



5TH AFRICA-EUROPE TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS *Coimbra, Portugal, 1 to 8 June 2008* *(Including arrival and departure days)*

In partnership with:



In the follow-up of the



SUMMARY OF THE COURSE

Encouraged by the success and demand of the previous Africa Europe Training Courses (2002-Tarrafal, Cape Vert; 2004 -Mollina, Spain, 2005 – Coimbra, Portugal, 2006 – Almada, Portugal) and the demand for capacity building opportunities for youth leaders expressed in the *Africa Europe Youth Summit (Lisbon 4-7 December 2007)*, the North- South Centre in partnership with the European Youth Forum will run this programme for the 5th time.

During the course participants will acquire knowledge and skills to develop the capacity of their organisations as civil society actors in the development process. Participants will learn of different models of capacity-building in order to strengthen their political participation on poverty eradication and social cohesion on the Euro-African Context.

The week-long course for close to 30 participants is designed using a process of mutual learning, the participants' experiences being the starting point of the training process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are key methodologies used in the course – methodologies that have proven successful in similar courses previously. Participants will compare their approaches to youth work and youth participation, engaging in the implementation and evaluation of the programme with the team of trainers.

The course will also provide an excellent space for networking and finding partners; this dimension will be most strongly encouraged by the team of trainers as well as for intercultural dialogue and Intercultural learning.

Furthermore, the course is a unique moment of practical and political follow up and implementation of some of the outcomes of the Africa Europe Youth Summit held in parallel to the 2nd EU-Africa Summit

of heads of State in December 2007 during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU council and of the new framework for cooperation established by the Africa – EU Strategic Partnership.

This Training Course is an opportunity given to youth organisations to understand and integrate the objectives settled at the international level and better contribute to their achievement. Some of this objectives, inscribed in the Africa-EU Strategic help enable youth to take an active part in these strategies at the national and regional level and be fully equipped to participate in cooperation project:

- Promoting the empowerment of Europe's and Africa's youth¹
- Strengthening young people's capacity to disseminate information and to get involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Joint Strategy²
- Facilitate moments of encounter and exchange between young Africans and Europeans³
- Mapping the existing African youth networks⁴.

This project is also part and a natural progression of the overall training programme for and with youth organisations of the North- South Centre developed over the past 13 years. Such training programme include an annual training course for Youth Organisations in North-South Co-operation, an Africa Europe Training Course for Youth Organisations, the Partnership on Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation in the field of training, a Euro-Asian Training Course and the University on Youth and Development.

AIM OF THE COURSE

The training course aims to strengthen the role of youth organisations as civil society actors and youth ability to organise and take action as well as strengthen its political participation and to identify educational principles to promote the global citizenship of young people in Europe and Africa.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The concrete objectives of the training are to enable participants:

- ❖ to strengthen individual and organisational capacities and skills for youth participation in development and youth leadership;
- ❖ to develop a common understanding of the situations and challenges faced by young people in Africa and Europe;
- ❖ to get acquainted with the new action framework, the *Africa-EU Strategic Partnership*;
- ❖ to reinforce the and possibilities for co-operation and dialogue between societies in Europe and Africa;
- ❖ to acquire know-how on concepts and challenges of youth work, youth policies and institutions in the two regions;
- ❖ to reflect upon topics of importance to strengthen active citizenship (e.g. culture and identity, human rights, democracy, participation, exclusion and integration, development, education, globalisation, MDG's);
- ❖ to co-operate in a network with other participants and their projects;
- ❖ to create operational tools and act as multipliers by passing on the training and knowledge acquired;
- ❖ to live through an intercultural experience with the opportunity to develop expertise and know-how on intercultural learning in the specific Euro-African context;

1 As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and social development

2 As in 56. of the joint strategy, under the heading Human and social development

3 As in 108. under civil society + 108. under the heading Monitoring, evaluation and review mechanisms

4 As in the action plan of the joint strategy under the heading Making it work: institutional architecture and implementation

METHODOLOGY OF THE TRAINING

The course is designed as a process of mutual learning, with the participants' experiences and realities as the starting point of the training process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are the keys to the success of this course. Participants will compare their approaches to youth work and participate in the implementation and evaluation of the programme with the team of trainers.

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, the European Youth Forum and the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe as for example: 14 years of North-South Training Courses for Youth Organisations, the University on Youth and Development, the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Training Programme and over the 3 decades of Youth Work Training of the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe. The North-South Centre, together with its partners, has developed and tested training methods and tools for this type of activities; it also benefited from the knowledge of some of the best trainers and youth workers in the field of co-operation. The team of experienced trainers from Africa and Europe will be responsible to further design and implement the methodology of the course. Invited guests and experts will provide proposals for reflection in a process based on non-formal education and participant-centred methodologies. Thus, the course will be also a mutual learning situation, where participants can compare their approaches and concerns in a dialogical intercultural approach and environment. The use of experiential methods and workshops will strengthen the practical side of the course.

The course is a week-long training Programme using a variety of educational methodologies such as: thematic, methodological and political inputs and discussions, new technologies, guides and reference documents, simulation exercises, groups dynamics, interactive role plays, examples of good practices, etc.

In one of the days of the week the training course will be transformed into a larger seminar involving local youth organisations, the Portuguese National Youth Council, students from the University of Coimbra, other local entities and the host Fundação Bissaya Barreto. This day will be devoted to Intercultural Dialogue and will require the involvement of all participants in the training course.

EDUCATIONAL TEAM OF THE COURSE

The educational team for this course is composed of 4 trainers with relevant experience in youth work and Euro African co-operation; two of the trainers are African and the other two, European. The European trainers will be identified among the pool of trainers of the European Youth Forum. The trainers have specific and complementary experience and will be recruited specifically to further design and implement this course. It should be expected that the trainers' team also reflect gender balance and the cultural, political and geographical diversity of the regions.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The different sessions of the Course will be in English and French, candidates are requested to indicate all their working languages and language level in the application form and should be fluent at least in one of the two languages.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Building capacity of multipliers in youth organisations in Europe and Africa with the necessary skills to develop and run Africa Europe co-operation programmes:

- An informal network of youth leaders and organisations with interest in developing Africa Europe co-operation and actively committed to the strengthening of Civil Society;
- An increase in understanding and dialogue between young people, and their organisations, in European and African countries.
- An increase in the understanding of the cultural, social, economical and political context of the Africa Europe relations.
- An increase in the understanding of the instruments to follow up and implement the new framework of the Africa –EU Strategic Partnership and the Africa Europe Youth Summit final declaration.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants in this course are representatives of youth organisations in Europe, and Africa. For the European participants the course is open for residents of all member-states of the Council of Europe been nominated by member organisations of the European Youth Forum. For Africa, national and international youth organisations will be invited to propose candidates for this course, using the resources of contact mailing lists of the North-South Centre and partner organisations.

Approximately 50% of the participants in this course will come from youth organisations in Europe; the other half will come from youth organisations in Africa. Gender balance will be ensured in the selection process of the participants, as well as the balance between the type and/or nature of organisations.

Concerning participants and their profile:

- should be a key multiplier playing an active role within a youth organisation, network or service at local, national or regional level, and plan to continue this work in the near future;
- seeking gender balance;
- diverse social and geographical background (including disadvantaged and minority groups);
- aged between 18 and 30;
- have already some qualification or experience in terms of international youth work and project work;
- be committed to attend the full duration of the course and be supported by a youth organisation or service;
- be able to present the context of their work, their way of tackling problems, the challenges they meet and identify;
- be able to work and communicate in English and/or French.

SUPPORT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES

Priority will be given to participants from Africa in terms of support for the travel cost. For African participants, according to the price of the Ticket the North-South Centre will support participants travel costs fully or in an agreed amount. For the European Participants rules for reimbursement will follow European Youth Forum financial regulations.

COURSE FEE

The Course will have a participation fee of 25€ for African participants and of 50€ for European participants, this fee will be paid during the Course.

DEADLINE AND APPLICATIONS

Those from Africa fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should send the enclosed application form to nsc.africaeurope-youthsummit@coe.int

Those from Europe fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should send the enclosed application form to Nicole Burlet-Parendel

FAX: + 32 2 230 21 23 or

E-mail: nicole.burlet-parendel@youthforum.org

Deadline is 14th of April 2008, 12.00 CET

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There has been a growing recognition in the last decade of the need for civil society involvement in development processes this idea being reinforced in the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership, the framework emanating from the 2nd EU-Africa Heads of States Summit. There has also been a clearer understanding that civil society is diverse, and that capacity building with particular sectors of civil society is required in order for these sectors to fully shape, participate in, and benefit from the development process. Nowhere is this clearer than with the youth sectors in both European and African countries.

In the framework of the EU-Africa Summit in Cairo, in 2000, the North-South Centre initiated and convened the Africa-Europe Civil Society Forum, which allowed representatives from African and European NGOs communities, including youth organisations to express their main concerns and to address recommendations to the Heads of State and Government in the Summit. These recommendations opened long-term perspectives and the commitment of the Centre to design and establish a training programme for youth organisations and to profile youth's political participation in the Euro African Context, leading to the holding of the Africa Europe youth Summit, in 2007, parallel to the 2nd EU Africa Summit of Heads of state.

The Africa-Europe Youth Summit was a crucial moment to strengthen the ties between young people in Africa and Europe and to increase their knowledge about the European Union and the African Union and their policies related to the living conditions of young people on the two continents. The summit gathered approx 250 youth leaders and delegates from youth organisations from all over Africa and Europe. Moreover, the summit was preceded by a comprehensive process, including several regional and national consultations in Africa and in Europe with a participation reaching over 600 youth multipliers.

The Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and the final declaration of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit, all recognise youth as a key actor in development in Africa and Europe. The strengthening of youth organisations and youth movements are critical for development in general and in particular in developing youth policies that will allow for sustainable cooperation among African and European youth.

As a follow up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit as well as in the continuity of the long term strategy initiated and carried out since 2000 within the Euro-African youth cooperation, the North-South Centre in partnership with the European Youth Forum, are proposing to continue a space of training, focused on euro-African cooperation for youth organisations.

THE ROLE OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

For various decades the Council of Europe, as a human-rights centred international organisation, committed with values of democracy, rule of law, social cohesion, equality has been involved in capacity building and learning with young people, closely promoting and developing youth policies and guidelines for inclusive societies based on participation and access for all young people to the possibilities for their personal and social development.

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been playing an active part in increasing the role and the capacity of civil society and its recognition in Euro-African Co-operation. By promoting multilateral cooperation between Europe and Africa, not only at the Intergovernmental level, but also between NGO's and other non state actors, parliamentarians and youth organisations the NSC aims at their recognition as full actors of development.

The youth dimension of the NSC programme aims at promoting and developing a framework for youth participation on issues related to interdependence and solidarity between the different regions in the world. The NSC carries out a series of activities, where training and capacity building of young people is provided for, targeting particularly multipliers in youth and youth serving organisations. Special priority is given to the empowerment of young people from the South. The role of the NSC, in this regard, is to facilitate processes and encounters between youth from Africa and Europe, which then allows them to pursue policy action on youth in development policies. Over the last ten years youth leaders from African countries have been participating in the NSC's training activities and for the last six years the NSC has been organising, unique in its kind, a specific Africa-Europe training course for youth organisations.

With the anticipation of a high level summit between the political leadership of Africa and Europe, the NSC started to facilitate a diversified group of actors in the youth field interested to convene a youth summit of young people from Africa and Europe. The objective of realising a youth summit was to develop institutionalised youth co-operation and to reinforce youth participation in Euro-African relations. A steering group that included various youth organisations and youth-related agencies from Africa and Europe was established and facilitated by the NSC. Finally, the Africa-Europe Youth Summit took place in Lisbon on 4-7 December 2007, prior to the 2nd EU-Africa Heads of States Summit.

The NSC partners, and more particularly the Youth Organisations active in North-South Co-operation, engaged and interested in the Euro African co-operation, have identified and requested the experience of the NSC as fundamental to ensure the richness and outreach of this type of projects. Due to extensive network of working relations with youth organisations in both regions, but also because of its unique quadrilogue working structure, the Centre is well placed to provide a clear added value to such a project. Furthermore, the four editions of the Africa Europe Training Course in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006 were a very successful process that strongly encouraged the NSC to organise a fifth edition of this course.

The NSC has identified Youth and its organisations as a priority target for its activities; in doing so, the Centre also includes youth organisations in its statutory bodies and engages in a co-management of its youth programme with the youth representatives, namely the European Youth Forum. The NSC aims at raising awareness and increase solidarity among young people by promoting and facilitating their active participation in the field of Global Interdependence and Solidarity. It also works towards the implementation of policy to include youth perspectives in all development policy of the national states, as well as to strengthen youth participation in all programmes and policies relating to Global Interdependence and North-South Dialogue. The Centre strives to support and enhance capacity building for youth organisations in North-South Dialogue and development education at national and regional level.

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The European Youth Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live, and in improving the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world. Since its establishment in 1978 the Forum (back then called "Youth Forum of the European Communities") decided to have development cooperation as one of its area of interest, with a particular focus on the processes of co-operation between the Europe and Africa in the frame of the ACP agreements of the European Commission.

Since then the Youth Forum developed partnerships with the African Continent, which resulted in the Europe-ACP youth meetings and Assemblies, during the 1980s and 1990s. Since 1996, with the establishment of the European Youth Forum as a single platform for youth organisations in Europe, the partnership with Africa was included in the broader system for global cooperation with different

regional platforms (the Global Cooperation Coordination Committee - GCCC. In the past few years the attention to Africa was also fostered by the organisation of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organisations, gathering both Regional Platforms and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (ICMYO). Further, under the current work-plan (2007-2008), Africa has been prioritised within the area of global youth work development.

The European Youth Forum was one of the organisers of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in Lisbon (Portugal), from 5 to 7 December 2007, together with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Portuguese Youth Council, the Pan African Youth Union, and other national and international youth organisations. The event was supported by the European Commission and the Portuguese government. It gathered 250 youth representatives of Europe and Africa and 60 observers, representing governments, regional and international organisations and media. A final declaration was delivered to the Heads of State during the 2nd EU-Africa Summit (Lisbon, 8-9 December 2007). This was a corner stone to strengthen the commitment of the Youth Forum on cooperation with Africa.

The European Youth Forum is planning to follow-up on a concrete manner to these commitments, working actively to:

- Support the establishment of solid and independent National Youth Councils;
- Promote democracy, transparent and participatory processes in all youth organisations, from the local to the continental level in Africa and Europe;
- Ensure recognition of the crucial role of young people and their organisations in the development, implementation and evaluation of development strategies, including strategies to reach the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes,
- Promote the positive role of the African diaspora in Europe and in co-development projects;
- Promote networking and exchanges between African and European Youth;
- Advocate for the initiatives included in the Africa-Europe Youth Summit Declaration towards the appropriate institutions.

The European Youth Forum is also working to ensure that the youth dimension, after the results of the Youth Summit, will be ensured in the implementation of the Joint EU-Africa Strategy. This is being undertaken in cooperation with the Directorate General for Development at the European Commission.

THE ROLE OF THE BISSAYA BARRETO FOUNDATION

The Bissaya Barreto Foundation is a public utility institution founded in 1958 in the city of Coimbra, in the centre of Portugal. Bissaya Barreto is the family name of a very important doctor and scientist (1886/1974) that also develop activities in areas such as society, culture, education, training and higher education.

In strategic areas of development as Education and Training represent, Bissaya Barreto Foundation has, on a daily basis, more than 1500 students and trainees attending its educational and training institutions that perform service for a population aged from 4 months until the end of their working life.

As part of the educative project, the Bissaya Barreto Foundation is developing an educative programme for health, where nutrition and exercises are considered as part of the learning process, as well as the harmonious development of children.

After the encouraging experience of hosting the 3rd Africa Europe Training Course in 2005 and partnering with the North-South Centre, the Bissaya Barreto Foundation will host the Training Course again in 2008.