9 November 2008   International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

9/11/08 UNITED conference participants take part in a street action in Belgrade (RS)

UNITED WE ARE STRONG
Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism

9 November 2008   International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism
The fight against hatred, fascist and neonazi discourses is an extraordinary challenge that must be based on good strategies and practices. This is one of the main goals of ‘Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism’, a partnership of UNITED in the frame of the EU life-long learning program GRUNDTVIG. Education is an excellent instrument against indifference, just as much as knowledge is an excellent counter-act against hatred. The determination of the European civil society to act against right-wing extremism requires the overcoming of indifference, since indifference is one of the best allies of right-wing extremists.

This report is a collection of good practices that were organised all over Europe during the ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’ 2008. It aims at being an inspiration and motivation for those who want to organise low or no-budget activities to act against indifference.

2008: many efforts, many new challenges

We all witness nowadays examples of phobic reactions towards diversity on all mainstream channels of our life: politics, religious institutions, schools and the media. A few relevant examples are on mainstream newspapers everyday: homosexuals being beaten up by neonazi, members of minorities being used as scapegoats, visible minorities facing violence on the streets of many European capital cities, discriminatory laws being passed in the name of security, representatives of historical revisionisms being given public space, hatred speech taken as a form of amusement, hatred-based assemblies being offered public space and military protection.

Everyday life: what can I do?

2008 was no better than 2007. Yet, UNITED offered through this project a new range of options to counter right-wing extremism and report any form of violence and offense related to it. While it is easier for organisations, which have a legacy and some experience in the field, to put their thoughts into action and follow their creative instinct in organising great events, individuals are sometimes left with a sense of frustration. UNITED welcomes every message reporting an act of violence, denouncing forms of right-wing extremism, describing conditions of discrimination and hatred. UNITED can give voice to all your reports through its powerful E-news system. UNITED can help individuals find in their country an organisation that can support their frustration and channel it into action. UNITED can support your monitoring by providing tools, such as campaign reports, posters, informative leaflets, that can help individuals have a broader view on the situation.

REMEmBER... the past step 2

In a society where minorities are used as scapegoat for situations caused instead by wrong policies and where mass feelings are manipulated and turned into an irrational fear of diversity, it is difficult to focus on the actual consequences of discrimination and hatred. The past with its ghosts of violence, persecution, exclusion and genocide is kept at a reasonable emotional distance, just as if memories should be lived privately not to fan the flames of hate anymore. When it comes to the Second World War, most survivors are too old and dying, genocide sites, such as Auschwitz, are nowadays facing economical problems, as the funds are not sufficient for a proper maintenance and remembrance coverage. Acts that led to horrible violence are now tolerated, as if if consequences this time could be less harmful. Our strongest means of breaking this trend is not only to remember the past on a personal level, but to practice remembrance within the public arena, to contribute to any educational program that helps spreading information about what was done to the victims of the Holocaust and how it all began with “mild” discrimination. Our duty, as citizens and activists, is to keep the past alive through remembrance activities and to transform the darkest days of history into a chance for education, growth and equality, by all means of sensitivity and creativity.

November 9: ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom

The ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom is usually seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, the genocide deliberately planned and executed by the Nazis during the Second World War. In addition to the approximately 6 million Jewish, who were the main target of a complete annihilation policy, there were an estimated 5.5 million ‘enemies of the German state’ - criminals and ‘a-socials’, people with mental disabilities, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, trade unionists, political offenders such as communists and socialists, Roma and Sinti - who were also persecuted. Estimates of the number of so-called ‘Gypsies’ murdered are between 200.000 and 1.500.000. The estimated number of homosexuals killed in the camps varies from 10.000 to 15.000.

The expression ‘Night of Broken Glass’ was given to the event by the Nazis themselves, because it mocked what had happened. German antifascists today prefer to describe the pogrom as ‘Reichs-pogromnacht’, although in other countries the terms ‘Night of Broken Glass’ and ‘Kristallnacht’ are better known.

‘Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism’

The ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’ 2008: many efforts, many new challenges
A short history...

After the Nazis came to power in 1933, Jewish Germans were subjected to harsh laws against them. They went through many forms of discrimination, social violence, economical injustice and seclusion: they were forced to hand over their businesses to ‘Aryans’, allowed to enter in Jewish-owned shops only, allowed to attend Jewish schools only, amongst others. This was accompanied by waves of random violence against Jewish individuals on the streets and elsewhere in public spaces. Nevertheless, until 9 November 1938, many of these attacks had seemed to be unplanned by the leadership of the Nazi Party and the government of Germany. On November 6th, a young Jewish man living in Paris, Herschel Grynszpan, received a postcard from his father Zindel who had been deported on October 27th to the Polish frontier, along with 18,000 other Jewish German. The postcard described the terrible conditions that the deportees were living under. Herschel Grynszpan was so angered by what he had read that he went to the German Embassy in Paris and shot the first German official he saw, Ernst vom Rath. The news about the shooting reached Germany the next day. Hitler and Goebbels were at that moment attending an official celebration for the 15th anniversary of Hitler’s coup of 9 November 1923. Goebbels took up the chance to hold a rabble-speech against the Jewish. On the same day, the Nazis started an organised wave of violence against the Jewish minority. The pogrom started in Berlin on 9 November 1938, unofficially organised by Hitler’s SA storm troops. In a telegram-letter to all SA and SS-groups, Reinhard Heydrich, leader of the SS, clearly ordered the violence to begin. Synagogues were set on fire. Jewish shops had their windows smashed across the country - thus the name ‘Kristallnacht’, which freely translated means the Night of Broken Glass. Many Jewish were physically attacked too. More than 7000 Jewish businesses across the country were attacked. Fires were lit in every Jewish area and the Nazis burnt religious books. Around 200 synagogues were destroyed. The violence lasted 24 hours and 91 Jews were killed. More than 30,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Many of them were killed in the following two months.

Three simple steps towards a hatred-free society!
SWEDEN

‘What is the best way to fight fascism?’

Sweden is experiencing what seems to be the high point of a neonazi campaign of violence. Only during the two months of November and December neonazis burned down an autonomous cultural centre in Högdalen, attacked anti-racists activists on the streets and luckily failed with the attempt murder of a Union activist and his family by setting on fire their apartment. This alarming situation is being aroused by the general insecurity and discontent generated by the economical crisis. Marginalisation and divisions within society are the perfect climate for racist parties and neonazi groups to gain supporters. Defeat racism is responsibility of both institutions and civil society. Antifascism needs to be seen and heard everywhere; it needs to regain its place in everyone’s mind.

The organisation Young Left of Sweden - Ung Vänster organised actions all over Sweden in order to ‘awake’ civil society and raise common awareness about the danger of the raising anti-democratic movement. Activities like torchlight processions, demonstrations, discussions and manifestations aimed to mobilise antifascist activists as well as the Swedish population and involve them in visible street actions. Ways and methods to tackle this emerging issue were discussed and developed in seminars that took place in several cities like Göteborg, Karlstad, Lund, Malmö, Stockholm and Mark. A seminar in Stockholm with a movie screening was held followed by a discussion on how to fight against racism and nazism. During the action antiracism magazines with information on ‘What is the best way to fight racism’ were freely distributed.

SLOVAKIA

Antifascists, lets get together and share the matter

In Slovakia, the far-right is once again on the rise, both in numbers, as well as in terms of the physical attacks against Roma, immigrants and alternative youths. Far-right groups are adopting new strategies that try to target more mainstream audiences. The movement is transforming from nazi-skinheads to resemble the Czech movements and organisations like Národný Odpor (National Resistance), which has its branch in Slovakia. Apart from the neonazi scene, there is also a strong ultra-nationalist/neofascist scene that builds on the glorification of the Slovak clerofascist state during the Second World War.

In the frame of the ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’, the history of Slovakia during the Second World War has been subject of discussion in Levice, where local students hosted a meeting and distributed many antifascist and anti-racist materials, from posters to publications. The discussion was followed by a dance party.

Music has always been one of the most powerful tool for all antifascist campaigns, not only because it reaches out to people from different ages, but also because music speaks directly to the heart of people. The events organised in Slovakia were all centered around music.

In Košice a concert in one of the local clubs was held to stress the importance of the remembrance of the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom. The concert was attended by local bands, also in this occasion, material was distributed and at the beginning of the activity, a short film was screened. The biggest event took place in Bratislava, named the ‘Antifascist Happening’. Many different bands from all over the country and from different styles participated. A big program opened the evening with several films and the testimony from a Holocaust survivor, whose personal story emotionally touched the audience.

List of activities

• INTERNATIONAL > 07.11.2008 “Europe Under Construction: imagine our Future Without Hate!” Conference and demonstration in Belgrade, organised by QUEERIA

- Center for Promoting Nonviolence & Equality and UNITED for International Action. • ALBANIA > 16.10.08-27.10.08 “Fight Racism Through Sport” Sportive campaign by inviting youngsters to play football in a fair and friendly way in Shkoder in Albania, organised by Young Intellectuals - Hope - Intellektuelët e Rën-Shpërte. • ARMENIA > 07.11.08-12.11.08 “We Can Stop It” Campaign with seminars and round tables in Yerevan and Gyumri region in Armenian, organised by Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia. November “Youth Against Fascism and Racism” Demonstration and music festival in Yerevan, organised by Armenian Centre for Youth & Students International Relations & Exchange. • AUSTRIA > 09.11.2008 “Never Forget!” Flag and manifestation on “Platz der Opfer der Deportation” in Wien, organised by Initiative Aspangbahnhof. 15.11.2008 “Fetish and Freedom” Seminar with Stephan Grigat in Wien, organised by Verein für Gesellschafts- & Kulturkritik - Cafe Critique. 09.11.2008 “Decumenecz Picketts at Pogrom Commemoration Day” Pickets and Commemorations on places where till 1938 synagogues existed and Jewish cemeteries all over Austria, organised by Katholische Aktion Österreich. 08.11.08-10.11.08 “Kristallnacht” Pogrom: What Have we Learned 70 Years Later? A Professional Development” Seminar in Vienna (A) for Teachers from EU Member States, organised by European Union Agency for...
Cologne September 2008: Collective resistance!
From the 19th to the 21st of September, in the city of Cologne, the citizens’ initiative ‘pro Köln’ (pro Cologne) organised an ‘Anti-Islamization-Congress’ by inviting right-wing extremists from several European countries. The conference included a protest against the construction of a large mosque in the western German city. Hundreds of people were expected at this nationalist event. The right-wing supporters of the congress fortunately did not consider the large resistance that the population of Cologne and 40,000 activists from all over Germany organised against their meeting. Mayor Fritz Schrama called on the city’s inhabitants to show that ‘Racists and far right extremists aren’t welcome’ - ‘We’re here to show racism the red card’ said Cologne mayor. Hundreds of citizens answered to the call of their Major by starting a peaceful, passive resistance against the rally. Supporters of the congress had to discover that no taxi driver would take them to their destination, no restaurant honoured their table reservation and no hotel would give them keys to their rooms. The whole city rose under the common slogan ‘No Kölsch for Nazis’. Even the local barkeepers refused to serve the local Cologne beer, Kölsch, to any obvious far-right visitors. About 150 bars hung banners bearing the city slogan and some 200,000 beer mats were printed with the same message.
On this occasion, Cologne inhabitants took a clear stand against right wing extremism, the City participated united in a courageous movement to denounce the abuse of a public space as a meeting place for right-wing radicals, aimed to spread intolerance and xenophobia.

Night of the youth - 70 years later
The ‘Night of the youth’ took place in the Bremen city hall to commemorate the pogrom night of November 1938. Under the motto ‘Our future has history’, it was meant to support young people to be different and accept diversity. 2000 youngsters took the chance to join the program which several hundred of them had developed themselves. The topics discussed in the frame of workshops, presentations and exhibitions included youth in the Third Reich, homophobia among students and right-wing extremist incidents in the local football stadium. It also offered a rich cultural program from hip-hop, rock, swing and Jewish music. A special part of the program was dedicated to the survivor witness Herbert Goldschmidt, born in Bremen in 1926, whose family was deported to Minsk and murdered.

Someone had to do something...
In the frame of the public reading ‘Someone had to do something’, the famous German actor Klaus Maria Brandauer read letters and poems of the German theologian and resistance fighter Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945). Bonhoeffer who became a major figure in the Church’s resistance

List of activities
Fundamental Rights. ▪ AZERBAIJAN > 05.11.08-08.11.08 “Beyond Religious Differences” Conference in Baku, organised by Ministry of Youth and Sport-Youth Alliance
Department in cooperation with the Council of Europe. 09.11.2008 “Together We Can Build a Better Future!” Meeting with university students in Baku, organised by Youth League for Intercultural Cooperation. ▪ BELARUS > 09.11.2008 “Say No to Fascism” Regional campaign and street action in Grodno, organised by Stop Racism in Belarus. 09.11.2008 “UNITED We are Strong!” Street action with infolatlets on antisemitism and nationalism in today’s Belarus in Minsk, organised by Belarussian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. ▪ BELGIUM > 31.10.2008 “Extreme Right Wing in 2008” Seminar in Brussels, organised by Les Territoires de la Memoire. 09.11.2008 “Commemorate Kristallnacht Pogrom” Memorial service at the Great Synagogue of Europe in Bruxelles, organised by European Jewish Congress. 08.11.2008 “Is Islamophobia Racism?” Network day in Etterbeek in Belgium, organised by Kerwerk Multicultured Samerdien / Network Racisme Keren. ▪ BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA > 09.11.2008 “Out with Fascism and Antisemitism” Demonstration and peace march in Sarajevo, organised by International Peace Centre Sarajevo. 09.11.2008 United we are Strong!” Public promotion in Srebrenica and Bratunac, organised by Nansen Dialogue Centre Sarajevo in cooperation with local partners. ▪ BULGARIA > 09.11.08-10.11.08 “UNITED we are Strong!” Distribution of UNITED material and discussion forum in Stara Zagora, organised by Initiative Regional Youth Council. 15.10.08-16.11.08 “Month of Tolerance in Shumen” Activities all around
movement was arrested in 1943 and murdered just days before the end of the war on 9 April, 1945 in the Flossenbürg concentration camp. The letters and poems he wrote in confinement inspired generations of both Christians and non-Christians. Together with the British star violinist Daniel Hope, Brandauer developed a performance of music and emotions, which was presented on 9 November 2008 in the theatre Berlin Ensemble.

Art installation against neonazi violence
On 9 November 2008, the Initiative Bürger.Courage organised a special art project against right-wing extremist violence in Dresden. Under the motto 'Resist to the beginnings', it set up an installation of wooden signs along the Elbe river side. The signs symbolise the attacks neonazis have committed during the past two years in Dresden. With this art project, the activists want to put a visible sign against right-wing extremist violence. The signs are arranged as a triangle pointing at the city centre and illuminated in a way that it casts a symbolic shadow on Dresden. The installation is complemented by information signs, which document the crimes against the Jewish citizens of Dresden during National Socialism of Hitler Germany. The initiative Bürger.Courage was founded in 2005. It regularly organises art activities, theatre projects and information campaigns to confront neo-nazi trends and prevent youth of entering in the anti-democratic movements.

POLAND

'Kristallnacht' pogrom & the meaning of the present
The commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom was characterised by several activities that took place all over the country. In Krakow the Center for Holocaust Studies, in cooperation with several organisations, implemented the international seminar 'Antisemism and Racism in Europe - Fascist Ideology and Practice'. Main topics discussed were institutionalised racism, totalitarian, antisemitic ideologies and how to combat fascism through education.

The association Never Again released DVDs and antiracist material. These films have been freely available on You Tube. Directly on 9 November, Never Again and the Cultural Association of Jews in Poland organised scientific and cultural meetings all over Warsaw; they distributed materials about the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom to the passers by. To make its actions public, Never Again involved multiple forms of media, for example one of its members was invited by a TV station to explain about the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom.

In the city of Olsztyn activists from the Anti-Nazi Group went into the local high school to implement a workshop about tolerance. The involvement of the pupils was facilitated by the use of catchy, educational material such as posters and leaflets.

DENMARK

YES to Solidarity - NO to Racism and Xenophobia
The political environment in Denmark shifted dramatically in the last years. 2007 the right-wing populist party ‘Danish People Party’ (DF) celebrated 14% at the Danish Parliament Election and enjoys rising popularity. The most important topic of the DF is the stop of migration and it succeeds to shape the public opinion with openly xenophobic and racist argumentation. Beside that, there are very active and well organised neonazi groups, such as the ‘Danish National Socialist Movement’ or the

List of activities
Shumen in Bulgarian language, organised by European Information Center Europe in Shumen in cooperation with Association Ethnotolerance and University of Shumen. • CROATIA • 09.11.2008 “Women’s Participation in War and in the Struggle Against Fascism” commemoration at monument in honour of antifascist activists and exhibition in Pula, organised by Home Association for Human Rights Protection and Civic Freedom. • CYPRUS • 09.11.2008 “Rainbow Festival Limassol” Music and dances by migrants, asylum seekers, foreign students, Greek-cypriots and Turkish-cypriots, exhibitions and info stands, organised by KISA-Action for Equality. • CZECHIA • 09.11.2008 “A Young Roma Girl” Film screening for pupils, organised by Youth and Environment Europe. 10.11.2008 “Kristallnacht in Sudetenland and Czechia” Lecture in Prague, organised by Jewish Museum of Prague. 03.11.08-09.11.08 “What Do You Think?” Interactive workshops in different towns in Czechia, organised by DÚHA-Rainbow Association in cooperation with Children’s Parliaments. • DENMARK • November 2008 “Kristallnacht 2008” Events have taken place all over Denmark. Co-ordinated by Antirasitisk Netværk and supported by SOS Against Racism 09.11.2008 “Torch Light Demonstration” in Copenhagen, organised by LO-Storkoebenhavn, SOS mod Racisme - SOS Against Racism-Denmark. 09.11.2008 “70th Anniversary of the Amendment of Fascist Racial Laws” Meeting in Copenhagen, organised by LO-Storkoebenhavn and supported by SOS Against Racism, 09.11.2008 “Torch Light March” Manifestation and meeting in Athus, organised by Antirasitisk Netværk and supported by SOS Against Racism. 08.11.2008 “Kristallnacht
Children raise their voice on the radio against anti-Semitism. A non-formal way to involve different age groups and reach out to a broad public.

Eliminate Racism

Is it difficult to act against racism as an individual, to stand up and to speak up? Sometimes yes, but there are also actions you can take and incorporate in your daily life very easily. The Austrian pressure group SOS Mitmensch in cooperation with ZARA and WIK launched the community platform “Eliminate Racism” to document racist graffiti in public space with the help of Vienna’s citizens and to point out these ashamed smearings.

Is open racism tolerated? Fact is that you encounter racist graffiti and that it is not easy to get them removed. Private owners and the government put the responsibility to each other and if you - as an active citizen - turn a swastika into a nicely decorated window etc. you could get yourself in trouble with justice.

In a press conference at the start of the campaign the initiators presented how different European cities deal with this situation. Possible examples are many municipalities in Great-Britain which remove racist, homophobic or sexist graffiti free of charge within 24 hours. Although the goal to influence the government’s attitude towards this problem and to establish official funding for the removal of graffiti wasn’t reached so far, several positive effects were achieved. According to SOS Mitmensch and ZARA’s Racism Report ‘Case Report of Incidents and Structures in Austria’ public awareness of racist graffiti increased throughout the population. Incidents like a racist graffiti staying next to a police station without action are not easily possible any more. Where the state refuses… civil society gets active! A cooperation between ZARA and the construction company derBaumann makes a service named ‘Graffiti Ambulance’ possible which offers to remove racist graffiti free of charge.

United against Facism and Antisemitism! Kampagne zum 9. November

‘Danish Front’, which both openly confess towards the traditional national socialism of Hitler Germany and use violent attacks to oppose the Danish antifascist movement. To oppose the rightward shift of the Danish society by defamatory propaganda of political parties and right-wing extremist groups, more than 20 grass-roots organisations active in the antiracism and antifascism field joined forces to set up awareness and information actions all over Denmark. The common slogan for the diverse actions was ‘Never Again Kristallnacht! Yes to Solidarity - No to Racism and Xenophobia’ and hundreds of people where mobilised in torchlight processions, public manifestations, press-conferences and seminars throughout the country’s cities. The aim of mass events like torchlight procession and public manifestations is on one hand to raise broad public awareness about actual issues and show symbolic solidarity on the streets and on the other hand it sends a clear message against the radical groups, parties and ideologies - it may also shape the public opinion due to the impression of a change, in the sense of “you are not alone”. These mass events together with well-prepared press conferences draw the attention of the media, which is used to spread the message all over the country and sustain the ‘longevity’ of the message in people’s mind, which is the basis of successful follow-ups.

GOOD PRACTICE

• CZECHIA

What do you think?

The last years anniversary of the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom, with attempts of right-wing extremist marches in Prague and other towns, showed that it is utterly necessary to raise awareness about the danger of strengthening neonazism and antisemitism especially among pupils and youngsters. Unfortunately, the history of the 20th century is not always explained at schools due to ‘lack of time’ and because it is a controversal theme. Topics such as Holocaust and Second World War are considered too distant by pupils; they feel them as far as the Middle Ages. Antifascist activists from DUHA facilitated discussions with pupils and students aged 14-16 years at several elementary and secondary schools of Prague in the week from 3 to 10 November 2008. They discussed about the Night of Broken Glass, Holocaust and contemporary neonazism. Student participative structures (Children’s and Youth Parlamets) organised the debates in lessons of civic education at their schools together with the local groups of youth association DUHA. They started the debate with showing a short movie ‘I Am Not Able to Understand This’ (hate marches of the Czech neonazis and the Holocaust) followed by a short explanation. Pupils and students raised many questions and showed different opinions. Some of them found out that hate against Roma has social roots and it emerges in racism. They came to the conclusion that fighting hate-speech and fascist ideologies can...
not be left to authorities, but need the active involvement from civil society (especially youth) and its movements, like UNITED for Intercultural Action. Key factors to raise awareness about the mentioned issues were pointed out, such as peer-education with the involvement of their participative structures as well as networking in a wider scale. To equip the participants with the necessarily tools for a follow up, information and thematic leaflets, newspaper-posters and campaigning material in Czech language were distributed among the pupils. This lesson of civic education was followed by art education where they produced posters and bulletin boards about the Holocaust and danger of neonazism, racism and right-wing extremism.

BELGIUM

Remember the past - Learn for future

The lessons of ‘Kristallnacht’ must be learned again and again. Forgetting paves the way for troops of intolerance to march again.’ (Former Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme). The European Jewish Congress organised a memorial service at the Great Synagogue of Europe in Bruxelles. The service was attended by politicians, Jewish leaders from across Europe, Holocaust survivors, as well as diplomats and members of the Belgian Jewish community. ‘By burning synagogues and Torah scrolls, the Nazis understood that they were touching the heart of the Jewish life,’ Rabbi Lau said in his address during the service, calling on the necessity for the Jews ‘to learn from the past.’ The ceremony was part of events held in Bruxelles, seat of the main European Union institutions, to commemorate ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom but also to promote tolerance and reconciliation across the continent.

SPAIN

Creativity gives no space for degenerated ideologies

Spain hosts a variety of far-right political groups, which intensified their struggles to gain public acceptance and, yet missing, electoral victories. Mentionable in this respect are the neo-fascist party ‘La Falange Española’, which follows up the Franquism of the Spanish civil war; ‘Frente Español’ (Spanish Front), which is a platform of, partly banned, right-wing extremist parties and groups; ‘Alianza Nacional’ (National Alliance), a relatively new group with a fascist political program and strong socialist economic concepts; and ‘Democracia Nacional’ (National Democracy), which sustains strong boundaries with local neonazi and skinhead groups.

The Spanish neonazi and skinhead subculture is notorious for its readiness to use violence and often roots in radical and racist football fan groups. In order to struggle racist football hooliganism the nationwide active NGO CEPA organised intercultural street soccer tournaments for youth to point out in practice that sports don’t divide, but connect. Intercultural events like a flamenco concert, oriental dance events and Hip Hop concerts were organised to use diverse youth- and subcultures as an integrative tool to raise tolerance among youngsters. School children where made aware about the different forms of racism and fascism during workshops at their school and made their opinion public through written ‘letters against discrimination’. To reach broad public awareness and participation in anti-discrimination work a wall of stones was built up on a public square in Aranjuez (city close to Madrid), where children wrote down their ideas of human rights and how to practice mutual respect in their daily life. See also Good Practice page 13

At high schools in Málaga and Sevilla the association Movement Against Intolerance used the power of art to draw the line between the past Franquism and the present. Creativity gives no space for degenerated ideologies.

7 Tage Schlagzeilen

Audiovisuelle Installation zum Novemberpogrom 1938 in Wien.


Public speeches attract broad attention and not only raise awareness about the danger of the far-right, but also generate a common spirit for activism.

List of activities

- “Soundcrash” Concert and party, organised by Antifaschistische Initiative Moabit in cooperation with Artilla Prenzlauer Berg 09.11.2008 “A Stumbling Stone for Ella Kroch” Excursin in Leipzig, organised by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung in cooperation with Gedenkmarsch-Leipzig, WVN Leipzig and MDK-Württemberg. 07.11.2008-08.11.08 “(Re-)Production of Racism” Conference in Köln, organised by Humanwissenschaftliche Fakultät der Universität zu Köln. 07.11.2008 “Rock against Right-Wing Extremism” Concert in Essen, organised by SJD - Die Falken Essen. 20.10.08-07.11.08 “Extreme against Right-Wing Extremism” Project week in Bielefeld, organised by Arbeit und Leben Bielefeld, DGB Jugend OWL and Bezirkjugendwerk der AWO OWL. 04.11.2008 “Finally the tourists are Coming” Movie and discussion in Potsdam, organised by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-Brandenburg. 08.11.2008-07.12.08 “Stand or Fall” Exposition in Fürstenwalde, organised by Adlon Sächsische Friedensdienste. 09.11.2008 “Walk to Commemorate” Event in Lechenich, organised by Geschichtsverein Erfstadt in cooperation with Evangelische Friedensgemeinde and Katholische Pfarrgemeinde St Kilian. 09.11.2008 “Keep Alive the Memory” Relocation of stumbling blocks in remembrance of Holocaust victims in Lechenich, organised by Geschichtsverein Erfstadt. 05.11.2008 “New Research and Commemoration Perspectives” Seminar in Münster, organised by Villa ten Hompel in cooperation with Gesellschaft für Christliche-Jüdische Zusammenarbeit, Katholische Akademie Franz-Hitze-Haus. 03.11.08-14.11.08 “Erfurter Commemoration” Exposition in the Old Synagogue in Erfurt, organised by Evangelische Stadtkonferenz Meister Eckhart. 07.11.08-08.11.08 “Against ...
Deputies - A projection on the facade of the Stein prison

In April 1945, shortly before the end of the war, the release of political prisoners from the Stein prison in Lower Austria was officially authorised. However, the local NSDAP stopped the release. All remained prisoners, the warden and some of the prison guards were shot, released prisoners on the run were hunted and murdered. The massacre took the life of 386 people. Only 24 victims are known by names, photos only exist of 7 of them. This anonymity does not even leave the dignity of an own name and face. Against this background, the artists Katarina Veldhues and Gottfried Schumacher created the project 'Deputies'. It tries to give back a name and a face to the unknown victims, represented by the photos of volunteers who gave their portrait as deputies of the victims. The portraits are part of a projection on the facade of the historical part of the Stein prison building, which was shown on 22 November 2008.

Good practice

7 days of headlines

An audiovisual installation

Media plays a crucial role for influencing the public opinion. The audiovisual installation ‘7 days of headlines’ which was opened on 6 November in the Nestroyhof Hamakom Theatre in Vienna, documented the Viennese media reporting from 7 to 13 November 1938. The installation contrasted an uncommented chronology of press clippings and speeches of political officials with reports of eyewitnesses and foreign journalists. Thus, ‘7 days of headlines’ casts a light on the power media had in manipulating public consciousness. Parallel to this project, the art university of Graz organised the symposium ‘November, 1938. Power, memory, art’ which focussed on prosecuted artists.

Great Britain

The alien’s act exhibition

Racial discrimination is something Great Britain is all too familiar with. Cases of racially aggravated behaviour including verbal and physical abuse, threats, harassment remain a widespread and everyday occurrence in Great Britain. Cases of murder are far rarer, yet the numbers are still alarming. According to research carried out by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR), in the last ten years there have been over 50 people killed in racial attacks. It is estimated that half of all racist attacks are carried out by school children or young people, 20% involve neighbours, half of all victims know their attackers.

List of activities

Antisemitism, Racism, Discrimination and Nationalism - for Real Democracy! 18th Thüringer Ratschlag in Erfurt, organised by LAG Antifaschismus/Antirassismus Thüringen. 07.11.08-08.11.08 “Thinking about Nürnberg” Seminar in Nürnberg, organised by Bildungsvorarlager Arbeit und Leben Sachsen. 09.11.08-11.11.08 “Action Days against Antisemitism” Films and recitation in Döbeln, organised by IIG Medienn & Bildung and ARID. 09.11.2008 “Staying Jewish - Becoming German” Annual march and rally in St. Andrew, organised by Union for People in Transport and Travail. 26.10.2008 “Launch of Founding Charter” Event in London, organised by International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network. • GRECE > 02.11.08-09.11.08 “Shut the Door to the Past” Debate and education materials, organised by United Societies of Balkans. 09.11.08-10.11.08 “Serres Against Fascism & Antisemitism 2008” Exhibition and presentation in Serres, organised by UNESCO Club of Serres and PRAXIS. • HUNGARY > November “Focus on the International Day Against
On the 10 November the Alien’s Act exhibition was presented and discussed. This exhibition was organised by Santé Refugee Mental Health Access Project and took place at Crossfield Day Centre in London. Participants learned how the first immigration law in Britain was designed to keep out the Jews. The exhibition shows also how the successive Immigration laws have become more and more punitive while immigration is proven to be both beneficial and essential to economic and cultural growth.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Keep your workplace racism free

In Northern Ireland the Anti-Racist Workplace Week took place in the period between 3 and 7 November. The motto of the week was ‘keep your workplace racism free’. Anti-Racist Workplace Week was a social partnership initiative organised by the Equality Commission and key social partner organisations consisting of employers, trade unions and Black and minority ethnic groups. The main focus of the week was to raise awareness around the issue of racism in the working place and encourage employers to develop practical workplace strategies to achieve equality of opportunity in a culturally diverse workforce.

NETHERLANDS

‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom in the light of today

The Council of Europe warned the Dutch politicians against the worrying rising of islamophobia and antisemitism. It is very important that civil society does not keep its eyes shut in front of these phenomena and gets active against islamophobia and antisemitism.

Since 1992 the Nederland Bekent Kleur has organised the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom commemoration in Amsterdam. This year one of the topics was the creation of a link between past and present. The Holocaust survivor Mirjam Ohringer (84) from Stichting Vriendenkring Mauthausen, the former mayor and also a former politician Mohamed Rabbae delivered a speech.

Another commemoration took place in the Memorial Centre Kamp Westerbork. The Dutch singer Mirjam van Dam interpreted the song ‘Es Brennt’ (‘It Burns’) about the synagogues set on fire in Germany. German students contributed to the program as well, an old inmate of Westerbork shared her memories about the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom with the other participants. The program finished with a march through the forest near the camp.

GREECE

Who is who?

In December 2008, an incident of brutal police violence against a 15 years old pupil, killed by a policeman, caused a wave of protests that inflamed all Greece. Some demonstrations were peaceful and democratic, however there were also outbursts of violence setting the centre of Athens and other cities on fire (shops, blocks of flats, libraries, theatres were destroyed). This violence came from a group of people that present themselves as ‘anarchists’; people have gathered lots of anger and hate against them.

In this worrying situation, the fascists and neonazis present themselves as ‘protectors’ mingling with population who try to defend their property. However there were also outbursts of violence setting the centre of Athens and other cities on fire (shops, blocks of flats, libraries, theatres were destroyed). This violence came from a group of people that present themselves as ‘anarchists’; people have gathered lots of anger and hate against them.

List of activities

- Fascism” Info and awareness raising through Internet, organised by Kurt Lewin Foundation. 10.11.2008 “Action Week for Tolerance” Campaign in Budapest, organised by Human Rights Students’ Initiative. • IRELAND > 09.11.2008 “UNITED we are Strong!” Poster-Campaign with UNITED material in Dublin, organised by NEARfm 101.6 - Community Radio for Northeast Dublin. • ITALY > 07.11.2008 “Antifa Concert” Concert in Milano, organised by Association of Social Promotion Youth Action for Rights Development. 09.11.2008 “The Ghosts become Persons” Book presentation and discussion in Milano, organised by Association of Social Promotion Youth Action for Rights Development in cooperation with Agency against Racism and Xenophobia. 03.11.08-09.11.08 “9-11-1938” Conference in Rieti, organised by Associazione Rieti Immigrants - ARI Onlus. 17.09.2008 “Sarono and the Racial Laws: 1938-1944” Book presentation in Sarono, organised by Gruppo della Memoria. • KYRGYSTAN > 09.11.2008 “World Club Diversity Week 2008” Activities and sport competitions in Bishkek, organised by International Affairs Office World Club. 10.11.2008 “Peace is Possible” Discussions and seminars in Bishkek, organised by American Council for International Education. • LATVIA > 09.11.2008 “UNITED We are Strong!” Commemoration march and spreading info material in Riga, organised by Latvian Antifascist Committee. • MACEDONIA > 09.11.2008 “Never to Be Forgotten” Debate in Bitola, organised by Youth Forum Bitola - Forum na Mлад-Битола. 08.11.2008 “Kristallnacht” Pogrom Commemoration” Info and awareness raising within the BLOK magazine, organised by Youth Forum Bitola - Forum na Mlad-Bitola. • MOLDOVA > 09.11.2008
Help the Environment - Trash Your Prejudices!

Everybody has prejudices and stereotypes against individuals or groups. History showed that if we are not critical towards our own opinions we easily turn a blind eye to both human dignity and diversity, as well as individuality. Acknowledging and becoming aware of our own stereotypes and prejudices is the first important step to get rid of them and prevent radical behaviour!

The Finnish Red Cross designed a very innovative action to create public awareness about the need to fight discrimination by 'trashing' prejudices. In this campaign, people were encouraged and challenged to reflect about their prejudices and also to get rid of at least one. The main message of their activity was: "By giving up even one of your prejudices you will help building an environmentally-friendly and pluralistic Finland". The actions themselves were very simple - but significant - and took place directly on the streets, in public places, in schools, at working places and shopping centres. Volunteers dressed up in bin men's clothes were equipped with big red rubbish containers. People got approached in a very non-formal and funky way, as the volunteers asked them to write down at least one stereotype or prejudice and trash the paper in the bin. The reactions of the public were pretty controversial and we all know that if people start to discuss and state their opinion, it already strengthens consciousness about the topic and active citizenship is thus achieved. Since there is no need to recycle prejudices and stereotypical views, the papers in the special red trash bins were transported as hazardous waste to be destroyed at the end of the day - mostly in a 'burning ceremony'.

Organised and carried out by the Refugee and Youth Teams of the Finnish Red Cross, this action reached out successfully in about 35 towns and was able to receive good media coverage in national TV, radio and national and local newspapers. Like with every campaign 'planning and coordination is half the success' and the Finnish Red Cross has monitored 292 attacks based upon aggressive xenophobia. The so-called "Nationalists use the social and economical crisis as a chance to promote themselves and their ideology and speculate upon xenophobic prejudices. Attacks and assassinations of human rights defenders are becoming more and more frequent and are receiving little media coverage and drown by the international indifference."

Say NO to those who call us back to fascism.

During the period since January till December 2008, the Sova Centre has monitored 292 attacks based upon aggressive xenophobia. The social-economic situation that Russia is facing gives no chances for any optimistic forecasts. Most likely the growth of the number of attacks and murders based upon xenophobia will continue. Nationalists use the social and economic crisis as a chance to promote themselves and their ideology and speculate upon xenophobic prejudices. People who bravely stood up against the far right are feeling victim to it, but it is fundamental to say NO to those who call us back to fascism.

The action week 'Crystal Night-Never Again!' aroused great interest this year in this respect. More than 100 people in the United States have been directly involved; they belonged to women and youth groups, multinational women unions and took an active part in organising and conducting successful educational activities. Roundtable discussions, youth and community meetings have been implemented to declare the
inadmissibility of xenophobia and ideologies popularizing intolerance in the society. Several actions have been held in partnership with other organisations to strengthen the state oppressed anti-racist movement. People from different nationalities, NGOs representatives and youth have been actively involved in order to create poster and drawings as educational material to raise awareness against the raise of extremism. Shows, actions, disputes, tolerance classes, trainings have been organised to build up an active civil society.

ROMANIA

My neighbours are not my enemies

Holocaust education is normal in Germany. But in some parts of Europe, where much of the killing took place, the past is buried under layers of politics and history. The Holocaust was taboo in post-war Romania because Jews were not remembered in official Soviet history as Hitler’s main victims: communists were.

MTP Oradea showed its commitment in the promotion of human rights through education by organising workshops aimed to spread the values of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and interculturality. The activities challenged participants’ views and opinions on racism, antisemitism, xenophobia and intolerance. After a short ‘icebreaking’ session, to create a safe environment and to allow participants to get used to each other, a simulation game was introduced. Participants were able to experience various social structures and discrimination by a simple ‘house-building’ game. The four small groups had different criteria and materials to work with. Their behavior and style of communicating with the other groups changed as they were all focused to finish the task in time. These changes were discussed during the debriefing where participants expressed that under pressure and lack of materials they were able to do anything, even stealing the needed materials from the other groups and shouting at each other. They realised how such a situation can easily create miscommunication, conflicts and lead to rejection and exclusion from the society. The group showed great interest to express their opinion on racism, discrimination and stereotypes during the activities.

Generatie Tanara organised a round table discussion in the region of Lovrin. The main theme was: ‘What means fascism and antisemitism to you?’. Generatie Tanara distributed materials and involved the audience in a discussion about new forms of intolerance. At the end of the project participants wished to share the information with friends and family members and asked for websites where to get more knowledge on the topic.

FRANCE

Never forget us! Life during the Shoah

In France Holocaust and the persecution of the Jewish is not just a topic of the past, nazism is unfortunately still alive and manifests its hate against new target groups. In the end of August 2008 toilets in a Muslim Prayer Hall were set on fire and stones were thrown to damage the building. In the walls were found nazi inscriptions as ‘hate signatures’ from the perpetrators. The association Memorial de la Shoah organised an exposition consisting of pictures and documents. It started on 9 November 2008 and will end on 22 March 2009. The exhibition describes the life of the Jews during the Second World War focusing on the emotions and fears related to the persecution. One of the main issues is the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust in 1938, the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom.

List of activities

- Romanians in cooperation with Social-Cultural Association of Jews in Poland. 09.11.2008 “Remembering Victims of Fascism” Visit memorial of victims of fascism and candle procession in former concentration camp in Kraków-Plaszów. • ROMANIA > 09.11.2008 “We Fight Against Fascism” Round table discussion in Timis Country, organised by Young Generation Romania. 07.11.08-10.11.08 "UNITED we are Strong!" Workshops, video, exhibition and candle procession in Oradea, organised by Micaarea Tinerelor Pentru Pace Association MTP Oradea. • RUSSIA > 16.11.08-18.11.08 “70 years after the ‘Kristallnacht’ Pogrom” Commemoration and conference in Kaliningrad, organised by Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center and Eva - Saint-Petersburg, Jewish Charitable Organisation. 14.11.2008 “Holocaust: Commemoration and Prevention” Conference in Moscow, organised by Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center. 06.11.2008 “Remembrance of the Past, for the Future” International conference in Moscow, organised by ROOF - Jewish Organisation of Fascist Concentration Camps’ Prisoners. 09.11.2008 “The Variety of Cultures against Fascism” Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, organised by Youth group of Community Centre of Jewish Culture Xesed Sara. 09.11.08-16.11.08 “Lessons of Tolerance - Against Fascism and Antisemitism” Lessons for students in Krasnodar, organised by Youth Group of Tolerance
Sport conquers borders

Sport is a passion that brings together millions of people from all over the world, people of every age, religion, ethnic background or nationality. Through sport you can show that these differences become indifferent and what counts is fair-play. Let’s have fun together!

In the framework of the International Day Against Fascism Campaign, the *Colectivo de Prevención e Inserción Social Andaluces* (CEPA) seated in Cádiz, organised together with the association 'Akople Local' and the Ultras 'Brigadas Amarillas' different activities in order to point out the problem of racism, homophobia and discrimination in football and society. The event started with a football tournament that involved the Cádiz CF football supporters, as well as a street soccer competition for youngsters. In the evening a small music festival was celebrated. The activities took part in a public space near the football stadium in Cádiz. The whole day pins, stickers and caps against racism and homophobia were distributed and on information desk people could get informed about racism and fascism in football. The day after, caps and stickers against racism and homophobia were given for free to the supporters in front of the football stadium. After choreography against racism was prepared. The activities were support by the Andalusia government and were published before and after the action in several newspapers, websites and television.

**GOOD PRACTICE**

Concern is mounting over the use of Facebook and YouTube as platforms for the spreading of nazi propaganda. In November, twelve blogs with racist content were reported on Facebook; this climate of hostility and hate recalls the dark period of fascism.

The organisation *Association Rieti Immigrants (ARI Rieti)* used the Facebook platform to spread a clear message against fascism all over the net. 553 people were invited to attend the event, among them Rita Borsellino, sister of a magistrate murdered by the mafia and youngsters from all over the world. ARI Rieti involved several media (such as Sinistra Rieti, Kataveh, il Giornale di Rieti) to publish articles concerning the campaign; the text warned about the diffusion of right wing ideology among the youngsters in Rieti, for example the appearance of racist graffiti on the walls of the city or the use of one of the mountains nearby for the national meeting of the Italian neoazi scene.

**LATVIA**

**Politicians in action**

Latvia’s population has been multietnic for centuries, though the demographics shifted dramatically in the twentieth century due to the World Wars, the emigration and removal of Baltic Germans, the Holocaust, and occupation by the Soviet Union. In the political landscape of Latvia there are two major far right parties and although the far right ‘Peoples Party’, which was very popular in the 90s, now plays only a marginalised role, the extreme nationalistic party ‘For Fatherland and Freedom’ recently gained popularity and currently holds four seats in the European Parliament. Up wind for far right parties is given through right-wing extremist groups, such as ‘Thunder Cross’, which is the most ‘traditional’, violent and ideological hardliner neonazi group in Latvia; and ‘Latvian National Front’, an ultra-nationalist group. Right-wing extremist groups of the Russian minority, such as ‘The Russian National Unity’ or the ‘National Bolshevik Party’ sustain close ties with far-right parties in Russia and try to establish themselves as political party. There are no state programs against right-wing extremism established and only non-governmental organisations are concerned about the continuous antisemitic and racist neoazi groups. In this context the Latvian Antifascist Committee was able to achieve a broad political and public discourse about the Latvian far right, by mobilising more than 130 people - amongst them members of the Latvian parliament, the parliament of Riga and the EU parliament - to demonstrate in Riga against fascism and antisemitism. Most of the participants were Jewish stars and headbands with statements in Latvian and Russian, stating ‘No Nazism!’ or ‘Never Again!’. This public event had also symbolic character, as both far right groups were accused on the same level, the Latvian, as well as the Russian.
C Y P R U S

Different colours - One country
On 2 November KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism in cooperation with other Cypriot human rights organisations and communities of migrants and refugees organised the 11th ‘Rainbow Festival’. This festival is one of the longest and largest- standing anti-racist and multicultural events in Cyprus. Under the motto ‘Different Colours - One Country’ the festival was focused on the wealth and delight of colours and calls for joining the fight for integration and equal participation of all for substantially effecting multiculturalism, irrespective of race, colour, ethnic, religion, gender or any other differences. The festival took place in Nicosia. The event included music, dance, exhibitions, documentaries, discussions, food and much more.

B O S N I A - H E R Z E G O V I N A

No voice for ethnic division in Srebrenica
In July 1995, the Bosnian town of Srebrenica fell into the hands of Serbian militias leading to several days of carnage. More than 8,000 Muslim men and boys were executed, moreover, nearly 25,000 women and children were forcibly deported, making this event the biggest war crime to take place in Europe since the end of the Second World War. Reconciliation is an important part of the integration process, a process in which the religious communities, the media and the education system play a significant role.

The Nansen Dialogue Centre Sarajevo (NDC) promoted solidarity across all ethnic, racial and religious divisions by organising a singing contest in the city of Srebrenica. The contest involved participants with different ethnic backgrounds: Bosnians and Serbs; among them were young NDC activists from Srebrenica and Bratunac. They participated in the campaign with the consciousness to be part of an even bigger campaign, taking place throughout Europe. Under these year’s common slogan ‘United we are strong’ young NDC activists used music to spread a clear message against divided communities, ethnic divisions and prejudices. The NDC succeeded to reach out the local radio, information on the campaign was shown on state media as well.

This is the first time, that such event took place in Srebrenica. Young persons of diverse ethnicity sent a message of tolerance from the town where the first genocide after the Second World War in Europe was committed.

M O L D O V A

Paper doesn’t blush - Correcting the lies of the past
In Moldova a media campaign devoted to the ‘International Day against Antisemitism and Fascism’ has been initiated by a respected Holocaust historian Piotr Shornikov, who cooperates with Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly of Moldova. He wrote several articles published in mainstream newspapers, including such minority newspapers as ‘Evreiskoe mestechko’ (Jewish place) and ‘Russkoe slovo’ (Russian word). In his articles he strongly condemned antisemitic manifestations as well as Holocaust denial in Moldova. In Moldova antisemitic propaganda has accompanied the campaign to rehabilitate the legacy of wartime fascist ruler Ion Antonescu and to whitewash historical memory of the fate of Moldovan Jews, Roma and other groups during the Second World War. The value of those

List of activities


NGOs: Right-wing extremism on rise
11. November 2008 | 16:55 | Source: Beta

Belgrade - Three non-governmental organizations have warned that right-wing extremist, pro-fascist and neo-
A young Roma girl

Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) joined the celebration of the 'International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism' by focusing on the ever emerging topic of Roma communities in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia. The main issue is the way how the public perceives the Roma community and react to it, which is not seldom strongly discriminative or violent. That is why YEE decided to screen a movie called 'Vierka' directed by Miroslav Janek. The story is about a young Roma girl – a very talented singer. A famous Czech artist discovered her and decided to bring the whole family of Vierka from Slovakia to her home in the Czech Republic to help them and to work on the girl’s talent. But the project does not finish as a fairy tale – Vierka’s family can not integrate themselves and follow rules, can not resign from freedom so they come back to their old life.

The idea was to show the movie to young people, whose way of thinking and prejudices can be changed by showing how fascinating the Roma culture is. The movie was presented to Czech high school pupils and was followed by discussion with a specialist social worker, which has big working experience with Slovakian Roma.

List of activities


articles has been supported by the fact that very rarely, when the issue of Holocaust in Moldova has been presented from a such anti-revisionist perspective and media discourse is mostly a space belonging to those historians and journalists who distort Holocaust in Moldova and justify Ion Antonescu’s policy towards Jews and other minorities.

SERBIA

Being united

International on street level

The association Women in Black Belgrade organised a street action in Belgrade city centre to commemorate the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom. The protesters stood in a long line with peace flags and slogans such as ‘Antifascism is our choice’ and ‘Denial of war crimes, genocide and holocaust is a crime’ The involvement of international participants from the UNITED conference taking place near Belgrade attracted the attention of the media: several demonstrators were interviewed for Serbian TV stations and articles about the activity appeared in the major newspapers the next day.

I am antifascist!

The Youth Council of District Kovacica has organised lectures in schools with the theme ‘I am antifascist’. At the hall of the local authority in Kovacica workshops had taken place to analyse the issues of racism and antisemitism. More than 200 people participated in these actions.

UNITED

Imagine our future without hate

 Entire Europe has been facing great social, economic, political and cultural changes in the last few decades. Twenty years ago our continent was still divided by the iron curtain in a Western and Eastern Block and it was not commonly expected that this situation would ever change. 20 years ago there still existed a country in the Balkans called Yugoslavia - and the war in the region was not expected either. But it happened. Communism and walls collapsed and Yugoslavia was dissolved.

From 4 to 9 November an international UNITED conference (in cooperation with QUEERIA - Centre for Promoting Non-violence & Equality) took place near Belgrade, 63 participants from 29 countries met in a former refugee centre in Serbia, now a recreational venue run by refugees who used to live there themselves. Issues discussed were broad spanning from the current political situation in Serbia, over good practices to fascism, fundamentalism and right-wing extremism. A highlight was the street action in Belgrade on November 9 with participation of the international delegates.
What is UNITED? UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. Linked through UNITED more than 560 organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds, from all European countries, work together in common activities such as European-wide campaigns. Like-minded organisations have the opportunity to meet each other at conferences and elaborate specific projects. UNITED is and will remain independent from all political parties, organisations and states, but seeks an active co-operation with other anti-racist initiatives in Europe. Information is received from more than 2000 organisations and regular mailings go out to about 2200 groups in Europe. Let us know if you want to get involved! And add UNITED to your mailing list!

UNITED Against Right-wing Extremism This campaign was developed as part of the project ‘Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism’ which is realised by UNITED in the frame of the European adult education program GRUNDTVIG as a response to the alarming spread of deeply rooted racism, antisemitism and right-wing extremism in Europe. Within this project, 9 partner organizations active within the UNITED network are closely cooperating in analysing occurrences, forms and strategies of right-wing extremism in Europe, sharing concepts how to deal with the increasing influence of right-wing organisations and actors in their respective countries and finding transferable approaches to push back the extreme right, at a local and regional level.


UNITED for Intercultural Action European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees Postbus 413  NL-1000 AK Amsterdam phone +31-20-6834778  fax +31-20-6834582 info@unitedagainstracism.org www.unitedagainstracism.org

UNITED is supported by: more than 560 organisations from all European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Süddeutscher Friedensdienste, the European Voluntary Service Programme and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.

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