



OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

Warsaw, 23 September- 4 October 2013

Working session 2 – Tolerance and non-discrimination II

Contribution of the Council of Europe

Promotion of mutual respect and understanding through global education, history teaching and interreligious dialogue (North-South Centre)

- For over two decades, the Centre has been **promoting dialogue between North and South, fostering solidarity and raising awareness on interdependence**, and developing regional activities geared to transmitting and promoting the values which are central to the Council of Europe's mission.
- In May 2013 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe entrusted the Centre with a **reinforced mission towards the South Mediterranean in the framework of its Neighbourhood policy**. The Centre **contributes to democratic consolidation in the countries of the region, ensuring dialogue between various parties of its "quadrilogue" (governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society) and targeting the civil society, in particular youth and women. The Centre uses tools of education on democratic citizenship and global education, youth cooperation and intercultural dialogue**. The NSC continues to implement activities of the Joint Management Agreement with the European Commission in the fields of Global Education and Youth Cooperation.
- The Centre's work in the fields of Global Education and Youth have enabled it to develop educational tools and skills on intercultural dialogue, to build up major networks, in order **to facilitate exchange and dialogue on democracy and human rights, while strengthening the role of youth and women** in spaces that favour the mutual respect and trust.
- The **major tools include a Teacher's Guide on Global Education and online training and training of trainers on education for global citizenship, intercultural dialogue and human rights**.

Through its Lisbon Forum, its main flagship activity, the Centre focused on the issues of Freedom of expression, conscience and religion in 2010 and on developments and challenges in the Arab countries of Northern Africa and the Middle East in 2011 and 2012. The 2013 edition of the Lisbon Forum will be held on 6-7 November in the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon on the theme "Valuing civil society as actor of governance: Perspectives for the South Mediterranean". It is organised in co-operation with the Anna Lindh Foundation, IDEA and Aga Khan Development Network in the framework of the

Joint EU/CoE Programme “Strengthening democratic reform in the southern Neighbourhood”. The overall objective of the Lisbon Forum 2013 is to contribute to empowerment of civil society as actor of governance in Southern Mediterranean region.

A series of recent NSC activities focused on intercultural and interreligious dialogue as well as on the empowerment of women:

- The **North-South Prize 2012 awarded on 21 May 2013** to two exceptional women, Monika Hauser (Italy) and Asma Jahangir (Pakistan). On this occasion, a **discussion was held on the theme of religion and women's rights**.
- **Workshop “Intercultural Dialogue through History Teaching: Best Practices and Challenges”, (30 May 2013)** and **“Meeting of the Global Network of historians and history educators” (31 May 2013)** organised in partnership with Euroclio in the framework of the 2nd World Forum for Intercultural Dialogue of Baku.
- An online discussion on **"Religion and Women's Rights in the South of the Mediterranean"** (held from 6 to 16 May 2013).
- Support of the **training of young female lawyers and activists from the South Mediterranean** (Morocco and Tunisia) in the 44th session of the International Institute of Human Rights held in Strasbourg in July 2013 on the topic **"Religion and International Law of Human Rights"**
- **The first edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship held on 1-8 July in Hammamet, Tunisia**. The University was organised by the North-South Centre in co-operation with the National Youth Observatory of Tunisia and in partnership with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership, the Forum Nazionale dei Giovani and other youth organisations. Six activities took place in the framework of the University, including two activities of the North- South Centre, organised around the concept of active “quadrilogue” (New media and youth participation and Exchange on experience of civil society actors in democratic transformations) and the NSC 4th training course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe. The joint programme activities included an awareness rising session on Istanbul Convention (3 July) conducted by the NSC.

Contact:

Roman Chlapak – Deputy Executive Director – roman.chlapak@coe.int