



Call for Participants

Training Course for Youth Leaders of the African Diaspora Living in Europe

6 – 12 December 2009 – Almada, Lisbon, Portugal

organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in the frame of the Youth-Partnership between the Council of Europe & the European Commission



1. Background of the Training Course

In 2009, the **Youth-Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission** also includes an Euro-African Dimension implemented by the **North-South Centre**. This new partnership envelop is a direct consequence and follow-up of the previous five Euro-African training courses organised by the North-South Centre and of the **Africa Europe Youth Summit** process facilitated by the North-South Centre in 2007.

Youth organisations and youth groups from the African Diaspora living in Europe are fundamental actors for the Euro-African Youth Cooperation. The Youth from the African Diaspora was a key participatory element in the process leading to the Africa Europe Youth Summit and the Summit itself.

At the political level the Diaspora is considered by the African Union as the 6th region of Africa and the 6th building block of the African Union. These groups are also important bridges for youth cooperation and represent for the hosting societies an immense richness in terms of human resources, intercultural opportunities and possibilities for relationship with the sending societies.

This training Course will be held in Almada, Lisbon's neighboring city, a city enriched by a large community of African descendants, with very young population engaged in various youth groups from the African Diaspora, important actors of the Portuguese Civil Society .



The training course will be a residential programme of 5 days, and will be held at the youth Hostel of Almada, from the 6th (arrival day) to the 12th (departure day). The pedagogical team of the course will be composed of experienced trainers in Euro-African cooperation and will include trainers of the African Diaspora living in Europe and from Africa.

During the course participants will acquire knowledge and skills to develop the capacity of their organisations as civil society actors in the process of Euro-African Cooperation. Participants will exchange experiences and strategies to empower the youth community of Africans Living in Europe.

The course will gather close to 25 youth leaders from the African Diaspora active in youth organisations in the hosting societies or leading African Diaspora youth groups/movements. It 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 strategic 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.



This Training Course is an opportunity given to youth leaders from the African Diaspora to share, better understand and integrate the objectives settled at the

international level and better contribute to their achievement. Some of these 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 further equipped to participate in cooperation project:

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

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

2. Aims of the Training Course

The training course aims to:

- strengthen the role of young people particularly youth leaders and youth workers from the African Diaspora active in youth organisations in the hosting societies or leading African Diaspora youth groups/movements.
- Empower and promote the capacity to organise, take action and foster their political participation in Euro African Cooperation and Global youth Work.

3. Objectives of the Training Course

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 from the African Diaspora Living in Europe;
- to acquire know-how on concepts and challenges of youth work, youth policies and institutions relevant for the Youth from African Diaspora;
- to get acquainted with the new action framework, the *Africa-EU Strategic Partnership*;
- to reflect upon topics of importance to strengthen active citizenship (e.g. culture and identity, international migrations, 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.

4. Training Methodology

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, and 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.

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.

The course is a 5 days long programme using a variety of

The educational team for this course is composed of 3 trainers with relevant experience in youth work and Euro African co-operation.

5. 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.

6. Expected Results

- Building capacity of multipliers from youth leaders from the African Diaspora in youth organisations and youth group in Europe with the necessary skills to develop their Network and strengthen youth participation.
- An informal network of youth leaders from the African Diaspora and organisations actively committed to the strengthening of Civil Society;
- An increased engagement of the youth from African Diaspora in the Africa Europe Youth Cooperation.
- 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.

7. Profile of Participants

The participants in this course are representatives of youth organisations and youth groups of African Origin Living in Europe. The course is open for residents of all member-states of the Council of Europe:

Concerning participants and their profile:

- should be a key African multiplier or from African origin 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;
- 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.

8. Support for Travel Expenses

The North-South Centre of the Council of Europe will prepare pre-paid tickets for the travelling of selected participants as well as a travel insurance.

9. Course Fee

The Course will have a participation fee of 25€, which will be paid during the Course.

10. Deadline for Applications

Those participants fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should send the enclosed application form to nsc.africaeurope-youthsummit@coe.int by the **7th of November 2009**.