



North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

## Call for Participants

**Deadline 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2015**

### **Training of trainers Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes (SPYWDP)**

*Training on Strengthening Capacities of Women and/or Youth Organisations*

**In the framework of the 16<sup>th</sup> University on Youth and Development  
20-27 September 2015, Molina, Spain**

#### **1. THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>**

In 2013, the Committee of Ministers (CM) of the Council of Europe (CoE) entrusted the Centre with a mission in the framework of the CoE neighbourhood policy and in agreement and co-ordination with the activities developed by other sectors of the Organisation.

In this context, the objective of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is to **contribute to democratic processes, mainly through education to global democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue**. The main target is civil society, in particular **youth and women**.

The North-South Centre and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe launched "**The North-South Process for the Empowerment of Women**" (NSPEW) in 2011 to strengthen democratic governance by bringing together the stakeholders to promote gender equality and women's rights in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region.

The implementation of the NSPEW consists then to **enhance women access of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean to the political, economic and social activities as well, to contribute to raise equality gender in the region**.

Within this framework, the Centre wants to provide training and capacity-building for young women, youth and/or women organisations as well as to facilitate their participation in decision and policy making, in the framework of quadrilogue<sup>2</sup> initiatives.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information: <http://www.nsc.org>

## 2. THE UNIVERSITY OF YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT (UYD)

Organised by the NSC in partnership with the Spanish Government (INJUVE), the European Youth Forum (YFJ), the Spanish Youth Council (CJE), the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) and other international youth organisations and youth serving organisations, the UYD takes place annually in Mollina, Spain, since 2000.

The University brings together representatives of youth organisations and youth movements from all over the world who gather in CEULAJ (Euro-Latin-American Youth Centre) to discuss, train and be trained as well as to take political action around the main issues on the global agenda. The University is the oldest sister of the Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship (together with the 3 others that have been organised in Tunisia, Cape Verde and Uruguay) that is facilitated by NSC.

The Network of Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship provides an exceptional space for young people and youth organizations around the world to meet, debate, build their capacity and co-operate on youth policy related issues.

### a. Main goals of UYD

1. To promote youth work development and youth participation;
2. To promote political mainstreaming of the youth related issues and youth policy development;
3. To reinforce capacity-building of civil society organisations;
4. To foster youth co-operation and Global Youth Work;
5. To promote human rights, intercultural dialogue and democratic citizenship as essential dimensions of global education.

### b. University Joint Theme 2015 – “Youth.org: actors for change!”

The **Network of the Universities on Youth and Global Citizenship** identified “**Youth.org: actors for change!**” as the joint theme for 2015.

The theme allows **youth organisations to reflect on and evaluate their impact** and look into what can they improve, do better or more, in order to truly fulfill their role as actors for change.

During the joint programme activities, participants will have the possibility to tackle questions such as: What is our common vision? What kind of change do we want to achieve? What is necessary to make change happen? What are youth organisations doing currently and what can be done in order to achieve the common vision? Looking beyond youth organisations, what relevant partners should be there to co-operate with in order to maximize the impact we want to have?

The Network of Universities will reflect on the theme of “Youth.org: actors for change!” based on regional and sub-regional understandings and practices, providing space for building a common ground, sharing of best practices and discussing future opportunities for co-operation, in order to **contribute to a common vision of the global youth movement and of other relevant actors**.

The capacity-building activity on “**Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes**” that will be held in the 2015 edition of the UYD will benefit from this overall framework, namely in the joint moments of the programme where participants will have the opportunity to gather with other groups attending different activities to reflect and discuss about “Youth.org: actors for change!”.

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<sup>2</sup> The quadrilogue is a working methodology promoted by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe that promotes dialogue and action between the following actors: Governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society (namely youth organisations and trade unions).

### 3. THE TRAINING – BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The 2014-2015 programme of activities of the Centre includes the organisation of a capacity-building activity on **Structured Participation in Democratic Processes<sup>3</sup> (SPDP)**, the overall objective of which is “to **support empowerment of the civil society and more particularly of the youth organisations** with the purpose of making them fully fledged actors of governance”.

This capacity-building activity on Structured Participation of NSC, apart from being framed according with the results of the different initiatives organised in the last couple of years in the context of the Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Co-operation, is also taking into consideration the conclusions of 2013 Lisbon Forum on “Valuing civil society as actor of governance: perspectives for the South Mediterranean”.<sup>4</sup>

The conclusions of this flagship event of the NSC refer to the challenge of establishing a new and multiple relations between the four quadrilogue actors in Southern Mediterranean and in this context underline the importance of “(...) inclusion and participation of civil society – notably women and young people – in capitalizing what has already been achieved in those countries”.

References to the development of **training tools in the field of citizenship** addressed to civil society organisations (youth and women), the **establishment of mechanisms/bodies** to assure participation in the definition and implementation of public policies and the **promotion of exchange of best practices**, are amongst the concrete proposals that resulted from 2013 Lisbon Forum and that also underline the need of organising a training on strengthening capacities of youth organisations.

The theme of the 2014 Lisbon Forum was “Electoral processes and democratic consolidation in the countries of the Southern Mediterranean” and the conclusions underlined the **role and participation of civil society organisations** in contributing to reform processes and/or to the democratic transitions under way, as well as **in encouraging democratic participation and citizenship**.<sup>5</sup> Indeed, the Forum concluded that “every citizen should be made aware and duly informed of the implications of the electoral process for democracy, so that he or she may exercise his or her rights and duties fully.” One of the aims of the SPDP training programme is to promote such awareness.

**Capacity building of young women** through leadership, decision-making and active democracy training cover multiple challenges such as to **contribute to the consolidation of democracy, to participate on the social and economic development and to promote justice and peace in societies**.<sup>6</sup>

**Women and Youth, both target groups of the North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe (CoE), are both interdependent.** In the sense that the political actions and policy decisions of women tend to focus on the social issues connected to youth challenges.<sup>7</sup> Through the capacity building and its dissemination, the acquisition of the active democracy principles by the young women to strengthen

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<sup>3</sup> Structured Participation refers to Youth participation, from a human rights based approach. This means going beyond dialogue. This implies the right of young people to be heard and play an active role in all decisions that affect their lives; the right to fully participate in the society and decision-making processes at all levels (with particular attention to be given to the vulnerable and socially excluded groups of young people); participatory, accountable and structured mechanisms for youth engagement at all levels as regards the definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and actions related to them should be put in place and strengthened.

<sup>4</sup> Organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, in co-operation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and the Aga Khan Development, in the framework of the Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening Democratic Reform in Southern Neighbourhood.

<sup>5</sup> More information about 2014 edition: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/LF/LisbonForum\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/LF/LisbonForum_en.asp)

<sup>6</sup> “Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support. The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.” Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General's Message for Women's Day 2014 <http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/2014/sgmessage.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> “Today there is wide acknowledgement around the globe that women's empowerment is essential to social and economic and sustainable development.” Remarks by Michelle Bachelet on Women's Economic Empowerment and Equality at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Women's Role in Development of OIC Member States, in Jakarta. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/12/removing-barriers-to-women-s-participation-fuels-economic-development#sthash.DMbsgBxt.dpuf>

their role at the different key levels of the development, is one of the main aims of the Women programme and UYD in general.

Since the launch of the Trans-Mediterranean programme in 1994, the rights of the women were a permanent concern in the elaboration and the implementation of the activities of the NSC, in particular **the role of the women as the actors of change in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.**

As a follow-up of the recommendation of the Lisbon Forum (2013 21014) and in line with the objectives of the NSPEW programme, the NSC organises the first training of trainers on “Structured Participation of Young Women in Democratic Processes” in the framework of the UYD.

#### 4. THE TRAINING AT A GLANCE

The training will be organised in the framework of the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the UYD and in parallel with other activities organised by the others partners.

This first edition of the training of trainers on SPYWDP is considered as a pilot activity of the Empowerment of Women programme of NSC and will be further improved taking into consideration the evaluation of participants and pedagogical team, as well as the learning needs and motivations expressed by selected participants in the application forms.

##### a. Objectives and Expected Results

On the basis of 2014/2015 programme of activities of NSC, the overall objective of the activity is to **support empowerment of civil society and more particularly of the youth and women organisations involved on empowerment of young women with the purpose of making them fully fledged actors of governance.**

The **specific objectives** are:

- To reflect about our **individual and organisational practice of global democratic citizenship** (participation and representation in decision/ policymaking);
- To **map good practices of Structured Participation of young women** in Europe and Southern Mediterranean region;
- To get acquainted with different **principles, tools and opportunities** to further develop the organisation of the young women movement mainly in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean region and of Structured Participation initiatives and mechanisms;
- To exchange views and share challenges and achievements and **identify proposals for improvement with representatives of the quadrilogue;**
- To engage youth and women organisations in the **intra and inter-regional co-operation.**

**Expected results:**

- 18 trainers/educators are trained and equipped with tools related with Structured Participation;
- Network, partnership and peer-learning between youth and women organisations are reinforced;
- Awareness within quadrilogue actors is raised about the relevant contribution of youth and women organisations to democratic processes and suggestions for future improvements identified.

##### b. Methodology

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

The training methodology is based on a number of successful experiences of training for youth workers and youth leaders developed by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe. It will also count with the

contribution and experiences of the Education and Training Division of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the EU-CoE youth partnership.

The North-South Centre, together with its partners, has developed and tested training methods and tools for this type of activities; it has also benefited from the knowledge of some of the best trainers and youth workers in the fields of Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Co-operation and global democratic citizenship.

The team of experienced **trainers from Europe and Southern and Eastern 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 will be also a mutual learning experience, where participants can compare their approaches and concerns in a process based on **global education methodology**.<sup>8</sup>

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 programme will tackle issues such as the **concepts and practices of global democratic citizenship, the role of youth and women organisations in decision-making and policy design, implementation and evaluation, the quadrilogue, tools and mechanisms for an effective participation of youth in democratic life and sharing of good practices**.

### **c. Profile of Participants**

This training course will focus on the **development of competencies of youth workers/activists involved in civil society organisations in Europe and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean**.

The course is addressed to young people from Europe (**CoE member States**) and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean.

Participants should fulfil the following criteria:

- Being actively involved in a youth or women organisation (local, national, regional, international) as volunteers, trainers and/or youth workers;
- Aged between 18-30 years old;
- Being involved in an organisation, project or initiative that aims at the participation of young people in democratic governance/decision and policy making.

### **d. Working Languages**

The different sessions of the **training course will be in English**. Candidates must be fluent in English and are requested to indicate their language level in the application form.

### **e. Travel and Board and Lodging**

The North-South Centre will do its best to **issue a pre-paid ticket**. In exceptional cases, participants might advance the booking of the international flight and reimbursement will be done fully or in an agreed amount. Please do not proceed with any booking until confirmation of selection and agreement regarding travel arrangements. Transfers from and to the airport in Tunis will be ensured by organisers.

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<sup>8</sup> For more information about Global Education: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/ge1\\_EN.asp?](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/nscentre/GE/ge1_EN.asp?)

It is expected that **participants/background organisation 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.

There is **no participation fee** for this training course.

#### **f. Selection Process**

All applicants fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should send the application form to [nswomennetwork@coe.int](mailto:nswomennetwork@coe.int) by the **6<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 (23:59, Lisbon time)**.

The application form should be sent together with a letter of recommendation from the sending organisation, **clearly mentioning the possibility of follow-up** regarding the main aims of the training course.

You should receive a confirmation of reception of your application within **5 working days**. If you don't receive it, please inform us.

The selection will be carried out by the North-South Centre and the pedagogical team, in consultation with partners active in the Euro-Arab and Mediterranean Youth Co-operation. The selection will seek regional, organisational and gender balance. The **final results will be announced until 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2015**.

In the need for further clarifications, please contact us through the same email address.