement - Lack of structure - Lack of participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange agendas, ideas - Existing institutions & lack of representation in this organization - Associate specific information that we have access to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economic and financial - Discrimination - Decoration of position

This activity's goal was to highlight the importance for the African Diaspora to be organized and represented at difference decision levels in order to make its voice heard.

“What are the opportunities my organization has to enter spaces/structures of decision (local, regional, national, international) so that we can participate in decision making?”

Advocacy

**Imagine that you want to change the housing law in your living country in Europe
List 10 points to do so**

What is the fundamental is non-formal strategy:

- 1- Who's who? (who are your enemies, context)
- 2- Objectives
- 3- Strategies: investigation
- 4- Analyzing the problem
- 5- Designing a network: target people related to your issue
- 6- Identification of the crucial enemy' strategy
- 7- Powerful communication: one voice for not being divided
- 8- Who is against/in favor of the law in the parliament
- 9- Media and Negotiation
- 10- Demonstration at last

ADYNE
Mapping African Diaspora Action

- 1- Divide task into groups
 - a. Personal contact (each person have to give 4 organizations contacts)
 - b. Collect information from the Training Course participants: name + mail
- 2- Collect/contact our own personal contacts
- 3- Send link to Facebook groups
 - a. All groups post in their facegroup + facebook groups + twitter
- 4- Display it on our websites

Programme of DAY 4

**African day:
Seminar on Africa Europe Youth Cooperation
Seminar African Diaspora roundtable
Movie and debate**



During the day of Africa, we had the opportunity to take part on debates with other youth leaders and institutional actors about the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation and on cultural events organized by the North-South Centre and Braga 2012 – European Youth Capital.

Welcome word from Marcos Andrade of the North South Centre of the Council of Europe. He went ahead to list the different problems facing Africans in Europe such as citizenship and African diaspora issue which he says is a recent issue that needs to be addressed. Mr Ricardo Araujo welcomed representatives of both regions. He went ahead to list the problems that youth of Braga are facing which is unemployment. To him, youngsters are not only the future, they are also the present, so they should be included and represented in all levels of decision making so that they will have their say in the process.

The keynote input was given by Dr Helder Jorge Vaz. He felt that for century the relationship between Europe African cooperation has been one from the North to south and this has created different feelings between the people. Europeans have felt like they are civilized and have power over Africans while the later have felt that the only relationship between them is one of exploitation. He continues that the time has come for things to change because both continents are experiencing change. Africa is growing and even though we are still the victims of drought, high prevalence of aids, lack of water and education and everything that Europe already has today.

According to him, the last African summit in Tripoli exposed the frailty of the Africa Europe dialogue even though Africa Europe cooperation is a top priority of the political agenda of the council of Europe. He encouraged this cooperation to be sustainable and stand the test of time. He ended by saying that the cooperation should support immigrants and African diaspora because even Africans who were born in Europe are still stigmatized and discriminated against. We should all fight racism together and promote the legacy of our founding fathers of peace and freedom. The wealth of the euro African relationship lies in our diversity.

He called ADYNE the bridge between Africa and Europe. He called upon everyone in the diaspora to reclaim their space by been represented in the different places of decision making so that issues of African diaspora will be represented.



Tiago Soares welcomed and introduce all representatives and organizations present: African Union, Pan African Youth, NIYOA, ADYNE, YF.

Daniel from the African Union believes the cooperation of Africa and Europe is very important. He believes that Africa is one of the continents that is promoting youths development in recent times. The situation is Africa is still not stable because of the economic hardship that the continent is experiencing. Even though there are south-south cooperation's, he thinks that the Africa Europe cooperation is a very unique one because it has existed for a very long time.

Mandela from the pan African youth union gave his perspective on the challenges that the Africa Europe cooperation has been facing.

What do young Africans want out of this cooperation?

Vania from the European youth forum thinks that the Euro African cooperation has achieved some successes since the initial stages:

- The successes of the afro euro cooperation led to the rise of other cooperation such as euro Arab cooperation's.
- The activities of this cooperation has increased such as seminars, meetings and training
- The projects of inter cooperation has increased
- ADYNE and NIYOA is also one of the results of the Africa Euro youth cooperation's

Challenges?

- Gender issues
- Conflicts and violence affecting young people
- Climate changes and environmental issues
- Youth participation in decision making and development
- To deliver all the promises that the center has promised the cooperation

Mary from NIYOA stated that one of the greatest successes of the network is the existence of NIYOA because it now gives African organizations a platform to discuss common issues.

Secondly, the state funding that African organizations receive have been very helpful

The international cooperation has really increased for instance three international African organizations were present in this meeting.

How have these policies made in all of these meetings been able to be translated to the grass root? Do the grass root people believe in this cooperation?

Ludgero, chair of ADYNE focused his challenge on the issues of African diaspora. He said that the lack of expertise in Africa to make use of the resources that are put made available is a challenge to this cooperation. 70000 experts leave Africa year.

He also thinks that Africa is losing its solidarity and that is also another challenge because without unity, we lose our voice. It is the responsibility for us to represent the interest of other Africans who do not have the opportunity to be here and express ourselves.

How do African Organizations ensure gender equality in this cooperation?

Youth and Women consultation in Diaspora: to address how women in Africa and diaspora can be empowered. "The legacy" project will be adopted today by the head of states. There is still a very big gap at the political level but the opposite is seen at the grass root women. The African volunteer cop had more women applying and getting accepted than the men. Mary felt that the issue is a cultural issue and it will take a long time to change the situation. The challenge is left for women to be proactive and engage in leadership and decision making positions.

How can the African region create instruments that will promote the identity of Africans born in Europe (African Diaspora)?

The discussion was about the ways to make employment easy for diaspora so that they can come back home.

There is also a volunteer crop project with the African union so that Diasporas can volunteer as a way to know their motherland. The reason for creating the volunteer cop is to promote Africans promoting volunteering by Africans for Africa. Today these volunteers are changing the situation of

many people. They are teaching English in schools and working in local communities. It is open for Africans and youths in the diaspora.

Employment, Decent Work and Entrepreneurship

The current employment situation in different countries today is sad. The situation is particularly bad for African Diaspora. Many qualified Africans escape the unemployed situations for brighter future in Europe only to join the brothers in the diaspora who are also qualified but do not have any employment. If at all they find work, then it is menial jobs which are far below their qualifications.

Many European countries are changing laws relating to work and this is affecting many. What we need to do is create a platform and register all the qualified companies and students as well companies. This will give employees and employers the opportunity to work together under internships, volunteering and consequently paid work.

Cecilia proposed that structures like trade Union can be created to take a critical look into the unemployment situations. This can also be a forum to network and have access to information.

To get solutions for these problems, it was accepted that African diaspora in Europe should be divided into two category:

- International African students in Europe
- Africans born in Europe

One of the participants mentioned the fact that the dishonest activities of many international students have a lot of negative repercussions on the laws that are made.

Africans born in Europe have the legal rights to work even though they may face some form of informal discrimination.

There should also be trainings to teach students some professionalism. Most students are qualified academically but they lack the working experiences.

Programme of DAY 6

Debriefing of the African Day African Diaspora in action

How was the African day?

We enjoyed discussing in groups about the challenges youth African diaspora has to overcome. It gave us solutions that we can immediately begin to raise.

We also met institutions we can get in contact with.

The video made by Laurena about the willingness of Diaspora to be heard was very good.

Who were the key stakeholders present?

- 1- Official opening: Very formal, with representatives of different institutions.
 - Hugo Pires, President of the foundation Bracara Augusta (Braga 2012-EYC)
 - Vitor Susa, vice-mayor of the Municipality of Braga
 - Ricardo Araujo, Representative of the secretary of State for Sports and Youth-Portugal, Portuguese Institute of sport and Youth

- 2- Challenges and achievements of the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation
 - Daniel Adugna, African Union Commission
 - Rui Duarte, Board member of European Youth Forum represented by Vania
 - Mandela Kapere, Vice president, Pan African Youth Union (PAYU)
 - Ludgero Gomes Teixeira, Chair of African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe(ADYNE)
 - Mary Wambui Waweru, Network of International Youth Organization in Africa (NIYOA)
 - Marcos Andrade, Programme Manager Youth Cooperation and Euro-African Dialogue, North-South Center of Council of Europe

- 3- Performance



It was very good dancing together for the African day. We had fun together.

4- Premiere of the film “We are like oranges”

To me it was a very long film. I didn’t understand all things but I assume this was a film done for a Swedish public. Only this public could really get it
The speech of Adrian was interesting

How did you use the day to advocacy for African diaspora youth?

- Getting contacts
- Political approach (all of your sense must be open)
- All the time lobbying
- Begin a conversation
- Business cards to give and receive
- Who have the resources?
- Who have the capacity?

African Diaspora Youth in action



*The objective was to create synergies between the youth African leaders who participate to this 7 days training course.
We all presented our organization and start building projects together!*