

The North-South Centre in a nutshell

Enlarged partial agreement of the Council of Europe (21 member states: 16 Council of Europe – Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain and five non-Council of Europe countries: Algeria, Holy See, Cape Verde, Kingdom of Morocco and Tunisia)

Background:

European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, more commonly known as the North-South Centre spreading for more than 29 years the values upheld by the Council of Europe – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – beyond the European continent and working to raise awareness about global interdependence, foster dialogue between North and South and promote partnerships

Mission:

The mission of the North-South Centre is to empower civil society, in particular women and youth, through intercultural dialogue and global citizenship education to play an active role in Council of Europe member states and neighbourhood regions

Objectives:

Political: to contribute to the consolidation of democratic processes promoting Council of Europe's standards and tools; to contribute to Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions.

Geographical: programmes carried out in Council of Europe member states and countries from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

Target groups: ringing together stakeholders from national governments and parliaments, regional/local authorities and civil society organisations (Quadrilogue) to encourage a dialogue between them.

Methodology:

Dialogue through a bottom-up approach
Ownership of the processes amongst our partners
Capacity building with a multiplying effect
Awareness raising
Advocacy

Priority areas:

- **Global Education** – dialogue with quadrilogue stakeholders (with relevant focus from Education Ministries) to strengthen Global Development Education (GDE) through intercultural learning, dialogue and networking in Council of Europe member States (SEEMed, Baltic, Balkans and Visegrad groups) and neighbouring regions.
- **Youth Cooperation:** capacity building of youth multipliers and support to youth organisations and civil society with a view to improving their capacity to become fully fledged actors of governance.
- **Empowerment of Women:** empowering and protecting women at all levels of society, through the promotion and dissemination of Council of Europe tools.

Flagship events

- **North-South Prize:** The Prize distinguishes each year two personalities, one from the north, the other from the south, who have excelled in their commitment to human rights, democracy and rule of law, contributing to the North-South dialogue and interdependence.
- **Lisbon Forum:** an annual event since 1994 that brings together high-level participants from Europe, neighbouring regions and international organisations to discuss topics of common concern in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

Specific dimensions linked to current challenges: working with Diaspora communities in Europe and partnering with young media to tackle digital issues, including the internet of citizens and media literacy

The Centre's acquis, know-how and instruments:

The North-South Centre is an instrument for multilateral cooperation of the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions. Its activities target Council of Europe member states and Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries. Since its inception the North-South Centre has developed a solid network and close partnerships, through its bottom up approach, with representatives of the quadrilogue in Europe and beyond. After its long experience in the field of co-operation between the Council of Europe and neighbourhood countries, particularly in the Southern Mediterranean, the Centre has developed a specific know-how, building up major networks and became a reference point for a whole range of interlocutors

- Concrete example of the Joint Programme with the European Commission renewed for another three-year with the iLEGEND project: Intercultural Learning Exchange through Global Education, Networking and Dialogue (after 6 years of cooperation).
- Multilateral cooperation resulting in Trans-Med networks in particular in the field of women and youth.