

# Building A-E Bridges of Cooperation Almada – Portugal

*25th - 27th of February 2011*

# REPORT

**Partnership between:**

**ADYNE**  
The face of African Diaspora Youth living in Europe



&



**In cooperation with:**



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# THANKS

Was once again held an official meeting between the youth of the African Diaspora in Almada where ADYNE took the opportunity to meet with representatives of different youth organizations living in Europe with great desire, drive, effort and dedication of the participants, organizers, partners and trainers involved in its implementation.

In addition to the meetings have already taken place among young African Diaspora, also met the challenge of bringing together representatives of ADYNE with other young Africans and descendants of African representatives of nongovernmental organizations, leaders of associations and informal groups such as young active and dynamic young people who care and work with the community and African causes in order to share and exchange knowledge and experiences contributing to the development of local communities.

This initiative comes at a critical time to strengthen the Europe-Africa cooperation in order to increase the sense of responsibility not only on the part of African youth, but also from African institutions, representatives of states and non-governmental organizations both African and European.

In this sense, and ADYNE - African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe and JURE - Youth Association, United Youth Towards Hope would like to thank the support given by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, the IPJ – Portuguese Youth Institutions and the CNJ – Portuguese Youth Council that were primarily responsible for carrying out this initiative.

Similarly we thank the tireless help from the staff of the organization who believed and worked from the beginning in developing and seeking support, youth participants and not least also to all participants and contributors in particular to Marcos Andrade and Alessandra Devitofrancesco from North South Centre, Dr. Ade Adeagbo and Bruno Antonio from ADYNE and all the rest representatives of ADYNE, Jose Felipe, Sara Castro technical team from CNJ, Helena Alves, Jorge Orlando, Heliana Vilela and the team of International Year of Youth from IPJ that directly and indirectly helped in the success of this meeting.

Once again thank all who were involved in this meeting in Portugal, showing great interest through the contributions they made to the success of the meeting and especially the availability to continue to cooperate and participate with ADYNE in the development of youth african in their localities as in the host countries as in the countries of origin in Africa.

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project!!!!*

# ABSTRACT

In the framework of the Second Youth Forum of Descendants of Immigrants and African Diaspora the ADYNE achieved the project “Building A-E Bridges of Cooperation” with the meeting of twelve ADYNE representatives from different European countries in Youth Hostel/Euro-African Youth Centre of Almada between 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February, sponsored by Seed Funding of North South Centre of the Council of Europe.

# INTRODUCTION

After one year in the training course in Almada were many Africans youth leaders were present, several Africans Youth organizations living in Europe jointed to our great platform “ADYNE – African Diaspora Youth Network in Europe with intention to reduce some problems concerning European society and how to contribute for a better Africa Europe Youth Cooperation.

Nowadays one of the sorest focuses of ADYNE among young Africans people is how to contribute for development of society in host Europeans countries and African origins countries. With this project “Building A-E Bridges of cooperation” ADYNE wanted to add the capacity of youth African leaders living in Europe and at same time strength synergies between youth organizations for partnership. The meeting format was residential with 12 participants from different European countries during the 25th, 26th and 27th February, in Almada focused on key strategies of developing better youth cooperation between Europe and Africa.

With intention to achieve the better Africa Europe youth cooperation and add the capacity of members and structure of ADYNE working in the topics concerning the common problems such as inclusion/Social Cohesion, self-awareness, combating poverty and social exclusion as way to contribute for development of society in both continent. Indirectly the project contributed for youth people become more conscious and active citizens to operate with the issues that might make influence in the future for Africa and Europe. Therefore project helped to understand the role of young people as part of the present and future and show for each participant that we are part of better change. The activities that were implemented in this project ensured european and african values such as equality of opportunity and respect for other cultures, discipline, mutual understanding and desire/availability to work for contribution of other local and self-development.

Somehow this meeting gave some ideas and perspective to see how to contribute for better Africa Europe Cooperation guaranteeing the creation of mediators in Portugal to combat the problem of social integration in the youth community giving participants the tools and mechanisms used by the European and African Union, exchanges of ideas, interest and needs from the context of youth participation remain as lessons for life between african youth leaders in Europe, new perspectives of cooperation based on the capacities and competences of people in sharing their knowledge and learn from the understanding of the others, the better way to work and how to contribute for the Declaration of second Africa Europe Youth Summit in Tripoli, the combination’s process of learning, training, information and action with non-formal education, to promote the development of intellective and affective individual, the sense’s improvement of social responsibility and solidarity with the disadvantaged or advantaged groups, and encourage the principle of equality in daily behaviors, the contribution of the development of qualities, skills and competencies that enable individuals to achieve a critical knowledge of the problems concerning Africa Europe society, the understanding and articulation of facts, opinions and ideas, to work together following the Declaration of Second Africa Europe Youth Summit and the basic procedures applied to the process of debate and the basic value judgments and their decisions on a rational analysis of facts and factors relevant to building a more cohesive society in both continent.

# AIMS

- To define the structure and solidifying the position in ADYNE;
- To empower and involve young people to improve the responsiveness of youth to the Africa-Europe cooperation contributing to local development;
- To provide the space for leaders of the Africa Diaspora Youth organisations living in Europe to review, evaluate and plan the follow up of the 2nd Africa Europe Youth Summit.

# OBJECTIVES

- To discuss and develop the tools that will allow to bring to the Africa diaspora youth organisations the compromises taken in the 2nd AE Youth Summit;
- To develop mechanisms that will enable the Africa Diaspora youth organisations to become more aware and active in the political process in Europe and in Africa;
- To promote discussion between the different African organizations residing in Europe and their integration into society of origin and in European society;
- To extend the strategy at the international level to contribute to the success of young people in both continents;
- To promote reflection about the politics of social inclusion and young women of African origin in European society in the context of creativity, innovation and its affirmation in the country of origin;
- To reflect on the cultural reality of women's presence and its relevance within the African community and the host society;
- To discuss the presence of the African Diaspora in the European associations and institutions in their local context, national and international levels;
- To reflect the importance of young people in co-development and their participation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
- To contribute to the recognition of the importance of involving youth organizations and the African Diaspora in the definition and implementation of policies directed at youth in Africa and Europe cooperation of local development;
- To contribute to training for young African Diaspora as multipliers and drivers of future projects;
- To enable participants to act as trainers or multipliers in the education, particularly through training courses and local projects and national and international organized by different governmental and nongovernmental organizations;
- To enable participants to develop activities and educational programs for young people related to the fulfillment of the recommendations made to the topics under the Declaration of the Second Africa-Europe Youth Summit;
- To discuss the contribution of the letter to some African youth for youth and youth of African origin;
- To discuss the proposed new framework for European cooperation on youth and the new statement.

# PROGRAMS AND METHODOLOGIES USED

In this project the activities undertaken during the weekend will be accompanied by all engaging in coordination with the team coordinator. At the end of the draft final evaluation will be done with highlights of all stakeholders in the project through the questions in the questionnaire. The methodologies employed formal and allows systematic control of each of the internal and external activities of the evaluated program that constantly keeps up to date on the different methodologies used by the organization and working group involving in the project.

The meeting was a form divided into residential and collective work sessions that were based on non-formal education methodologies. Centered in the reality of ADYNE Youth members and their contribution to the development of Africa-Europe relations and strengthening the structure of individual and collective capacity, the work was structured around the work plan for the near future. The opening had a nice time at the Youth Hostel with a dinner and a living space.

The accommodation was at the Youth Hostel where the works were developed during the weekend, always accompanied by moments of conviviality, through the dynamic and interactive games, among all young participants in the meeting in Almada.

We have seen to provide informal moments with the use of spaces for dialogue and mutual understanding to establish some work done during the meeting.

The first day of the meeting was for the reception of the participants, and the opening session of mutual understanding, coordination with the organizers of the North South Centre team, IPJ, and CNJ ADYNE.

The next day, after the distribution of participants by the different working groups meetings, two facilitators Ade and Bruno were in charge of coordinating their work where he guided them through discussions and plenary sessions, using methods of non-formal education.

On the last day in the morning to conclude the proceedings of the group, followed by the closing ceremony this afternoon that was attended by the National Youth Council, the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, representatives of local government National Almada and in particular the Portuguese Youth Institute, the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue and representatives of ADYNE.

On the last day after the plenary session with the guests, we closed the Almada at 17 hours and 30 minutes.

## **Friday - 25<sup>th</sup> of February**

Introductions and welcome

Orientation

Updates on activities

'Issues cafe'

## **Saturday – 26<sup>th</sup> of February**

Organizational development – Part A

Developing a strategic framework: Part A

Developing a strategic framework: Part B

Organizational development – Part B

Financial report: income sources, Income& Expenditure records

Close: Reflexion

## **Sunday – 27<sup>th</sup> of February**

Review: Reflections, Update on deliberations and decisions

# **PARTNERS MEETINGS**

## **North South Centre of the Council of Europe**

The representatives of ADYNE that were in the meeting in Almada took the opportunity to meet with North South Centre as way to clarify discuss and define some future strategies for the next development of African Europe Youth Cooperation meetings. The meetings of Youth Leaders Meeting on Youth Policies in the Context of the Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation, in the framework of the Partnership between the European Commission the Council of Europe in the field of Youth in Addis Ababa, African University on Youth and development in Cape Verde and University on Youth and development in Mollina were highlighted and given some perspective of preparation, development and contribution that North South Centre will give to ADYNE in those meetings.

Besides these the team member of the ADYNE that will facilitate the Meeting for Seminar on Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora in Europe and MDGs, Seminar "From Millennium Development Goals to Millennium Development Wins, a Seminar for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe" signed the agreement with North South Centre of the Council of Europe to commit and achieve together this seminar in Spain.

The team facilitators from ADYNE present in this meeting were Ludgero Teixeira, Ade Adeagbo, Bruno António, Adey Fissahatsion and North South Centre were represented by Marcos Andrade and Alessandra Devitofrancesco.

## **IPJ - Portuguese Youth Institutions**

One of the main portuguese institutions that can support and cooperate with ADYNE meet and prepare some part of the meeting in Almada. In the meeting with IPJ born the idea to create a group where the representatives of youth organizations and youth institutions that were in the youth summit in Libya to meet with Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal.

These meetings with Jorge Orlando, Heliana Vilela and José Serrano from IPJ took places with Ludgero Teixeira representing ADYNE in the office of IPJ, office of JURE.

## **CNJ - Portuguese Youth Council**

It's a healthy partnership developed with the platform of youth organization in Portugal. The planning was also prepare and the guarantee of the logistic and food support by CNJ. The CNJ had a kind respect and recognition to design the Forum in partnership with ADYNE. This partnership started since origin of ADYNE in December 2009 when CNJ support the development and coordination from Portugal. The representatives of ADYNE Ludgero Teixeira and Bruno António participated in some preparation and structure of the Forum and full meeting in Almada with the board members - José Felipe and Sara Castro, the technical team - Pedro Soares, Amalia Martins, Madalena Sousa and Margarida Prata and some members of pool of trainers of CNJ that were facilitating the Forum.

## **TAEC – Trainers for Africa Europe Cooperation**

After the Second Africa Europe Youth Summit that held in Tripoli in November 2010 where several organization and institutions of youth were represented by youth african and european ADYNE saw TAEC as a great partner for the success of Africa Europe Youth Cooperation. In this sense ADYNE invite TAEC to develop a project in Portugal where they met and discussing the procedures roles of both and highlighting future projects and partnership that they can develop. The TAEC members that went to Almada were represented by Adeola Ojeniyi, Melanie Mandisa, Balazs Lato and Ruth Ceska.

### **ELEZA - Youth organization from Sweden**

Eleza is a structure that work with African youth people in Sweden with some difficulties that they face in the society. They bet more in the education by training course, music and dance and other kinds artistic demonstrations. The meeting with representatives of Eleza demonstrated very useful. In this meeting with Eleza started the new project – “Youth DiasporACTION” approved with National Agency of Sweden for youth African Exchange that will happen in October 2011. The Eleza were represented by Cecilia Gärding and Mike Gärding that committed to be and work with ADYNE for the next development and being one of the keys actors in the involvement of African youth people that live in Sweden.

### **ABDGN – African Black Diaspora Global Network**

The ABDGN is a big platform of black african diaspora people that focused above all in the HIV/AIDS using efforts for the combat and prevention. In the meeting in Almada the representative of ABDGN Rhon Reynolds invited Ludgero Teixeira as Chair of ADYNE to take participate in the next General Assembly of ABDGN that happened in Canada and invite ADYNE to take place as a member of ABDGN in Canada. The representative Rohn Reynolds also committed that ABDGN will work with ADYNE for the next projects regards African diaspora youth people.

### **ADFD – African Diaspora Funds for Development**

In this meeting the representatives of ADFD highlighted the availability and interest to work with ADYNE for the next project and they commit to work together for the next African Youth University on Youth and Development in May 2011. And they are part of the team of DFD – Diaspora Forum for Development in Netherlands that started a similar process of ADYNE building the new platform of Diaspora in Europe where ADYNE was invited to be part in this process and add the experience faced and youth perspectives.

In the meeting in Lisbon the ADFD was represented by Samuel Ackah and Mohamed Mohmoud from Netherland.

## **OUTCOMES**

- Adoption of more proposed projects, issues framed in the Declaration of Second Africa Europe Youth Summit, with a view to implement in the community;
- Develop information campaigns and training partnerships with local, national and international cooperation in the context of Africa-Europe Youth;
- Increase the participants' ability to identify risks to avoid situations of non compliance with the objectives and action plans;
- Enhancing the role of young leaders of the African Diaspora in Europe in promoting measures to improve the living conditions of the population and European society and its contribution to local development of their countries of origin;
- Reduction of the lack of information by organizations of the African Diaspora in Europe thus closing gaps in existing process development and training of African youth structures;
- Build multipliers African youth organizations in Europe, with the necessary tools for development cooperation programs;
- Strengthening of skills crucial to a self-independence African youth organizations and their leaders. Eg self-confidence, assertiveness, decision-making power and responsibility.
- Increased responsibility of young african in the participation in the host and origin countries;

- Empower women directly from Africa living in Europe have increased responsibilities for greater social participation;
- Adoption of strategies, which will be highlighted issues of the Declaration of Second Africa Europe Youth Summit on the reinforcement of the Africa - Europe and in the field of youth.
- Encourage leaders of African organizations to apply for funding in order to achieve strategic objectives of the projects and needs;
- Development of a specific action plan for the Africa-Europe youth Cooperation 2011/12 that can be implemented by the Africa Diaspora Youth organisations living in Europe;
- Development of strategies and mechanisms that will enable for the organisations part of ADYNE network and for all other Africa Diaspora youth organisations to have access to the information in a format that will make them more willing to get engage in actively participating in such political processes; - Contribution for the recognition of the role that the Africa Diaspora can have in the Africa and Europe Youth Cooperation.

For besides the outcomes mentioned above other important results should be highlighted particularly that new high level work plan, the needs renewed intention for political context recognized, define space for new youth workers training merged for the members of ADYNE, the clarification around the relationship with North South Centre of the Council of Europe, the new design of the plan that start establish independence ADYNE, the conclusion of the registration of ADYNE as international organization in Brussels, the definition on how ADYNE can get and good structure with interim's workers and office to work to fulfill own aims, presentation of the draft statutes according to Brussels regulation that ADYNE can use as base documents for the registration which Karim is responsible to adjust, correct and representing ADYNE in Brussels (It's necessary EUR 1000 to pay for ADYNE to be registred as international organization in Brussels), the presentation of added results from the last meeting that held in September 2010 in Mollina.

The new structure of ADYNE was agreed and approved by all the members of the steering group of ADYNE present: Ludgero Teixeira still the Chairman, Ade Adeagbo – Interim Director, Bruno António - Advisor for Development Advisor, Mamuna Camapo – Head of Communication, Diaby Abdourahamane – Head of Policy, Ennam Yassine – Head of External Affairs for Africa, Babatunde Rosanwo – Head of External Affairs for Europe. The remaining posts have remained unfilled, as Head of Research, Head of Finance & Fundraising, later as the interest and qualities of candidates.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

1. Ennaem Yassine from Nicosia/Cyprus
2. Houda El Ayyadi from Malaga/Spain
3. Babatunde Rosanwo from Kiev/ Ukraine
4. Adey Fissahatsion from Amsterdam/Netherlands
5. Karim Saafi from Brussels/Belgium
6. Mamuna Camapo from London/UK
7. Winnie Amoaku from Manchester/UK
8. Adeola Ojeniyi from London/UK
9. Diaby Abdourahamane from Bobadela/Portugal
10. Ade Adeagbo from London/UK
11. Bruno António from Faro/Portugal
12. Ludgero Teixeira Almada/Seixal

# CONCLUSION

The awareness of youth from ADYNE about youth policy contribution presents us as a fundamental condition for the development of youth african communities in host countries and countries of origin. This noble cause requires collective participation, the mobilization of both competent authorities as of the whole social body that turns out to be the cause of all this mobilizing process. In Europe, youth participation and development of the african diaspora in certain areas has been constrained by various economic, cultural and ideological issues. Both countries of origin and the host has the resources but their utilization for the process of involving young african in the diaspora for sustainable development has not been sufficient to achieve the objectives outlined in the Europe and Africa cooperation.

Cooperation between Africa and Europe is necessary for the enrichment of both continents. Sharing best practices and experiences and implement joint projects between the youth organizations of African origin and others residing in Europe can help the efficiency and influence the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and fulfilling the EU-Africa Strategic Plan. It is therefore important to strengthen ADYNE, an alliance of youth organizations should not be an empty structure, but structures that must be using a platform of cooperation for joint projects and creating sustainable multipliers to provide continuity of the process at the end of each initiative. The method of ADYNE has to be a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding among young people of the African diaspora in Europe which is to strengthen the Euro-African youth cooperation where there is the exchange and sharing of experiences with other European and African institutions. This mutual agreement in so little time needs to serve the use of better planning of future projects.

Despite the similarities of problems, each locality has its specificities, so the concentration should be working with ADYNE greatest importance when it comes to african youth organizations in Europe with a full report on the projects, allowing a good selection put some of these initiatives in line in order to improve the living conditions of the surrounding communities.

The youth of ADYNE reinforce their roles of technical cooperation in training, framed in formal and non formal education of staff in Europe and Africa so that it has greater sustainability projects in the short, medium and long term.

It's imperative that the North South Centre of the Council of Europe and other institutions that work with youth and African youth people as in Europe as in Africa cooperate and support ADYNE in achievement of better partnership between African and Europe organizations working together to achieve the aims for the both side.