



UNITED for Intercultural Action

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INTRODUCTION





1.1 What is UNITED for Intercultural Action?



UNITED for Intercultural Action is the largest pan-European network of diverse non-governmental organizations across the continent, active against racism, nationalism, fascism, and in support to migrants and refugees. As of today, the network counts more than 550 organizations in 45 countries.

UNITED was founded in 1992 as an open network to face the necessity of a pancontinental initiative against racism, fascism and discrimination. Since its foundation, UNITED has based its whole mission on the importance of the role of civil society in the defence and promotion of democracy, human rights and Europe's diversity. Through ways of continuous information flow and exchange of ideas and practices, UNITED functions as a space for encounter for non-governmental organizations all over Europe. Within the network, a wide-ranging variety of organizations take part in the action: national networks active against discrimination on all grounds, national and international human rights organizations, anti fascist groups, refugees and migrants support and advocacy groups, trade unions, national and international youth organizations, museums and cultural centres, migrants' selfsupport groups, media and a broad variety of organizations supporting peace, interculturality, and minority rights at many levels. Although the network has considerably grown since its foundation, it maintains its original status, i.e. organizations can freely and openly express their stand. As a matter of fact, the strength of UNITED lies in its diversity. The diverse and pluralist nature of UNITED allows a free and constructive exchange within the network and pours out from every activity and initiative promoted in the name of the network both at an international and national level, as well as at a local one. The organizations, which are or become part of the network are encouraged to remain independent as far as political stands, in relation to other networks and in their positions towards European institutions. The organizations are not compelled to take part in any action promoted by the network, since participation in any of the activities promoted is free and based on a voluntary participation.



Intercultural action during a UNITED conference



1.2 The future of UNITED for Intercultural Action



In 2005, the financial situation of UNITED has proven to be more difficult than ever. In particular, while projects and conferences find funding opportunity, running and administration costs constitute the real problem. The UNITED international secretariat would need at minimum 3 paid staff, working at the office with continuity. The office staff handles \pm 500 e-mails per day, helps with the organisation of two large conferences per year, daily updates a database with more than 8000 entries and an archive with 2000 active NGOS. Every year, the staff takes care for the 5 editions of the calendar and its weekly online edition, 3 annual and 1 ongoing campaign, and all related publications. The office handles 5 mailings per year to 2500 addresses and E-news to 6800 contacts. Last but not least, the secretariat is also responsible for the general planning, accounts, fundraising, delegations and so on. With such an amount of work, volunteer work is not always effective, unless it is joined by a continuous assistance and guidance of experienced staff members. Usually, new volunteers start their work at UNITED all at the same time in September. This was also the case in 2005. It meant a lot of work and a constant postponing of other deadlines.

In 2005 UNITED underwent a big loss, which caused large cash flow problems and a risky situation in terms of planning future activities.



Hundreds of nominations for each conference

Februari 2005, Nazi demonstration in Dresden



1.3 The year 2005 from an antiracist perspective



The European reality in 2005 - unfortunately - proved the necessity of a pan-continental initiative against racism, fascism and discrimination. "Barefaced and visual racism is on the rise" says Hikmet Kayahan of ZARA, an Austrian anti-racist monitoring group, commenting the enormous increase of racist incidents in his country. In 2005, more than 950 cases of discrimination, verbal and physical insults against minorities, non-Austrian citizens and asylum seekers have been noticed in Austria. Compared to the numbers of 2004 (907) and 2003 (330), this boost clearly indicates that the social and political climate is getting more and more dangerous for migrants and minorities not only in Austria, but all over the continent. There is fear and anger on both sides, fed and misused by politicians and mass

media and erupted in brutal violence. Pushed by incidents such as the terrorist attacks against the London Underground in summer 2005, the youth uprising in the French suburbs in autumn and the ongoing wars in Iraq and Chechnya, the European mainstream reacts with growing racism and exclusion against those groups they blame to be responsible for an evidence they cannot longer ignore: integration of migrant communities is not a one way road. And for one common problem, one common strategy is needed.

The dramatic events of 2005 show the importance of a pan-European cooperation. It is essential that civil society work towards a pan-European future without social inequality, racism and fascism. Therefore, the role of civil society defending the democratic culture and the respect for humanistic values becomes more and more crucial. It is UNITED that marks this way of solidarity and mutual exchange. UNITED sees itself as a forum for non-governmental organisations from across Europe to discuss the above-mentioned tendencies and to devise common strategies for a better, more humane Europe for all.





"show the red card to racism" in Budapest (H)

Keep your environment clean!



1.4 The UNITED International Secretariat



The network is coordinated through an international secretariat based in Amsterdam (NL). That office does not "lead" the network but it works as a communication spider in the information web. It makes sure that information reaches the right organisations. It stimulates networking in a pro-active manner.

The secretariat covers the organisation and the coordination of the activities of the network, i.e. international campaigns, international conferences and any other related project. It also serves as a point of reference for incoming and outgoing information flow for the whole network. Last but not least, it provides technical and thematic assistance for the creation, translation, publication and distribution of all the network publications.

The secretariat does not represent the top of a hierarchy at all. UNITED was in fact founded with the conviction that hierarchic structures do not meet the needs of grassroots oriented organizations. Roles, at the UNITED secretariat, speak merely about functions and tasks, not at all about power nor superiority. The secretariat functions with the work of the director, the office manager, 3 full-time volunteers (Civil Service - Austria, Action Reconciliation Service for Peace - Germany, MIMM-

Leonardo Project Ca' Foscari University of Venice - Italy) and many informal parttime volunteers (archiving, fund raising, mailings). The volunteers find in their work at UNITED a great opportunity to grow on a professional and human level. The tasks assigned to them at the Secretariat reflect their attitudes, personalities and abilities.



Volunteers at work in the UNITED secretariat

"To continuously work on UNITED's Calendar of Internationalism over a period of 14 month meant managing different tasks: scanning a lot of newsletters, publications, e-mails and the internet in order to research events, keeping contact to organisations, making decisions about entries, formulating entries in the English language, keeping track of correct dates and contact information, and, last but not least, transforming the contents into its final form of appearance – either online on the UNITED website (weekly), or printed (bimonthly). Working on this project was an interesting experience and I also personally benefited in areas like planning, time management and work organisation."

(Bernhard, volunteer at UNITED, from Verein für Dienste im Ausland, Austria)

"My year in Amsterdam and especially the work at the UNITED office was a very unique, special and educational experience. I met wonderful people who are active and deeply involved in the struggle against racism, fascism and antisemitism and their work, their engagement and my own experiences showed me how important it is that organisations like UNITED exist. It was definitely an enrichment of my personal life. The work on the three campaigns was for me one of the most important and satisfying parts of UNITED's work. I got in contact with so many new people and interesting, engaged and important organisations – of course, mainly only via e-mail and phone. Anyway, I learned many new things about what is going on in the world and about myself. I could improve my English skills, my computer knowledge, I learned a lot about current situation in several European countries and I got a little impression of life led in different parts of Europe. Looking back, it was nice to see the measurable results – how many people and organisations you can motivate and help with your e-mails, other contacts and material."

(Katharina, volunteer at UNITED for Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, Germany)

All the activities carried out at the Secretariat are the result of a daily cooperation, mutual help, and a strong interpersonal network, which is reflected by the reactions of people who enter in contact with any of the Secretariat staff-members."

Thank you for all the work you do. Believe me, there ARE people who really appreciate the meaning and the use of it." (Irina, Youth National Minority Program "Golden Ball", Latvia)



UNITED'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPREAD OF ANTIRACIST INFORMATION





2.1 Info-point



Within such a large network, it is essential to keep organisations in touch and information open and available. To this purpose, also in 2005 the information flow system elaborated and updated throughout the years by UNITED proved to be important.

The information gets immediately passed by via e-mail, fax or telephone whenever there is a direct request. Requests mainly focus on partner- and like-minded organisation searches and contents support. Nevertheless, individual cases are also presented to the UNITED secretariat, which does not have the means to solve, but is capable of re-directing the interested person to the right organisation, in the requested fields, in 45 countries all over the continent.

Information gets also spread through the use of **E-news** (e-mail newsletter), which through the UNITED e-mailing lists reach over 6800 contacts each time. The following are some striking examples of titles of E-News sent in 2005:

-UNITED E-NEWS 14-1-05: From January 2005 - ICARE weekly news service in English, French and Spanish

ICARE - Internet Centre Anti-Racism Europe runs mailing lists in English, French and Spanish on which more than 600 NGOs and individuals share news and information on antiracism, projects and budget lines. A special news team brings weekly antiracism news and information.

- UNITED E-NEWS 01-04-05: Act for refugees!
- On the occasion of the 2nd of April activities organised all over "Fortress Europe" in order to celebrate "the freedom of movement and the right to stay" and to spread information about daily racist acts.
- UNITED E-NEWS 08-07-05: NO international nazi march in memory of Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, in Wunsiedel!
- UNITED E-NEWS 27-10-05: Fire in detention centre Amsterdam Airport 11 deaths. "The Fatal Realities of Fortress Europe": more deaths in detention.
 - "Last Friday I heard that I can realize my YOUTH project. I'm so happy about it!! Now I have been starting to send email and information for all kind of organisations and addresses I found easily from your website. Thank you a lot for helping me like this!"

 (Karoliina, Finland)
 - thank you so much for your recommendation, advice and support!"

 (Valery N., Editor Roma Virtual Network)

- "We think it is great what UNITED is achieving" (Nico V., Service Civil International SCI, Belgium)
- "As the new person in charge of Equality in the European Youth Forum, I would appreciate if you could add my email address to the mailing list" (Maxime, European Youth Forum, Belgium)
- "Thank you for the addresses you sent me prior to my trip to Brussels last week. I was able to make very usefull contacts with quite a few Human Right organisations even though my time was very limited" (Beatrice O, Germany her sun died in an Belgian detention centre)
- "It would be indeed very beneficial for the anti-racist work, if UNITED could circulate the information about our (ECRI) round tables already a few week in advance ... Hoping that our pleasant cooperation will continu in the future" (Heike K., ECRI Council of Europe, France)
- "For us your advertisement (of the Berlin Conference European Youth in Action for Diversity and Tolerance) is quite important and it seems successful... Please forward us all the applications you will receive. We will open a new account for all applicants coming by UNITED and we hope to have the Conference finally full up", "We would like to thank UNITED for the cooperative support and counsel in the preparation of the conference" (Christof K., Int Youth Exchange and Visitors' Service IJAB, Jugend für Europa, Germany)
 - "We finally have to thank you all for assistance in preparation stage of our project submitting" (Vera L., International Network Youth Human Rights Movement YHRM)
- "First of all I'd like to thank you for the constant technical support being given to our Project Team for the Case Study Trip on Migration" (Alistair de G., AEGEE, Malta)

2.2 Mailing system



UNITED has a regular mailing system which consists of sending to over 2500 all the material UNITED publishes, i.e. printed version of the Address Book, Calendar of Internationalism, conference and campaign reports, and all the leaflets. Despite the importance that e-mail has reached in the past years, in many parts of Europe it is still essential to reach organisations with printed material. Moreover, in many cases printed versions have still a stronger visual impact. The 2005 mailing-system included 5 mailings. UNITED receives several positive reactions about the mailings, both from small and large organisations, from all over Europe, as a proof of the high request for this kind of printed material among NGOs.

- "We regularly get your mailing lists via email and your information material leaflets and are very pleased with the knowledge you submit in this way."

 (Larissa, Community Centre of Jewish Culture "Zvi Girsch", Russia)
- "I received your letter with an info-package by post. Thanks a lot! It's important and interesting for us." (Vasyl, Euroclub Galych, Ukraine)
 - "I would like to ask for your newsletters or any kind of information. I don't want to miss anything!" (Katerina, Portugal)

2.3 Address Book Against Racism

UNITED maintains a data base of 8000 contacts of NGOs, YNGOs, institutions and research institutes active in one or more than one of the fields of interest to the network. The data base gets regularly updated, as to provide the best tool for inter-, intra-, and extra-networking. Part of the data base is available on the UNITED web site for external searches, and it is used for internal purposes as well.

UNITED produces a printed version of the data base, called the Address Book Against Racism. This version is regularly included in the postal mailings. Throughout the years, the UNITED Address Book Against racism has become to be known as the best and most widely used tool within the anti discrimination movement in Europe.



UNITED archive

Preparing the UNITED mailing

- "I found the European Address Book Against Racism especially helpful. We run a migration consultation centre in three cities of Georgia for potential migrants going abroad. We have quite a number of calls from Georgian migrants living in Europe and this Address Book is going to be very helpful!"

 (Tamuna World Vision International, Georgia)
 - "We are looking forward to receiving our "bible", the Addressbook, from you, as usual."

 (Antiracism Information Service, ARIS, Switzerland)
 - "Many thanks for the 2005 issue of the European Address Book Against Racism and for including details of our organisation in the publication, which we find very useful." (Anna Dóchas, Ireland)
 - "Thank you for letting us use your database. It's really complete and user-friendly." (Francoise, NICEM, Great Britain)
- "Your Address-Book is beautifull" (Thomas, Vereinigung Verfolgten des Naziregimes VVN-BdA, Germany
- "Dear Activist greetings from Prague. We found your contact in UNITED database of organisations.

 We are sending you information about our international seminar..."

 (Ivana, European Contact Group, Czech Republic)
- "We are currently working on the creation of a database which shall contain all relevant information on the 400 INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe. It seems that UNITED's Onlin-Database comes very close to our ideas on registering and managing the data on the INGOs.

 Could you please provide me with details so that we can learn from your experience?"

 (Jutta G. Head of Division of NGOs and Civil Society, Council of Europe)



2.4 Calendar of Internationalism

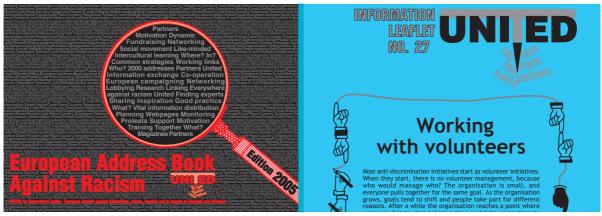


UNITED has created a powerful tool to spread the news about events and good practices all over Europe related to the fields of interest to the network. An online version of the Calendar is maintained on the UNITED web site, while the printed version is mailed regularly.

In 2005 five regular editions of the Calendar of Internationalism were published. They contained information on more than 930 activities concerning intercultural youth work, anti-racism, migrants, refugees, minorities, anti-fascism, and related fields. Around 2500 groups in Europe have regularly received the Calendar.

The Calendar is available online, too (www.unitedagainstracism.org, click on 'calendar'). The online Calendar of Internationalism covers an even larger number of activities. Since 2003 the Internet version has been updated weekly and therefore it can be considered as an excellent source of up to date information about activities organized at short notice, too. The 'archive' section of the calendar contains the activities, which took place in the past. The informative contents of the online Calendar and other UNITED publications are highly regarded by many organisations in the network and beyond.

- "We will post something for your calendar, which is actually a great tool" (Nele, PICUM, Belgium)
 - "Thanks for publishing our activities in your newsletter" (Alek, Youth Forum Bitola, Macedonia)
- "I had looked your website. Calendar of events and list organisations are great" (Oleksandr, Euroclub Galych, Ukraine)



13th edition of the UNITED Addresbook

Information leaflet



2.5 Information and Thematic Leaflets



28 Information Leaflets have been produced to date, on topics varying from 'Electronic Action' on internet to 'The danger of Words' on concepts used in anti-discrimination work. These information leaflets have been developed responding to the needs of network organisations and are regularly updated. They have been widely distributed and made available on UNITED's website in easy printable for-

mat, for example for use at schools. Several of the leaflets have been reprinted and translated in other languages, such as Russian, German, Czech, French or Romanian. All Information Leaflets are free of copyrights, although when copied the source of the information needs to be mentioned. The latest Information Leaflets include "Working with volunteers, managing young talents". This Information Leaflet provides you with all the aspects to consider in order to ensure that your work with volunteers can become a success - for everybody. The revised 2005 edition of the leaflet "Deadly Consequences of Fortress Europe" contains statistics on refugee deaths that can be put down to 'Fortress Europe' as well as ideas and suggestions for action.





Campaign report "Kristallnacht" commemoration

Postcard: "Colour is an Optical Illusion"



2.6 Conference and Campaign Reports



Campaign reports in a broadsheet newspaper form are another popular information tool. They summarize activities of all the NGOs that took part in the campaign with a view to both acknowledging the achievements of anti-racists throughout Europe and inspiring more actions. Campaign reports help individual NGOs in reporting to their sponsors and provide new ideas for future activities.

Conference reports are also powerful in a way that they provide thematic contents of lectures, project presentations and campaigning concrete ideas. They stimulate the work of NGOs by reflecting what has being going on within the network in the past months. 2005 saw two conferences, and, consequently, two conference reports, which were both included in the mailings.



2.7 Posters and postcards



A special UNITED poster was printed and distributed to and by active NGOs all over Europe on the occasion of the European-wide Action Week Against Racism in March 2005. The poster bore the message "ACT! Against Racism" and aimed to stimulate the European anti-racist movement to further (common) action. As discussed at the 2005 conference in Oslo, the goal was to put Anti-racism put into the main-stream of contemporary youth culture. The first step to combat racism is, follow-

ing a principle of UNITED's philosophy, to know what it is all about. Consequently, the backside of the poster includes basic information about the issue of racism with a focus on valuable advice on planning an anti-racist event.

On 20 June 2005 Refugee Day the refugee rights poster was used which includes the list of more than 3750 deaths from the period 1993-2003 that can be put down to EU border militarisation, asylum laws, detention policies and deportations on Europe's borders. The list of victims was presented against the background of a photo showing a group of exhausted African immigrants arriving at the Spanish coast. The tragic and deadly events around the Spanish exclaves Ceuta and Melilla in 2005 proved the ever urgent up-to-dateness of this UNITED campaign. The poster also includes valuable information about the problem of 'Death by Policy' and 'Fortress Europe' which was largely based on data provided by NGOs co-operating in the UNITED network.

"Blow Fascism Away - Join the movement" was the slogan used on another special poster marking the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism on 9 November 2005. Through its thought-provoking and positive image and backside information it commemorated the historic events of the "Kristallnacht" pogroms and stressed its relevance to the current struggle against neo-fascism, antisemitism, and discrimination of minorities. It also stresses the necessity of a common voice and united action in the fight against neo-fascism and racism.

The posters were printed and successfully distributed by numerous anti-racist and anti-fascist NGOs in various parts of Europe. In total more than 100.000 campaign posters were distributed by UNITED in 2005. Since its foundation in 1992, UNITED for Intercultural Action has produced and distributed well over 1,000,000 of anti-racist campaign items (postcards, stickers and posters).

"I wanted to share with you a nice detail from our recent stay in Chisinau. We were invited to the president's palace for a meeting with the main adviser. The first thing we noticed in his office were various UNITED postcards places permanently under the glass on his desk. Needless to say, it was a very pleasant surprise" (Rafal P., Never Again, Poland)

"Thank you for a such valuable material" (Ilya, Hillel, Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, Russia)

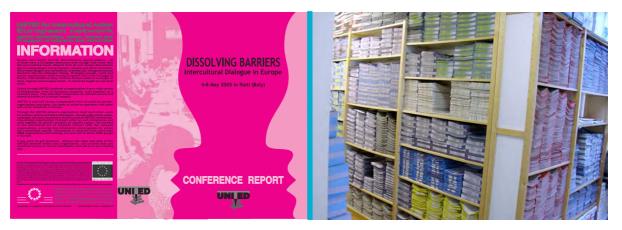
- "We would be very interested to receive your support materials. We would take them to our training and make them available to participants"
 - (Jean-Luc F., Youth Coordinator International Sport and Culture Association, Denmark)
 - "I think it will be really usefull for our participants to receive information from UNITED" (Monika J., Internat. Fed. of Liberal and Radical Youth, IFLRY, Belgium)
 - "My name is Anca, I am a third year law student, I am participating in the Judicial Clinic for Refugees and I have seen UNITED posters in my faculty" I would like to receive more information and to be added to your newsletter" (Anca, Romania)
- "I would like to order some free posters for our classrooms at Lewisham College in London. We teach groups of 16-18 years olds who are learning to speak English. They come from many different countries and occasionally we have some friction" (Alison B. Lewisham College, UK)



2.8 Archive



With a documentation centre on more than 2400 organisations involved in the struggle against discrimination, UNITED holds the biggest and most up to date databank of material in this field. Since 1998 UNITED has co-operated with the International Institute of Social History of the University of Amsterdam in the framework of a special agreement aimed at preserving the archive in a responsible way. The Institute has assisted UNITED in maintaining and improving the system of documentation. As in previous years, in 2005 parts of the archive were handed over to the International Institute of Social History for further research and preservation.



"Dissolving Barriers" - Conference report

Campaign posters to be sent all over Europe



UNITED ACTIVITIES





3.1 UNITED International Campaigns



In 2005 UNITED coordinated three annual campaigns and one on-going campaign, again demonstrating its ability to initiate grass-roots processes and to mobilise thousands of people to join the struggle against racism.

The UNITED campaigns are based on the principle of "Think globally and act locally"

Organisations arrange activities on the local level within an intercultural and international framework. UNITED campaigns are established elements of European anti-discrimination work raising awareness about racism, highlighting the issues of discrimination on local, national and European level and strengthening civil society. The strength of common action attracted a lot of attention from the media and general public, more likely to pay attention to (local) activities of NGOs if they take place in a broader, international context.

The UNITED Secretariat actively coordinates the European campaigns, stimulates action and provides organisations with Campaign Tools (posters, campaign background information etc.). For each campaign, UNITED sends out an E-news and free

Campaign material to thousands of contacts all over Europe. The E-news contains general information about the theme of the campaign, an order form, through which organizations can order free campaigning material, and an activity form, which organizations fill with details about the activity or event they are preparing. The activities are listed online and in the Calendar/List of Activities, so that events linked to the campaign are widely publicized.

After the campaign, the UNITED campaign worker invites everyone listed in the online list of activity to send pictures, visual material and testimonies about the event: these are then organized into a campaign report, which is included in the next mailing and is a strong tool to spread awareness about non governmental and grass-roots action Europe-wide.



21/3 Demo for fair play in sports in Zaragoza (E)

21/3 'Stop Racism' info action in Voronez (RUS)

- "ACT! AGAINST RACISM"
- 14-21 March 2005 European-wide Action Week Against Racism,

The European-wide Action Week Against Racism is one of the broadest annual antiracist campaigns. It takes place round March 21st since that day was declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the General Assembly of the United Nations as a reaction to the murder of 70 anti-apartheid demonstrators in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960.

Discrimination and racism are dangerously growing today in different forms all over Europe. Europe is not only faced with racism tout-court. It is faced with discrimination on all grounds and this is what has to be tackled at many levels in every societal sector, from institutions to media, from popular perceptions to formal education. The campaign aims at uniting into one comprehensive event many different activities all over Europe, from antiracist festivals to intercultural events, from demonstrations to round-tables and lectures.

Activities in 45 European countries!

In March 2005, NGOs in 45 European countries organised the broadest European-wide anti-racist campaign ever. Thousands of activists, from Baku to Madrid and from Rome to Stockholm got active to highlight one common European problem: racism. Even 60 years after the end of the Second World War racially motivated discrimination is a constant companion of Europe. Extreme right-wing groups and par-

ties are spreading their ideology of hatred against foreigners, migrants, people of minority groups and everyone who is 'different' in their eyes. But also structural racism is still a problem. Minorities and migrants face discrimination in employment, housing and education. In everyday life people of 'coloured' skin are confronted with offensive behaviour and disrespect. In a message on the International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said: "the virus of racism continues to infect human relations and human institutions in all parts of our globe. Today, the old strains of this disease, such as institutionalized discrimination, indirect disadvantage, racist violence, hate crimes, harassment and persecution, are compounded by new forms of discrimination, seemingly defying many of the gains we have made." The Internet is used as a platform to propagate racism. Anti-terrorist measures have sometimes been used to scapegoat whole minority communities. Also the use of racist, antisemitic and xenophobic language and ideas in political life has increased, including by mainstream political parties.



21/3 'Racisme Free Zone' infostand in Odense (DK)

21/3 Manifestation against racism, Belgrade (YU)

"Thank you so much for the material you sent. They look realy good!"

(Becky W., Coventry Refugee Centre, Great Britain)

"Thank you for the inspiration for this week!!!" (Irina V., Youth national Minority Program 'Golden Ball', Latvia)

- "Anyway, we really hope that we will be able to see something about our activity in the next issue of the UNITED magazine. It will really mean a lot to all the youngsters who took part in the activities."

 (Petre M., Council for Prevention of Juvenile Deliquency, Macedonia)
 - "We want to organise an action against racial discrimination in Brussels. In this context I would like to ask your permission to use the logo of the 21 March Actionweek Against Racism.

 It is a very beautiful and significant logo"

 (Samad G. Parliament of Brussels)

- "NO MORE DEATHS ON "FORTRESS EUROPE'S" BORDERS"
- 20 June 2005 International Refugee Day

On 4 December 2000 the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted a resolution to proclaim 20 June World Refugee Day. The first such World Refugee Day coincided with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees in 2001.

UNITED stimulates activities and takes up the occasion to make the public aware of the exclusion and discrimination of refugees in Europe. UNITED supported organisations throughout Europe in their refugee campaigns by providing posters and information material free of charge. An updated list of activities provided organisations with the possibility to network with each other and to promote their activity as part of an international event. A media release was sent out to the European media and to active organisations, by fax and by e-mail.

Thousands of organizations in support and protection of refugee demonstrate through a variety of events. Many organization promote a more just legal and social treatment of refugees in Europe, others demonstrate to raise awareness among public opinion, others organize festivals, documentary screenings and educational activities about refugee and asylum issues.



Presentation of 'The Fatal Realities of Fortress Europe' campaign during a UNITED conference

UNITED also coordinates an on-going campaign linked to the Refugee Campaign, which is called "The Fatal Realities of Fortress Europe". For long time, the idea of European unification symbolized a vision of peace and solidarity between people. Today Europe shows its evil face: militarization of its borders against the outside world, firewalls against refugees and migrants, people killed at its borders, detained in miserable conditions, or sent back to their misery. More than 7,000 documented deaths of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers form a list, which witnesses the deadly results of 'Fortress Europe'. UNITED has been documenting these deaths since 1993, collecting data on where, when and under what circumstances the deaths occur. The sad cases are listed all together into one powerful lobbying and campaigning tool, the "list of deaths", which is available to journalists, researchers and activists.

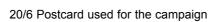
There is a tragedy going at the Walls of "Fortress Europe". While European capitals

struggle for the European Constitution and the inner consolidation of the Union, at the same time migrants and refugees keep on dying at its borders. Meanwhile, official Europe keeps its eyes wide shut.

Many non-governmental organisations co-operate in support of refugees around 20 June, the International Refugee Day 2005. Activities took place in 21 different countries. Among them:

- "Give Refugees a Chance" is the title of a big event with an exhibition, lecture, information evenings, cabaret and concerts in Wien.
- In Great Britain several human rights and refugee organisations organise a Refugee Week with activities all over the country such as the "One World Party" a community based event with music, henna decoration, face painting, story telling, international food and information in Peterborough
- In Turkey, AEGEE Europe Ankara branch organises street actions titled "No One is Illegal"
- Discussions followed by concerts with refugee musicians take place in Budapest and Peest, Hungary







20/6 'Give refugees a change'

"I hope that SPYA will go on joining the UNITED campaigns. I wish you good luck in YOUR activities."

(Elgun T., Secular Progress Youth Association, Azerbaijan)

"Anyway, we are planning to 'get active' on the refugee day, 20th of June." (...)
"To help communicating around these actions, we plan to print UNITED/FASTI stickers or flyers." (...)
"We translated your 2005 refugee day call in French and sent it to our Associations"
(Gwendoline F., Fédération des Associations de Solidarité avec les Travailleurs Immigrés, FASTI, France)

- "BLOW FASCISM AWAY! Join the Movement"
- 9 November 2005 International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

On 9 November 2004 European NGOs commemorated the 1938 'Kristallnacht' pogroms that are today seen as the symbolical beginning of the genocide on Europe's Jewish population, called Holocaust. During the pogroms, 200 synagogues all over Germany were burnt down, 94 Jewish citizens were murdered and more than 30.000 were deported to concentration camps.

A formal commemoration of the 1938 Kristalnacht, it now means much more. Millions of deaths in the past are the tragic result of the racist ideology called fascism and they risk today to be completely forgotten. Today the tendency to use some groups of people as scapegoats is getting extreme and it is necessary to stop it to prevent the repeating of the tragedies of history. This is the spirit leading the campaign, which witnesses many different events every year, mostly commemorations of the sad events of the past, but also demonstrations against the recently occurred neo-nazi killings.



9/11 Infotable in university of Klagenfurt (A)

9/11 UNITED campaign poster translated in Serbian

Campaign-Actions in 41 European Countries!

60 years after the end of the Second World War, hundreds of organisations joined once again the 'International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism' and arranged a wide variety of activities all over Europe - from Sweden to Spain, from Great Britain to Russia...

Around November 9, the European anti-fascist and antiracist movement promoted the "Blow Fascism Away" campaign to raise historical consciousness and to make the public aware of the dangers and consequences of prejudices, hatred, ignorance and intolerance in our contemporary world. Non-governmental organisations in 41 European countries joined the UNITED campaign 2005! Coordinated by the international secretariat of UNITED, the participating organisations arranged torchlight processions, awareness-raising campaigns, big demonstrations and exhibitions. They prepared both country-wide activities and cross national activities to commemorate the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom with the aim of drawing the attention to today's racial issues, such as the spreading of fear and violence, and historical revisionism. UNITED campaigning material was distributed all over Europe to promote this year's campaign and to give further background information. The posters were displayed in exhibitions and they were also used to explain fascism and antisemitism.

Starting in the North, in Norway, torchlight processions were organised in several major cities of the country. Moving to the East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro and Croatia planned one activity to struggle together against fascism and antisemitism. Further in central Europe, lectures, discussions, exhibitions and pickets were planned all over Germany. In Denmark and Luxembourg, thousands of activists came together to participate in big demonstrations.

Moreover, many campaigns and discussions with moving and interesting titles like "It's not just History" and "To Save a Life - A Story of Holocaust Rescue" were arranged in other countries. Their activities are all described in the campaign report, which also includes visual testimonies of their great effort! The UNITED secretariat in Amsterdam coordinated the campaign by motivating NGOs to join the movement and by providing information and material.

"We really appreciate the great materials of your organization. Please sent us one report and of every different poster 25 units." (Stefan J., Dutch Young Socialists, Netherlands)

"Thanks for posters very much. You don't know how happy we are from them and the way we can participate in the 9 November activities. We will have campaign and exhibition with posters and also discussion."

(Aleksandar M., Youth Forum – Bitola, Macedonia)

"I would like to use the material as background information for a presentation at the Council of Europe's Conference of INGOs. It is possible that you send them next week?" (Silvia G.,IHEU, Germany)



9/11 'United against racism' festival in Cyprus

9/11 Awareness-raising campaign at schools in Georgia



3.2 UNITED International Conferences



Driven by the need of gathering delegates from the network together to discuss the common themes, but also open to get to know new organizations interested in becoming part of the network, UNITED organizes two international conferences a year.

One of the main aims of these conferences is to bring together activists from all over Europe in an intercultural working environment. UNITED also emphasises the importance of multipliers, the participants representing active European NGOs acquire training and take home important skills and motivation, knowledge and contacts. Back in their organisations, the activists use the stimulus they received

for new activities and share their experiences with others. In that way the every-day work of NGOs is strengthened and intercultural cooperation is initiated. To ensure that different interests and viewpoints are taken into account and the diversity within the UNITED network is represented, each conference is prepared by a rotating International Preparatory Group (IPG) consisting of committed activists from different NGOs.

Also the host country of the conference is rotating depending on the needs of the network. The topics covered change from conference to conference but they are strictly linked to the common themes of the network.

UNITED has an open invitation policy for its network conferences. Invitations are sent out with the regular mailings to 2500 groups and by email to more than 6800 contacts. UNITED receives over 300 applications for each conference. Only 80/90 delegates can be selected to participate according to the participants' profile set by the IPG. Care is given to the ratio of women and minorities participating, as well as to geographical balance.

UNITED publishes a report for each conference which is included in the next mailing and reaches over 2500 organizations Europe-wide.

In 2005, two large conferences were organised by UNITED:



Press coverage on the conference in Rieti

Plenary session in Rieti

- "Dissolving Barriers Intercultural Dialogue in Europe"
- UNITED Conference from May 4-8 in Rieti (Italy)
 - Thank you very much for paying me the Honor to be a participant at your conference. I am very glad to be a part of this great event." (Djermana, Association of Bosniak Students, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The struggle to look for a better life has forced many people, predominantly from some African Countries and the former Eastern Block, to migrate or to seek asylum in European Countries. However, the recent restrictive EU policies have caused great difficulties for the integration of these people. The UNITED Conference in Rieti (Italy), organised in close cooperation with ARI, was aimed at looking deeper into this issue. More than 80 participants representing NGO's from all over Europe met for 4 days to exchange ideas, experiences and strategies on matters like Fortress Europe, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and discrimination.

The UNITED Conference, as an important appointment for the construction of a

peaceful future, drew the attention of local media as well as of the local authorities. It was officially addressed by representatives of both the Municipality of Rieti and the local government, whose representatives welcomed the initiative and congratulated the organizers for their efforts to raise awareness in the public on sensitive topics, so important for the civil development of Europe.

80 delegates of anti-racist and human rights organisations from all over Europe took part in the Conference, representing a total of 35 countries. The participants underlined the importance of the discussion on the situation in the "enlarged Europe" and at the borders of "Fortress Europe", the impact of language on migration discourses and the growing xenophobia against migrants and asylum seekers. Through various working methods - lectures, discussions, presentations, brainstorming, and exercises - the participants showed their strong interest in the development of anti-discrimination tools.

"thanks for providing me an opportunity to come and speak at your conference. I also enjoyed the conference a great deal and made some very valuable contacts. I am very impressed with the work you people do with so little resources available to you"

(Bashy Quraishy, President ENAR)



Opening session of the conference in Cyprus

Discussions in a working group

- "Bridging Cultures and Identities"
- UNITED Conference from November 11-15 in Cyprus

The UNITED Conference "Bridging Cultures and Identities", brought together delegates of 85 NGOs from 38 European countries. They gathered for 4 days on the unique island of Cyprus, which is a historical and cultural bridge among three continents. Participants opened a dialogue on how to combat discrimination and promote diversity. Cyprus offered a unique environment to the venue. The island is still emerging from an unsolved conflict, which marks every day existence of youngsters and activists. Since NGOs representatives from both the North and the South side actively contributed to the organisation of the venue and sent some delegates as participants, the UNITED conference had a very special meaning in this sense as well.

The aim of the UNITED Conference was to strengthen the European antiracist movement, in response to the urgency felt by European NGOs within some common fields: managing conflict, defining identities and bridging the gaps within multi-

culturalism through an effective intercultural action. By setting up practical work together, sharing expertise, and enhancing networking strategies, the delegates stimulated debates and long-lasting reflections on the NGOs' role. Although aware of the fact that racism and discrimination cannot be stopped easily, participants joined the conference to get awareness of the diversity within the movement, deeply committed to overcome obstacles and to positively promote an open dialogue on racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, old and new forms of migration. The UNITED Conference in Cyprus attracted the attention of the local media. Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation dedicated three interviews to the conference. The event had also an echo through the Rainbow Festival in Nicosia, organised by KISA, one of the hosting NGOs, and entitled "United against Racism".



Sharing information is important...

Sharing multicultural snacks is tasty...

- "I want to thank you for a very well planned conference and for giving me the opportunity to participate. I had the time of my life! I have met so many lovely people and I have made new friends. I am certain that some of those contacts are going to make a world of difference in our fight against racism in the future. It was so nice to feel part of a bigger group which is spread all over the world and that is fighting for the same cause as SOS [Against Racism] is. I certainly do not feel so alone anymore and that has given me hope for the future and for the refugees and immigrants in Denmark. I will do what I can to spread this hope to them as well, so they will also feel the connection across borders."

 (Jannie, SOS Against Racism, Denmark)
- "Thanks a lot for the chance to participate in the UNITED Conference. I was a great experience for me.

 And I have learned a lot. (....) Listening to all those experiences of the participants and getting the knowledge and know-how was of huge importance for our work (...) I got to know that UNITED is a great network with great organisations and great people acting in it"

 (Michael P., Auslandsdienst, Austria)

3.3 Other Activities in 2005



In the summer of 2005, UNITED organised a training course for young activists:

- "Youth Challenges History -
- Young People's Contribution to European History Discourses"
- UNITED Training Course -13-20 August in Krakow (Poland)

The UNITED training course, which was held during seven days in the building of a school in a beautiful village next to Krakow, focused on the most arguable and acute topic - European history. 27 young delegates of different organisations from all over Europe, mostly from Central and Eastern Europe participated in the UNITED training course. Through various working methods - discussions, brainstorming, presentations, small working groups, games - the participants showed their strong interest in the training's theme. They also shared their personal experience and that of their organisations. The training course has gathered young people, who were not engaged with UNITED before, or are still not members of the UNITED network, despite most of the participants were the representatives of the NGOs working in the field of anti-discrimination, human rights, history, etc.

The idea to organise such training has appeared during the UNITED conference in Goteborg (Sweden) in 2001. For the first time the idea was realized in 2003, when a summer school with the title "History as a Cause of Conflicts in Europe" was realized by UNITED. Due to the lack of financial fundings and despite overwhelming interest by the network, the meeting could not take place in 2004. This year's training course was organized and provided by the common efforts of the UNITED secretariat and an international team consisting of the representatives of NGOs from several different countries.



Participants of the summercamp

Visit to Auschwitz during the summercamp

"This summercamp has changed the impression and opinion about the world and it will give me new inspiration into the activities and topics I work in."

(Irina, Youth National Minority Program "Golden Ball", Latvia)

"I was happy to participate in the summercamp in Poland. Thank you very much for this wonderful experience!" (Emilia, Moscow Bureau for Human Rights, Russia)



3.4 UNITED Delegations



UNITED sends experts as delegates to conferences, training courses, meetings and such. In 2005 the experience of UNITED delegates was once again appreciated. Amongst others, UNITED participated in:

- Advisory Council and Programming Committee Council of Europe Youth Directorate A delegate of the UNITED network is member of these structures and participated in the regular meetings throughout 2005.
- 11-14/02/2005: "The day of memory, the day of meeting, the day of enlightenment", colloquium in Dresden (D).

Two delegates of UNITED joined the international colloquium in Dresden, reporting how World War and Nazi occupation informs today's political education and human rights work in different European countries. The program included discussions, film screenings and country reports.



Colloquium in Dresden (D)

UNITED poster exhibition during a delegation

- 25-30/04/2005: "Youth NGO's in development: the best experience of the last decade", youth forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.

A UNITED delegate joined the youth forum in Azerbaijan to discuss and learn about the future of youth NOGs. The delegate brought to the forum her experience and involvement within the youth sector and brought back to UNITED the trends and news gathered at the forum.

- 03-05/06/2005: "Bundesweites Vernetzungstreffen von Abschiebehaft", meeting in Padeborn (D).

A delegate of UNITED joined the meeting to discuss and make a point about the situation of deportation of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe. Being Germany incredibly invested by the issue, this meeting was extremely important as UNITED brought its expertise in matter of migrants and refugees issues and, in particular, with reference to refugees and asylum seekers who die or commit suicide in fear of deportation or during deportation procedures, who are listed together with the other sad cases in the 'The fatal realities of Fortress Europe' campaign-list of people who die as a consequence of Europe's exclusion policies.

- 06-09/11/2005: "European Youth in Action for Diversity and Tolerance", Berlin (D) Three delegates from UNITED took part in a European level conference entirely dedicated to European dimension of intolerance, racism and all forms of discrimination. The conference program suited the preparation of UNITED delegates, to bring a youth perspective and, at the same time, reflecting the frustration of youth NGOs belonging to the UNITED network for the lack of opportunities of getting funds for cross border cooperation projects.
- 21/11/2005: European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) consultation meeting in Paris (F).

A UNITED delegate was invited to bring suggestions and comments and to share those of the other candidates at the ECRI consultation meeting. The meeting included discussions on the themes which are of importance to all delegates, a general exchange of views and an assessment of ECRI's involvement in the "All different, All equal" European Youth campaign for diversity and participation.

- 28-29/11/2005: European Union Monitoring Centre (EUMC) round table in Vienna (A). A delegate of UNITED had the chance to take part in the round table, where the EUMC aimed at discussing the current and future engagement with civil society and the role of civil society in combating racism and protecting human rights. The goal was to identify major areas fro EU action in the antiracism and fundamental rights arena, mechanisms for civil society engagement and possibilities for cooperation between the EUMC and NGOs.
- 09/12/2005: Committee on migration, refugees and population meeting in Paris (F). A UNITED expert on refugee and migration took part to the parliamentary meeting and presented the UNITED campaign "The fatal realities of Fortress Europe", which investigates the deadly consequences of Europe's exclusion policies by listing the deaths of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who die in the attempt of reaching Europe, in detention or during deportation. The delegate also distributed UNITED material and reported to UNITED like-minded organisations' activities in the same field.
- All Different All Equal European Youth Campaign for Participation Human Rights and Diversity, Council of Europe.

A delegate of the UNITED network is Co-chair of the steering group coordinating this campaign and participated in several meetings

- "it was nice to meet you(r delegate) in person. I think that UNITED is doing a lot of good work" (Esther, Romapresss, Hungary)
- "On Monday evening, right before the participants proceeded to the International Banquet, they got the unique opportunity to meet with a representative of the largest European network of organisations fighting racism and discrimination. Anca presented UNITED and its work to the participants of the Study Session. The participants found this presentation very useful and many of them were still talking to Anca during the length of the evening" (Report Study Session EYCE, European Youth Centre Budapest)
 - "I was very happy that I was given a chance to participate in the symposium "All Different All Equal" on behalf of and with support of UNITED. This was a very valuable experience for me!!!!!"(Irina, Youth National Minority Program "Golden Ball", Latvia)



3.5 Contacts / Lobby



Good links exist to several parties in the European. Some MEPs are themselves supporters of UNITED, with others we had meetings and contacts. UNITED and/or its member organisations are often consulted by MEPs regarding anti-discrimination issues. Around 100 MEPs receive regular mailings with UNITED publications including information about the network activities.

Excellent links exist with the Council of Europe as well. UNITED has consultative/participatory status with the Council of Europe. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Commission on Migration invites delegates of UNITED to take part in their hearings. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) also invites UNITED on a regular basis for strategic planning meetings in Strasbourg, with the participation of a selected group of international NGOs. UNITED also has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In 2005 fruitful contacts where established with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is based in Warsaw, a OSCE delegate participated at the UNITED Conference in Cyprus, and UNITED delegates took part in the OSCE Conference on anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance in Cordoba/ Sevilla.



Show racism the red card!

UNITED Infotable, OSCE meeting in Cordoba (E)



THANKS TO...



We especially thank all the members of International Preparatory Groups who showed extraordinary engagement in preparing and running the UNITED conferences on voluntary bases, as well as their organisations who co-organised the UNITED meetings in 2005:

Action for equality, support, antiracism (KISA) (CY) European Students Forum - AEGEE Europe Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (ASF) (D) Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (ASF) (PL) Anti discrimination network of the Turkish union (D) Associazione Rieti immigrant - Provincia (I) Bildungsverein Politai (A) Bosporus Association (BG) Dialogue center for ethnic discrimination (RUS) Human rights and education network (CY) Luxembourg against racism (L) One World Association / SCI (PL) Red Cross (FI) Rotterdam Youth Council (NL) Youth action for peace Oradea (RO) Youth board of Cyprus (CY) Youth Human Rights Movemet (Rus) Unione italiana sport per tutti & FARE (I) Universal Embassy (B) World Uyghur congress (RUS)

We thank the UNITED delegates who bring their expertise to different international meetings and spread the information afterwards, contributing to the empowerment of the anti-racist movement.

We thank the hundreds of groups that spent great effort in organising activities for UNITED campaigns all over Europe.

We would like to thank as well the long term UNITED volunteers who help in the Secretariat of UNITED (thanks to Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste (D), the Austrian Peace Service (A) and the Ca' Foscari University of Venice(I)) and also all volunteers who help during the different international meetings and campaigns, putting a lot of effort into bringing things closer to perfection.

Many thanks also to all the sponsors and donors who enabled us to contribute to a more open-minded Europe.



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UNITED volunteer at work...

Goodbye