

ONE WORLD OUR WORLD

NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE



The North-South Centre - whose official name is the **European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity** - is an institution of the Council of Europe. It is based in Lisbon (Portugal). Its main objective is to promote dialogue and co-operation between Europe, the Southern Mediterranean and Africa and to build a global citizenship based on human rights and citizens' responsibilities

FOCUS

2011 NORTH-SOUTH PRIZE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Since 1995, the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is awarded every year to two personalities who have distinguished themselves by their commitment to the promotion of human rights, the development of the intercultural dialogue and the strengthening of solidarity between North and South.

This year the Executive Committee of North-South Centre has agreed on 2 November to jointly award the Council of Europe North-South Prize 2011 to:



For the North, Boris Tadic in recognition of his political action for the reconciliation of the Balkans and the integration of his country in the process of European construction. His support for international justice has been a determining factor in the arrest and transfer to The Hague, of the last two criminals sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in 2011 (Ratko Mladic et Goran Hadzic);



For the South, Souhayr Belhassen (Tunisia), President of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), in recognition of her long-time commitment in favour of human rights in the world, as well as for her fight for the rights of women in developing countries. Her path is both an example and symbol of the major role played by the women in the historic changes which have taken place in 2011 in the Arabic world.

More about precedent winners of the North-South prize
[About Boris Tadic](#)
[About the Fidh](#)

NEWS OF THE MONTH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



The Executive committee of the North-South Centre held its 2nd meeting on 2 November in Lisbon. On this occasion it adopted a number of decisions, in particular, the new Strategy of the North-South Centre for 2011-2013.

The Executive Committee also adopted the 2012-2013 programme of activities and budget, on which detailed information will be given in the January newsletter.

[Strategic document 2011-2013](#)

SUMMARY

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RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

Women as agents of change in the South Mediterranean region, 24-25 October in Rome (Italy)



This Conference was co-organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Italian Parliament, and it enjoyed the political support of the government of Italy as well as the financial support of the government of Spain.

This event has brought together representatives of international organisations, civil society and experts from the Southern shore of the Mediterranean.

"The issue of participation is linked to the fundamental principle of equality between men and women", Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio said on 24 October, addressing the opening session. "We all have seen the images of women in streets asking for change - continued the Deputy Secretary General - Seeing is not enough. We have to demonstrate in the next two days that we have also heard and understood their messages, and that we stand alongside them".

The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini, the President of the North-South Centre, Deborah Bergamini, PACE President Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Jorge Sampaio, Italian Minister for Equal Opportunity Mara Carfagna and President of the Italian parliamentary delegation at PACE, Luigi Vitali were among the speakers at Palazzo Montecitorio.

The event took place at the Italian Parliament's Sala del Mappamondo, analysing during almost two days the role of women as agents of political and economical change in the Arab Spring. A focus on the media as instruments for the promotion of women's action was also envisaged, with the participation of journalists, bloggers, film directors and industry representatives. The Libyan activist Huda El Abdelaziz Muhamed highlighted the new context of democratic changes after the dictatorship.

Amongst the conclusions at the Conference on "Women as agents of change in the Southern Mediterranean", it has been decided to create a women's network for democratic governance modelled on the innovative structure of the North-South Centre. The capacity-building project should help women from the southern Mediterranean countries to have a better access to political life both at a national and a local level. The network should link the governmental and parliamentary dimension to local authorities and civil society involvement, in order to strengthen an enhanced co-operation between the Council of Europe member countries and the southern Mediterranean rim. A co-operation with the Union for the Mediterranean is also envisaged.

All the volunteers are welcome to join this network: send an email to nscinfo@coe.int

[Speech by Deputy Secretary General Maud de Boer-Buquicchio](#)

[Speech by Assembly President Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu](#)

[Programme of the Conference - Report from the conference - Conference final document](#)

[Political conclusions](#)

2011 Lisbon Forum - "The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal rights real", 3-4 November in Lisbon (Portugal)

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south of the Mediterranean. The Forum has been held by the North-South Centre since 1994. It focuses on issues at the heart of the mandate and actions of the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy, the rule of law and intercultural dialogue. It has been enriched since 2006 by partnerships with the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law – also known as the Venice Commission - and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and, most recently, with the Alliance of Civilizations, operating under the aegis of the United Nations.

The Lisbon Forum 2011 was held at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon (Portugal), on 3-4 November.

Chaired by Mr. Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, the Lisbon Forum took place, this year in an exceptional international context and was devoted on the impact of the "Arab spring" on universal human rights. The main theme was "The Arab Spring: a major step towards making universal human rights real." The analysis of the democratisation process, the role of women as agents of change, the role of citizenship, the media in the southern countries of the Mediterranean, were part of the working sessions sparking debate. Specific workshops were dedicated to Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt to lead the

discussion on the current or future elections in these countries.

[See the programme](#)

[List of participants](#)

[Background Document](#)

[More](#)

[Conclusions](#)



RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

North-South Centre Activities' summary



Please participate and keep updated through [NSC website!](#)
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 Follow us on twitter: [@NSCentre](#)

Meeting of the Bureau and the Jury of the North-South Prize of the North-South Centre, 16 September, in Strasbourg (France)

University on Youth and Development, on 18-25 September in Molina (Spain)



The University on Youth and Development was organised jointly by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, 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. 2011 theme: "Youth Volunteering for Global Development".

[More](#) / [Programme](#) / [Presentation of the University on Youth and Development](#) / [Press release](#)
[Final declaration](#)

Informal Closed Meeting of Directors of Council of Europe Policy Planning, on 20 September in Strasbourg (France)

Global Online Training Course (Autumn course), on 3-29 October

[More about our online training course](#)

Regional Seminar: Conference on Global/Development Education in SEE/MED countries, on 17-18 October (Ljubljana)

[Seminar presentation](#) / [Programme](#) / [Participants](#)

At the COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Seminar in the field of Media for Tunisian experts, on 6-9 September in Strasbourg (France)

Tunisian experts in the media field visited the Council of Europe to attend a seminar organised by the Venice Commission and the Information and Media Division of the Human Rights and Legal Affairs directorate. They attended training sessions on reporting on elections to assure fair media coverage of the 23 October election of a constituent assembly in Tunisia. They will also meet with Western media editors before returning to Tunisia to train Tunisian media.

Sixth Annual Internet Governance (IGF) Forum Meeting at the United Nations Office "Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation", 27-30 September, in Nairobi (Kenya) - [More](#)

4th part-session of the 2011 PACE Ordinary Session and CoE INGO Conference session, on 3-7 October in Strasbourg (France)

Assembly grants "Partner for democracy" status to Palestinian National Council, 4 October in Strasbourg (France)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe voted on 4 October to grant "Partner for democracy" status to the Palestinian National Council – only the second time such status has been granted.

[More](#)

Meeting of the EU-CoE Youth Partnership Advisory Group, on 14 October in Brussels (Belgium)

21st Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the CoE, on 18-20 October in Strasbourg (France)

At the Level of OUR PARTNERS

Transcript of President Barroso's video message on the priorities for the autumn

[See the video message](#)

The Nobel Prize

The 2011 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work".

Alliance of Civilizations of United Nations, on 2 November, in Lisbon (Portugal)

The sixth meeting of the "Focal Points" of the Alliance of Civilizations has been held this year in Lisbon.

Alexandria Education Convention, on 30 to 31 October 2011

This was an initiative of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

Global Education at the North-South Centre



While over 40 participants from all the continents completed the third E-course on Global Education, educators and youth leaders are invited to take action for the planet during the Global Education Week 2011, from 12 to 20 November. Under the theme Act for our Planet! the North-South Centre calls citizens of all ages to share initiatives and engage in awareness-raising activities in their environments. The Global Education Week is supported through its interactive Facebook page, website and network.

Meanwhile, good practices can be submitted to the World Aware Education Award, launched in October. Projects will be submitted to an international jury and three laureate projects should be selected. Deadline for application is 18 November.

In the meantime the North-South Centre is sharing its expertise in the field of global education and intercultural learning at the Education Convention for Intercultural and Democratic Citizenship in EuroMed region, organised by the Anna Lindh Foundation in Alexandria.

Global Education Week, 12-20 November

[More](#)

European Development Days 2011 (Poland) and Global Education Week Evaluation Seminar, 15-16 December (Poland)



Organised by the European Commission and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, European Development Days (EDD) is Europe's premier forum on international affairs and development cooperation. [More](#)

First Stakeholders Meeting for EDD 2011, 15-16 December in Warsaw (Poland)

At the COUNCIL OF EUROPE

United Kingdom chairmanship, on 7 November in Strasbourg (France)

[More / Priorities of the UK chairmanship / United Kingdom and the Council of Europe](#)

Civil Society Forum "Living Together", 13-14 November 2011 (Strasbourg)

Launch of a new Strategy of the Council of Europe for Children Rights, 20-21 November (Monaco)

Launch Conference of the Council of Europe 4th draft strategy on Internet governance 2012-2015, 24-25 November (Vienna)

2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, 28-29 November in Luxembourg.

At the Level of OUR PARTNERS

2011 Report on Human Development

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published on 2 November its 2011 report on Human Development, entitled "Sustainability and equity: a better future for all." According to the annual ranking, taking into account health, income and education, but also the environment and the gender gap, Norway is the country in the world where it is best to live, and four other European countries (Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden) are among the top 10. The index of gender inequality (IIG) shows that Sweden is leading in the field of gender equality, followed by the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Finland and Norway.

Seminar on "the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe: Religious freedom in the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights", 11-12 November in Granada (Spain)

Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union, on 14 November in Brussels (Belgium)

The Foreign Affairs Council, chaired by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, will examine recent developments in Europe's southern neighbourhood concerning in particular Syria, Libya, Tunisia and Yemen. Ministers are also expected to discuss the situation in Serbia and Kosovo, as well as issues relating to the Horn of Africa. The Council may adopt conclusions on some of these subjects. [More](#)

European Parliament plenary session, 14-15 November in Strasbourg (France)

International Day for Tolerance and Anniversary date of the creation of the North-South Centre, 16 November

EMUNI General Assembly, 25 November, in Lisbon (Portugal)

Mediterranean Citizens General Assembly, 1-4 December in Tunis (Tunisia)

International Human Rights Day, 10 December

4th Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations, 11-13 December (Doha)

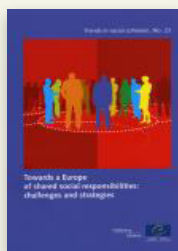


PUBLICATIONS



The 2010 Lisbon Forum - Freedom of expression, conscience and religion

The Lisbon Forum is a platform for dialogue and for sharing experiences, expertise and good practices between Europe and the other continents, especially the Middle East, Africa and the countries on the south side of the Mediterranean. In 2010 the theme of the Lisbon Forum was "Freedom of expression, conscience and religion". [More](#)



Towards a Europe of shared social responsibilities: challenges and strategies (Trends in social cohesion n°23) (14/10/2011)

This work on shared social responsibility considers, among other things, how to ensure that all stakeholders are recognised, make deliberation and co-production legitimate tools of democratic decision making and activate multi-player, multi-level and multi-sector processes of innovation and learning. It also examines the question of how to foster the emergence of institutional mechanisms which can restore confidence in politics and in the action of all the parties concerned.

[More](#)



Public funding for film and audiovisual works in Europe. A report by the European Audiovisual Observatory - 2011 edition (04/11/2011)

Of vital importance to the European film industry, public funding represents a key intersection point between public policy and market dynamics. From influential national film agencies to small-scale local initiatives, this new report provides a unique overview of the geographical spread, scale and scope of direct public funding to the sector. With authoritative answers to the key questions... How many funds? How are they financed? What is total volume of funding? Which activities are supported? National versus regional funding – how do they differ? ... the report is an indispensable tool for industry professionals, policy makers, fund managers and researchers alike.

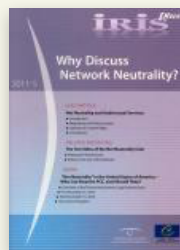
[More](#)



Migrants and fighting discrimination in Europe (White Paper Series - Volume 2) (27/09/2011)

This book analyses the issue of migration in Europe in its multiple dimensions, claiming that appropriate responses to the changing ways in which we live together will emerge only through the development of a new model of integration, based on the principle of equal dignity for each individual.

[More](#)



IRIS plus 2011-5: Why Discuss Network Neutrality? (03/11/2011)

Scarcity of Internet capacity is the starting point of the "network neutrality" debate. At the heart of the discussion is the question to what extent the legislature should tackle this shortage and its consequences through regulation, or whether the answer can be provided by free market forces. This IRIS plus is therefore, in a way, linked to an edition of the IRIS Special series entitled "To Have or Not to Have - Must-carry Rules" in the cable television sector, must-carry obligations have, in the past, granted access rights to distribution networks. This IRIS plus reports on the latest developments in the network neutrality debate, summarises the most recent changes in the legal framework for electronic communication and compares the situation in Europe with that in the USA.

[More](#)



CALENDAR

DATE	NSC ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE NSC PARTICIPATES AND/OR CONTRIBUTES	OTHER ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST FOR THE NSC
2 November	2 nd meeting of the Executive Committee (Lisbon)		
3-4 November	2011 Lisbon Forum		
11-12 November		Seminar on "the Alliance of Civilizations and the Council of Europe: Religious freedom in the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights" (Granada)	
13-14 November		Civil Society Forum "Living Together", Strasbourg 13 and 14 November 2011 (Strasbourg)	
12-20 November	Global Education Week		
15 November		Launch of an initiative of the AoC "Reconciling diversity and cohesion : a human rights model to build inclusive and participatory societies in the European Union" (Paris)	
16 November			International Day for Tolerance
20-21 November		Launch of a new Strategy of the Council of Europe for Children Rights (Monaco)	
24-25 November		Launch Conference of the Council of Europe 4 th draft strategy on Internet governance 2012-2015 / (Vienna)	
25 November		EMUNI General Assembly (Lisbon)	
28-29 November		2011 Council of Europe Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue (Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg)	
1-4 December		Mediterranean Citizens General Assembly (Tunis)	
10 December			International Human Rights Day
11-13 December		4 th Forum of the Alliance of Civilisations (Doha)	
15-16 December		European Development Days 2011 (Poland) - Global Education Week Evaluation Seminar	
15-16 December		First Stakeholders Meeting for EDD 2011 (Warsaw)	
21 December		Meeting of the "Baku Task Force" (Strasbourg)	