

STRUCTURED PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Training Course - 4th edition

Centre de Loisirs et Vacances pour les Enfants, Hammamet (Tunisia)

3-8 July 2017

Within the 5th edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline for applications: 26th May 2017

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Youth Co-operation Programme

Created in 1989, the European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity, or 'North-South Centre of the Council of Europe', was set up with the purpose of spreading the universal values upheld by the Council of Europe (CoE) – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – in Europe and beyond. Since its inception, the North-South Centre (NSC) has been advocating a dialogue between the North and the South, fostering solidarity, creating partnerships, and raising awareness about global interdependence.

The specific mission of the Centre is to empower civil society, in particular youth and women, through intercultural dialogue and global citizenship education, to play an active role in CoE member states and neighbouring regions, notably through its multilateral activities.

To this aim, the objective of the Youth Co-operation Programme of the NSC is to provide training and capacity-building for young people and youth organisations as well as to facilitate their participation in decision and policy making processes.

The Training Course: Structured Participation in Democratic Processes

Background

In 2013, the Committee of Ministers of the CoE entrusted the NSC with a mission in the framework of the CoE's policy towards its neighbouring regions. According to this new mission, the NSC should contribute to the consolidation of ongoing democratic processes in the Euro-Mediterranean region by promoting the principles and standards of the CoE, through comprehensive multilateral actions of regional scope, and by offering a unique platform for dialogue and structured co-operation between all quadrilogue¹ actors.

Recognising the unique contribution and the added value that youth and young people from both sides of the Mediterranean bring to democratic consolidation and development, the Training Course on Structured Participation in Democratic Processes (SPDP), in its different editions, has aimed at providing youth-led civil society and youth activists with capacity-building opportunities to support the development of their competences on the field of democratic citizenship and participation in political life.

¹ The quadrilogue promotes dialogue and action between governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society.

Objectives and Expected Results

The specific objectives are:

- To get acquainted with different principles, tools and opportunities to further develop Structured Participation initiatives and mechanisms in the field of youth policy;
- To exchange views, share challenges and achievements and identify proposals for improving participation channels with representatives of the quadrilogue;
- To foster mainstreaming of the youth-related issues in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean based on shared experiences and mechanisms and in light of regional needs and initiatives;
- To stimulate critical reflection on individual and organisational practices to promote democratic citizenship (participation and representation in decision/policy making);
- To map good practices in the development of youth structures and initiatives to promote Structured Participation in Europe and Southern Mediterranean region;
- To engage young people and youth organisations in the intra and inter-regional co-operation.

Expected results:

- 15-20 young activists are trained and equipped with tools related with Structured Participation;
- Quadrilogue actors are mobilised to participate in panel discussions addressing the target group and tackling relevant themes related to Structured Participation;
- Proposals and recommendations for improved dialogue are put forward by participants;
- Joint actions with other quadrilogue actors or between peers to promote intra and inter-regional co-operation are developed following the training course.

The Framework of the Training Course: the 5th MedUni

The 4th edition of the SPDP Training Course takes place in the framework of the 5th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) organised in collaboration with the Observatoire National de la Jeunesse de Tunisie and in cooperation other youth-led and youth-serving organisations active in the Euro-Arab and Euro-Mediterranean Youth Co-operation.

Based on the idea of global citizenship and identity, the MedUni provides a space where young people and youth workers from both shores of the Mediterranean come together as part of a global youth movement that works for more sustainable and inclusive societies.

The MedUni is part of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship² and is committed to further strengthening youth cooperation through a permanent dialogue between youth organisations and youth-related institutions at regional, multilateral and global level, contributing to the Global Youth Partnership for Development.

Each year, an overarching theme is chosen to connect the different Universities of the Network. In 2017 the theme chosen is “Developing Global Identities”. It would allow participants and political representatives to reflect on how youth organisations and youth work can empower young people as global citizens to celebrate their diverse identities, face their vulnerabilities and unleash their potential to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Global Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.

To get more information about it, you can read the [concept note](#) available on the website of the NSC.

² The Network, created in 2011, currently includes the University on Youth and Development (UYD, Spain) and the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni, Tunisia). The Network also included the African University on Youth and Development (AUJD, Cape Verde and Kenya) and the University of Participation and Citizenship (UPC, Uruguay), not active at the moment.

Methodology

The final programme elements will be defined by the pedagogical team, having into consideration the overall aim, specific objectives, expected results, the profile of participants and the theme “Developing Global Identities”.

The team of experienced trainers from Europe and Southern Mediterranean will be responsible to further design and implement the methodology of the course. In addition, invited guests and experts will provide proposals for reflection and share good practices.

The course is a week-long programme using a variety of educational methods such as: thematic, methodological and political inputs and discussions, new technologies, guidelines and reference documents, simulation exercises, group dynamics, interactive role plays, examples of good practices, etc. The use of experiential methods and workshops will strengthen the practical and pedagogical side of the course.

The training methodology is based on non-formal education and on a number of successful experiences of training for youth workers and youth leaders developed by the NSC. The educational model is largely inspired by [the Global Education Guidelines](#) systematized by the NSC and by the new framework provided by [CoE Recommendation on education for global interdependence and solidarity](#). It will also count with the contribution and experiences of the Education and Training Division of the Youth Department of the CoE and the EU-CoE youth partnership.

Procedure

Profile

Candidates will be considered for the selection phase on the basis of the following eligibility criteria to be fulfilled by the deadline for applications:

- be a citizen from one of the CoE member States or Southern Mediterranean region;
- be between 18 and 30 years old;
- be able to work and communicate in English;
- be supported by one youth organisation/platform or institution

Participants supported by European youth organisations/platforms or institutions with a diaspora dimension are also encouraged to apply.

Candidates selected on the basis of the above eligibility criteria will then be evaluated according to the following selection criteria, which must be clearly specified in the candidate's application form and recommendation letter:

- playing an active role within youth organisation/platform or institution, and plan to continue this work in the near future;
- being highly involved in structures which deal directly with participation and democratic processes at a local, regional, national or international level;
- have already some experience in terms of international youth work and project work;

The selection will be carried out by the North-South Centre and the pedagogical team.

The selection process will seek gender and geographical balance and will assure representation of participants coming from different regions.

Travel, board and lodging

The North-South Centre will issue pre-paid flight round-trip tickets from your country to Tunis. Arrivals are expected on 2nd July and departures on 9th July. Transfers from and to the airport in Tunis will be ensured by the organisers. It is expected that participants/background organisations support expenses related to local transport in the home country, as well as visa costs. Please look for information regarding health and visa needs that you might have to attend the activity.

The board and lodging for the full duration of the training course is covered (accommodation and meals). Participants will be accommodated in double/triple rooms.

Selection processes

All applicants fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should fill the [online application form](#) by the 26th of May 2017 (23:59 UTC - Lisbon time). They should also send a letter of recommendation from their sending structure, clearly mentioning the possibility of follow-up regarding the main aims of the training course, to the following e-mail address: nsc.youthandglobalisation@coe. Please specify in the subject of the email the name of the training course you are applying for.

Your application will only be considered complete upon confirmation of reception of your recommendation letter. The final results will be announced the 5th of June 2017, at the latest. Please note that only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

In the need for further clarifications, please contact us through the same e-mail address. As we have different calls open, please specify the name of the training course in the subject of the email in all communication queries.

For more information, please contact NSC-CoE Secretariat:
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