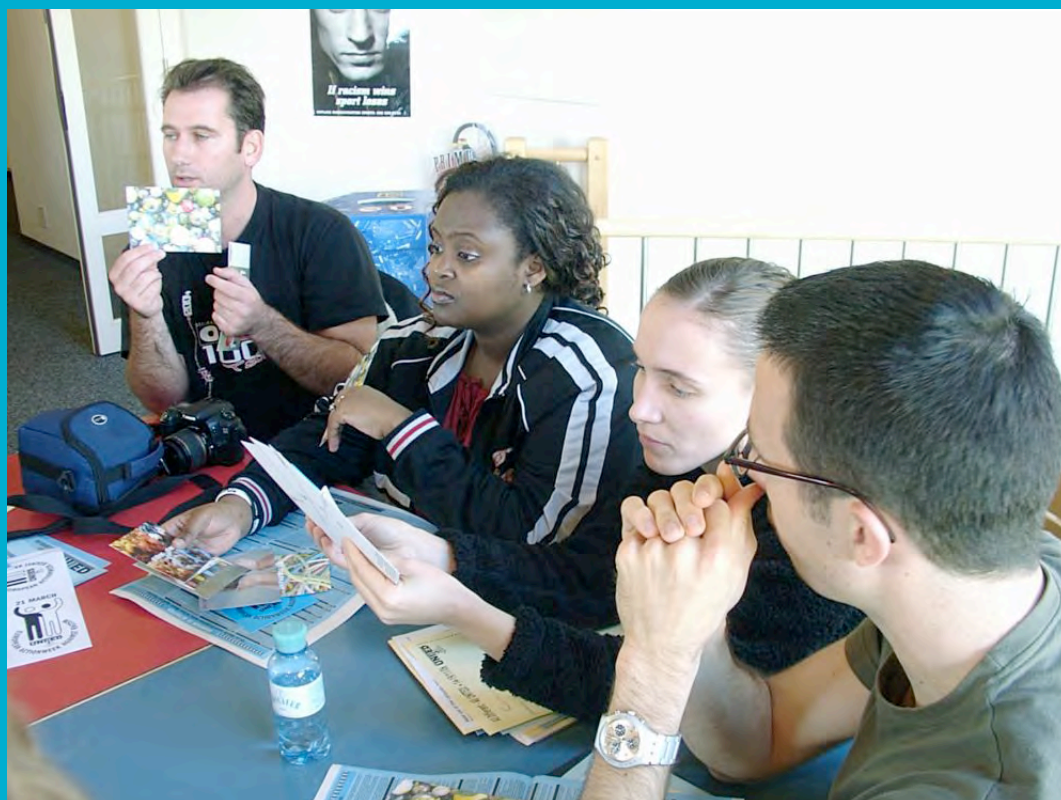


UNITED for INTERCULTURAL ACTION

European Network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees

UNITED

racism
racism
nationalism



ANNUAL REPORT 2006

CONTENTS

1	UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION	
□ 1.1	UNITED's roots and path towards the largest pan-European network against discrimination	□ 1
□ 1.2	The network UNITED through the International Secretariat	□ 2
□ 1.3	The focus of anti discrimination work in 2006	□ 3
□ 1.4	The obstacles to non-profit work	□ 4
2	UNITED AS AN ACTIVE NETWORK	
□ 2.1	The aim and soul of UNITED activities	□ 5
□ 2.2	Be active: UNITED International Campaigns	□ 6
	□ European-wide Action Week Against Racism - 18-26 March 2006	□ 6
	□ International Refugee Day - 20 June 2006	□ 8
	□ The fatal Realities of 'Fortress Europe'	□ 9
	□ International Day Against Fascism & Antisemitism - 9 Nov. 2006	□ 10
□ 2.3	Be UNITED: UNITED International Conferences	□ 12
	□ Youth Sharing Visions For Equality - March 24-29 2006 in Sofia	□ 13
	□ All Different, All UNITED - November 14-19 2006 in Neuchatel	□ 14
□ 2.4	Be heard: UNITED Delegations	□ 16
□ 2.5	UNITED as consultative actor and lobby partner	□ 16
□ 2.6	Other activities in 2006	□ 18
3	UNITED AS A UNIQUE INFORMATION SOURCE	
□ 3.1	The importance of producing and spreading information	□ 20
□ 3.2	UNITED in cyberspace: A complex website	□ 21
□ 3.3	Reaching out: UNITED's efficient mailing system	□ 22
□ 3.4	Networking: The Address Book against Racism	□ 22
□ 3.5	Participation: The Calendar of Internationalism	□ 23
□ 3.6	Get updated: UNITED's publications	□ 24
	□ Information and Thematic Leaflets	□ 24
	□ Conference and Campaign Reports	□ 24
□ 3.7	Get active: UNITED's campaign materials	□ 25
□ 3.8	UNITED's databank: The Archive	□ 26
4	UNITED SUCCESSFULL IN INTERCULTURAL ACTION	
□ 4.1	Thanks to...	□ 27
□ 4.2	UNITED is supported by...	□ 29
		page

1

UNITED for Intercultural Action a brief introduction

"How much can we thank you guys for the wonderful work you are doing for humanity!"

17/10/2006, Akeem Cujo Oppong, Panorama Iceland, Iceland

UNITED's roots and path towards the largest pan-European network against discrimination.

1.1

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 of migrants and refugees. As of today, the network counts more than 550 organizations and is present in 45 countries.

UNITED was founded in 1992 as an open network to face the necessity of a pan-continental 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, school and educational institutes, migrants' self-support 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



UNITED an open network...



Unity is Strength - 21/3/06 Demonstration in Netherlands

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

The network UNITED through the International Secretariat

1.2

"Hi, I am wondering if you could help me, I am looking to start an anti racist group in my local area but have no idea how to get started. I was wondering if you could help to somehow be able to figure out how to set up and organise my group. I am looking to get involved with helping people as I'm inspiring to become a social activists"

12/06/2006, Ada

The International Secretariat of UNITED functions both as an Information Point for organisations looking for resources connected with UNITED activities on all levels and as a inner engine that coordinates and keeps together organizational aspects, fund raising and information flow for the whole network. The work done at the secretariat reflects the needs gathered from the network and gives back in an organised and structured respond information, resources or any other support the organisations need to implement their activities. The intercultural team working in the Secretariat consists of young activists and volunteers from different countries in Europe who bring different perspectives on civil society, a wide range of language skills, creativity and motivation to invest energy in different project carried out by UNITED every year.

The secretariat does not represent a hierarchical symbol of the organisation. UNITED was in fact founded with the conviction that hierarchic structures do not meet the needs of grassroots oriented organizations. Different roles at the UNITED secretariat, speak merely about functions and tasks, not at all about power positions. The secre-



UNITED volunteers at work during a conference



Volunteers in the UNITED office

tariat functions with the work of the director, a coordinator, 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 part-time volunteers (archiving, fund raising, mailings). Volunteers find in their work at UNITED a great opportunity to grow on a professional and human level. The tasks assigned to volunteers at the Secretariat are related with their personality, skills, abilities and attitude towards the tasks.

"Working at UNITED is one of the most enriching experiences I have done. [...] I have learned how to work with partners from all over Europe. [...] I have better understood the political and social situation in Europe. [...] I've learned how to work with searchers, journalists, activists and students and how to make people involved on the issues of anti discrimination."

12/12/2006, Paola, Volunteer at the UNITED Secretariat

The focus of anti discrimination work in 2006

1.3

The year 2006 witnessed many unfortunate events, which touched a lot of different organisations within the network in many different ways. UNITED responded to the situation by increasing its attention on those themes, which appeared to be the focus and by dedicating a lot of time and efforts to educational methodologies in the antidiscrimination activities. Both the 2006 conferences and newly born UNITED projects focused on the actual exchange of good practices in antidiscrimination field, believing that such a wide network is the right actor to establish a flow of experience. One of the most recurrent themes throughout the year has been connected with Roma issue. With testimonies from almost every European country, this issue caught the attention of all experts who contribute to the thematic building of UNITED activities and information pieces. The two UNITED conferences of the year have dedicated a large section of their program to the Roma issue and many Roma activists and representatives have had the chance to speak out and present their view of the issue. This underlines that one of the most precious aspect of UNITED antidiscrimination work is to directly involve activists from all minority groups. The need for all voices to be heard is a leading working basis of all UNITED activities.

Another leading theme of the year has been the refugee issue. With the enlargement



The Roma issue was a theme during UNITED conferences



2006 witnessed many unfortunate events

of Europe's borders and the almost mechanical enforcement of more and more restrictive immigration laws, the tragedy of migrants and refugees dying in the attempt of entering Europe soil is getting to a point where organisations need to bring together their data, expertise and strategies and build a task force to stop the waste of human lives. UNITED has given a lot of attention to the issue, not only by reiterating the great work done through the ongoing campaign "The fatal realities of Fortress Europe", but also by encouraging the continuation of the work done during conferences also outside the traditional frame. In fact, the work started at the first UNITED conference of 2006 has been continued through other more formal encounters of experts coming from different refugee and migrant support organisations all over Europe, gathered together to keep updated on the situation and build common strategies.

The obstacles to non-profit work

1.4

The main obstacle to non-profit work, and so to UNITED, is and remains the lack of regular financial support. UNITED survived 2006 after a very bad financial situation in 2005. While projects and regular activities, such as conferences, find ways of getting funded, the main problem remains to find financial support for administrating activities, merely for the secretariat. A great deal of the work at the secretariat is done on a voluntary basis. Having a more urgent need for highly qualified outputs, both in regards to contents and organization, it remains impossible for UNITED to afford experts and external help when needed. This is a great burden on the shoulders of the secretariat.

Having participation in UNITED activities free of charge, as one of the network pillars that organisations must benefit from being part of UNITED without being in any degree disadvantaged by it, and given the already difficult situation in non profit field around Europe, the secretariat cannot demand economical help from the network, although small financial support comes spontaneously according to local possibilities. Nevertheless, there have been done efforts to come to sustainable solutions. During the first conference of 2006, we dedicated an entire section of our work to brainstorming ways to get more sustainable funds for the running costs of the network. Despite the interesting ideas, few of them have been put into practice. This remains a great challenge for 2007.



Preparations during a UNITED conference



UNITED volunteer preparing an infostand

2

UNITED as an active network

"I would like to thank you very much first in my name, and later in the name of our organization for all the time keeping in touch with us and for supporting us. I believe that your contribution to youth work with UNITED is immeasurable and we do appreciate it very much."

24/01/2007, Rauf, People to People International, Bulgaria

The aim and soul of UNITED activities

2.1

As the main aim of UNITED as a network is to encourage the member associations to become more and more active, to educate young people on the importance of activism and to allow activists of all age and background to get expertise and update their knowledge on the relevant subjects, grass-root activities remain the heart of UNITED. Given the diversity within the network and considering the wide-ranging variety of subjects touched by activities and publications, the soul of all UNITED activities remains antiracism and antidiscrimination on all levels.

More than 560 organisations share the same goal while using a great diversity of methods and approaches to reach different target groups at grass-root level. The International Secretariat plays a coordination role, by being constantly in contact with the network organisations, ensuring an efficient flow of information and use of available resources in the network.

UNITED is more than a network of organisations working together, it a movement of activists concerned about anti-discrimination present all over Europe and motivated to tackle this issue on all level with all available resources!



Discussing the future of UNITED



The aim and soul of UNITED

Be active: UNITED international campaigns

2.2

The year 2006 saw organization of three international campaigns and the continuation of an on-going campaign from the previous years. The international campaigns gave great results in terms of participation, but especially in terms of the quality of the organised events. Being aware that an activity doesn't have much impact without sharing the information and the results, UNITED realised since many years already the importance of spreading campaign reports after each campaign in order to maintain the events visible and to contribute more significantly to the spread of the good practices within antiracist NGO field.

The followings are short presentations of the campaigns with extracts from the campaign reports:

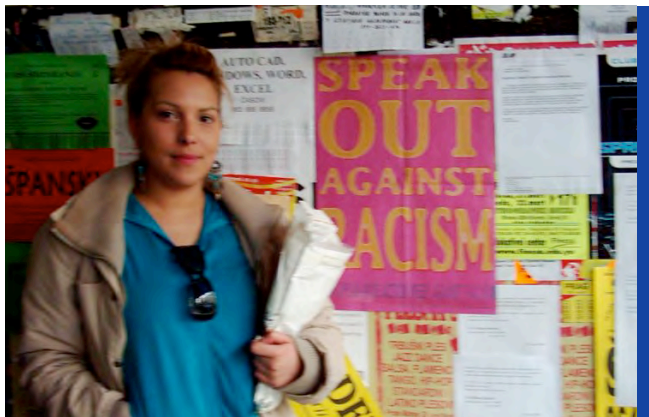
Speak Out! Against Racism European-wide Action Week Against Racism - 18-26 March 2006

Activities in 41 European countries!

The 'European-wide Action Week Against Racism' is one of the broadest annual antiracist campaigns, reaching people all over Europe. "Speak Out! Against Racism" was the slogan of the action week in 2006 and once again thousands of people stood together, were UNITED, and contributed to the campaign by arranging a broad variety of interesting events at local level all over Europe. Thousands of activists showed clearly that the antiracist movement is alive and present, that European youth has a common vision of the society they want to live in. And those antiracist actions have to become part of mainstream contemporary culture. NGOs from 41 European countries - from Helsinki to Rome, from Dublin to Baku, highlighted one common problem at all levels: Racism.

"Never before we had so many events in the framework of the International Week Against Racism"

2006, Jürgen, Interkultureller Rat, Germany



UNITED campaign poster hanging in Yugoslavia



Campaign activities in Switzerland

Common Solution for Common Problems

The overall picture regarding contemporary forms of racism is complex and worrying. Racism itself has come to mean much more than discrimination on the ground of race and it has become a constant factor all over Europe: the tense world climate strengthened many stereotypes, whole minority communities are abused as scapegoats, extreme right-wing groups and parties are spreading their exclusionist ideology, visible minorities are confronted with disrespect and exclusion on all levels. We witness all across Europe a raise in number of racial attacks. Police records and NGO researches show how these attacks are more and more often closely connected to extreme right and to widely used hate speech. Racial attacks are also present within mainstream politics, which puts the security of vulnerable societal sectors at risk.

In a message on the 'International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination' on March 21, the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated: "From name-calling in schools to hiring and firing decisions in the workplace, from selective media or police coverage of crimes to unequal provision of Government services, the mistreatment of racial or ethnic groups not only abounds in our societies, but often passes unchallenged". He called on everyone, from parents to schools to governments, to fight everyday discrimination and stated: "Intolerance is taught and can be untaught".

In 2006, thousands of people took the UNITED campaign as a chance to actively engage themselves once again for tolerance and equal rights, to celebrate the diversity of Europe and to invite the entire society to act against racism.

'Speak Out Against Racism' - A wide variety of activities during the 2006 campaign

The 'European-wide Action Week Against Racism' 2006 took place from March 18 to March 26 and it was centred around the day of March 21, which was declared 'International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination' as a reaction to the murder of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in Sharpeville, South Africa, in 1960.

In 2006, UNITED campaign material, such as posters, stickers and postcards, was distributed all over Europe to promote this year's campaign, to give further background information or to be used as visuals for exhibitions.

Stimulated by the international secretariat of UNITED, the participating organisations arranged events such as educational workshops in schools, demonstrations, movie-



21/3/06 Demonstration in Russia



21/3/06 Newspaper article on activities in Romania

screenings, antiracist games or media campaigns. The UNITED secretariat in Amsterdam coordinated the campaign by motivating NGOs to join the campaign and develop local activities and by providing background information and material.

A wide variety of events and activities were organised in the frame of Action Week Against Racism in 41 European countries. For example, in North, in Finland, an enthusiastic and young audience could enjoy a large-scale anti-racist music action organised by RASMUS Network in Helsinki. In Eastern Europe, in Romania, several NGOs all over the country organised educational workshops and event raising awareness about racism among youngsters. Further in central Europe, in Germany more than 400 activities under the motto "All different - All equal" were organised in schools, youth centres, museums, sport clubs, trade unions, theatres and cinemas.

"I would like to say that your activities against Racism, the discrimination and the violation of the Human Rights and Freedom deserve to be honoured and distinguished. For us, you are the bell of the wisdom, the bell of the humanity; therefore, we would like to honour you and UNITED with the honorary sign-medal: For the people with good hearts"

15/06/2006, Georgi, Help the Needy Foundation, Bulgaria

International Refugee Day - 20 June 2006

UNITED invites you to join the campaign!

As the International Refugee Days approaches, many NGOs working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' issues are starting to organise activities Europe-wide to raise public awareness and to lobby on a local and national level for the rights and the protection of refugees across the continent. Each NGO might have a different priority, according to their targets and their field of action, but it is of extreme importance that all actions gather together to form one strong European campaign. This is why, every year, UNITED coordinates the International Refugee Campaign by making a on-line list of activities, by distributing free campaigning material to organisations (posters, stickers, postcards, info leaflets), by functioning as a reference point and a media source.



Equality for All - Demonstration in Cyprus



Awareness for rights and protection of refugees

The fatal Realities of 'Fortress Europe'

Moreover, all through the year UNITED co-ordinates an on-going campaign called "The Fatal realities of Fortress Europe", a campaign, which aims at raising awareness on the tragedy going on at Europe's borders and inside detention and deportation camps all over the continent. By updating a list of already more than 8000 documented deaths (at 31/12/2006) of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants who lost their lives in the attempt of entering Europe or because of detention/deportation companies, UNITED has created a powerful lobby and awareness-raising tool that all organisations can use for own campaigning. We believe that a global thinking must be put in action locally in order to meet the goals.

This ongoing project of monitoring the number of cases of people who lose their lives in their attempts to enter Fortress Europe sensitises and inspires many people, no matter of their background. During 2006 a Turkish artist studying in Amsterdam who was inspired by this list found financial support to start the implementation of a project that was supposed to bring "The List" in the attention of general public and mass-media. This project was to be implemented later, on March 2007. Details on the results of this project will be provided in the annual report 2007.

*"You did send me the Excel Version of the UNITED Death List 4 months ago.
I have used it intensively since. It is truly an impressing and
important data base."*

09/10/2006, Benjamin, Student of Institute for Geography, Bonn University, Germany

The on-going tragedy of people dying in search for protection is a shame to Europe's civil conscience. These deaths are not isolated incidents. They are the deadly result of the building of a 'Fortress Europe'. Europe's exclusion policy - a policy of border closing that makes it almost impossible to enter legally in Europe, that lacks re-settlement programs and cannot guarantee refugees a safe transfer to other countries - has forced tens of thousands of people to resort to illegal ways of getting to a country where they are safe and where economical survival is possible.

European governments intent to implement even more strict border control and militarization policies. No matter how hard they will try, they are incapable of effectively



Commemoration of fire at expulsion centre Schiphol (NL)



The fatal realities of Fortress Europe

shutting Europe's doors. The stricter the laws they implement are, the higher the number of deaths gets. By reinforcing their exclusionist policy, they are shutting their eyes to the realities of the global political and socio-economical situation. By ignoring the tragedies experienced in the countries where most of the refugees come from, Europe is actually missing the point of the whole refugee, asylum and migration question. European policies are also missing the humanity of those fleeing those lands, and rather consider them in terms of a problem. Europe has responded to this alleged urgency by making legal immigration and asylum nearly impossible, thus leading to the death of refugees.

On the way to 'Fortress Europe', in detention or identification camps, during deportation, or once repatriated, many refugees and migrants die. No matter how different the circumstances of these deaths are, they can all be ultimately put down to one and only reason: the building of a 'Fortress Europe'.

"Thanks to everyone who has written to the Immigration Minister about Elizabeth following our bulletin last week. Thanks to the activists who swung into action twice to stop two attempts to remove Edith Agbonavbare and her 3-year-old son to Nigeria. Both removals were stopped and Edith and Davidson were released from Yarl's Wood Removal Centre. They are now back home in Leeds where they belong."

31/05/2006, Emma, National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, Great Britain

Stop Fascism!

International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism - 9 November 2006

Campaign Actions in 42 European Countries!

At European level, commemorations of November 9th have taken place since the 50th anniversary in 1988. The "Kristallnacht" commemoration has taken on a new meaning as we remember not only the victims from 1938, but also campaign against the rise of neo-Nazism and right-wing in Europe today, and show support for the recent victims of racist and fascist attacks. The UNITED network organises each year a European-wide campaign to commemorate the past, protest against the present and shape the future. It is the variety and creativity of many different simultaneous activities all over Europe that make the UNITED November 9 Campaign unique.



9/11/06 'Kristallnacht' Commemoration in Romania



Newspaper article on 9/11 commemoration in Germany

So again in 2006 the UNITED secretariat in Amsterdam coordinated the campaign by bringing together NGOs and activists and providing them with campaign materials and background information about the campaign. Like every year around November 9, the European anti-fascist and antiracist NGOs raised historical consciousness and make the public aware of the dangers and consequences of prejudices, hatred, ignorance and intolerance in our contemporary world. Traditionally, commemorations in former working and concentration camps in the Netherlands and Germany were organised. The initiative "Elftausend Kinder", for instance, highlighted the urgent need to recognise the group of 11.000 children of German immigrants murdered in Auschwitz. Other organisations arranged torchlight processions in Denmark and Norway, concerts in Georgia and Estonia, working groups in Slovenia, the Netherlands and Spain, big anti-fascist demonstrations in Sweden and Czech Republic and exhibitions in Uzbekistan and Germany.

Stop Fascism!

The denial of the Holocaust and attacks against Jewish synagogues, Holocaust memorials and Individuals of different minorities are - if we are facing the brutality of the murdering of million of people - a shame for Europe's historical memory. How can it come that in our times people still have to suffer from the same problems? Didn't enough mothers, children, brothers, sisters cry because of their pain and loss? It seems that people are forgetting the pain of the victims and murdered. It is sad to say that we are still confronted with fascism.

Every country has to deal with different problems concerning the appearance of fascism. There is not just a single country that can be blamed of boarding fascist tendencies. It is a pan-European phenomenon, often linked throughout the continent. Denmark for example is functioning as a sort of "distribution centre" of Nazi material for northern European countries. Books, CD's and other extremist propaganda is produced in Denmark, and then sent first to England. Or in Russia, associated nationalists and right-wing radicals legally organised on November 4 massive actions in Moscow and some other cities.

Especially in socially and economically deprived areas, people tend to attach to extreme ideologies that give them the feeling of strength and superiority. Through this, fascist organisations have an easy chance to rehabilitate racist legislation and National Socialist ideology. But we should take the "Kristallnacht" as a challenge to motivate people to commemorate the victims, take a minute's silence and, most important, to



Campaign poster from Denmark



9/11/06 'Kristallnacht' Commemoration in the Netherlands

give it further to our friends and our environment. The "Kristallnacht" pogrom, often seen as the symbolical beginning of the Holocaust, reminds millions of people of injustice, inhumanity, intolerance, fascism and Antisemitism. And not just the victims - also us!

"I would like to express my gratitude for your support and to confirm the receipt of posters. Furthermore, we are going to hold one more similar event dedicated to 9th November"

4/11/2006, Yulia Nezban, Amnesty International, Ukraine

Be UNITED: UNITED International Conferences

2.3

"I attended the conference organised by UNITED. Before, I didn't know the possibilities this network could give me. But now I am convinced this network is fruitful for everyone. As for myself and my organisation, the UNITED network gave me the chance to explain the work my association is doing. I'm sure that again I found some new representatives of organisations I will work with in the future. In this way, UNITED has provided me and my organisation with a whole new network of young active people and organisations that I didn't know before."

10/04/2006, Savitri, A different Jewish voice, The Netherlands - Sofia Conference participant

UNITED Conferences bring together participants from the network and from the antiracist movement in general to discuss the trends of the movement, exchange impressions on the situation all over Europe and get an update on specific sub-themes. The upcoming conferences are announced through UNITED E-news, which reach thousands of contacts all over Europe. Candidate participants apply by sending an application form to UNITED secretariat. The concept of the conference, the full activities of program and the selection of both experts and participants are done by an International Preparatory Group (IPG), which consists of about 8 experienced NGO representatives of active antiracist organisations from different European countries. The IPG, as well as participants (for each conference more than 400 nominations are received), are selected based on rotation of countries and fields of experience. The



Discuss the trends of the movement



Bringing together participants of the network...

selection takes into consideration gender balance, age and geographical balance and priority is given to candidates having a minority background.

Selected participants actively participate into the conference program, by presenting examples of good practice projects or personal testimonies of experiences related to the fields under discussions. Participants are divided in working groups according to their field of interest and/or expertise. Each conference offers a wide variety of methods, from plenary sessions, extra social activities, to political cafes, film screening and informal discussions. The plenary sessions offer participants lectures, presentations and panel discussions led by experts and resource persons.

The most important idea underling the conference is that participants act as multipliers, by bringing back to their organisations and countries the best practices learnt at the conference from other participants.

Like every year, UNITED organised two international conferences. For each conference UNITED publishes a report that is send to 2500 organisations Europe-wide. What follows is a brief but interesting presentation on all the thematic and activity work done during the conferences in 2006:

UNITED conference: Youth Sharing Visions For Equality
March 24-29, 2006 in Sofia (Bulgaria)

81 delegates from 37 European countries participated to the UNITED Conference in Sofia. As the event was the closing act of the wider EU Youth Program-financed project "A Youth Vision", the conference was particularly dedicated to young NGO's workers. The aim was to create bridges among the youngsters and their visions, to create co-operation and common strategies for the future among youth NGOs within the anti discrimination field all over Europe.

The International Preparatory Team of the conference consisted of 8 activists, delegates from organisations part of UNITED network from Netherlands, Bulgaria, Estonia, Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy. An interesting 5 days program was prepared for our participants, covering current issues in Europe: equality and participation of minority groups, situation of refugees and asylum seekers, far right and extreme nationalism, Islamophobia and antisemitism, education and intercultural learning in multicultural



Plenary session UNITED conference in Sofia (BG)



Participants present their projects in Sofia (BG)

societies, stereotypes in public space, Romaphobia, institutional racism, activities promoting diversity. Participants had to chance to understand the diversity within the movement, to share practices and to develop new ideas and strategies around the issue of equality as an urgent issue recognized in diverse societal sectors. The UNITED Conference aimed at contributing to the anti-racism co-operation all around Europe, promoting common actions and coordinating on-going and future campaigns. Everybody contributed with personal expertise, attitudes and capacities. Each participant was a learner and a teacher at the same time.

The hosting organizations were two national NGOs: Bosphorus Society Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee. Bosphorus Society Bulgaria is part of the Bosphorus International Network, with partners in several countries. Their main activities consist of international youth exchange programs, training courses and the organization of social activities. The aim of the Bosphorus Society is to teach young people social activism and civic responsibility. The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee is an independent NGO for the protection of human rights. Its main spheres of activities are monitoring the Bulgarian situation, providing legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, raising public awareness and training activists on international human rights standards.

"It was a great conference which, I think went well in terms of content and participation. Thanks for that! I strongly believe that you make such an effort to get people together... when they attend the UNITED Conference they get good, thought-provoking presentation on the serious issue in an accessible way."

06/04/2006, Arif, The Monitoring Group, Great Britain, Sofia Conference participant

UNITED Conference: All Different - All UNITED November 14-19, 2006 near Neuchâtel (Switzerland)

In the Swiss countryside near Neuchâtel, the UNITED Conference "All Different, All UNITED" gathered 83 delegates from NGOs and Human Rights institutions from 38 European countries to debate various aspects of diversity, as a challenging aspect of multicultural societies in Europe. Entitled "All Different, All UNITED", the conference showed the connection with the European Campaign "All Different, All Equal" of the Council of Europe. The event was hosted by Service Civil International (SCI) Switzerland with the support



Working group on 'The danger of words'



Presentation of working group results in plenary

of European Youth Foundation of Council of Europe, Youth for Europe Switzerland, Fund for projects against Racism of Federal Service for Combating Racism Switzerland, Migros Prozent Switzerland and Department for Youth Affairs of Federal Social Insurance Office Switzerland. Service Civil International (SCI) - Swiss branch, our hosting partner organisation is one of the oldest voluntary service organisations in Europe, does International Voluntary Camps, projects of public utility as well as seminars and trainings about nationalism, racism and discrimination.

The program of the conference was prepared by the International Preparatory Group (IPG), a team of experienced NGO representatives from Serbia, Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain and Romania working in the anti-racist, anti-discrimination field and part of UNITED network. For 5 days, participants were mapping and debating the current situation in Europe. It turned out that Racism, extremism, xenophobic trends and violation of human rights are alarmingly high all over Europe, including post-Soviet countries. Participants, activists from anti-racist grass-root organizations, governmental bodies and big international organisations such as OSCE, Council of Europe put together their experience and expertise from different country situations and worked out strategies and recommendations to be used for future activities by all interested stakeholders.

Thomas Fachinetti, representing the Office for Foreigners and Immigration Neuchâtel came in the opening of the conference with a powerful quotation: "Each step taken, whatever small it is, in the struggle against xenophobia, intolerance and racism is precious for humanity here and all over the world."

The main issues of the conference were: mainstreaming migrants, refugees, asylum seekers while preventing human trafficking; educational activities around the phenomenon of Islamophobia; raising awareness about latest trends of fascism and antisemitism in Europe; promotion of diversity and equality as an essential educational value when tackling discrimination and stereotypes; kicking-out racism from sport-fields.

"The conference was really successful, thought provoking, and very useful as a means of peaceful connecting diverse views and opinions. I realise that it is not necessary to win the big race in order to transform the way things are. All of us, in myriad small ways, have the capacity to do this, because nothing that we do is self contained, disconnected, isolated event. Seemingly minor gestures of resistance to racial or monocultural oppression can lay deep imprints on the lives of those around us. So let's campaigning together!"

12/12/2006, Kirill, Memorial Human Rights Centre, Russia



Preparations for the Working group on Refugee issues



Street action against intolerance in Neuchâtel (CH)

Be heard: UNITED delegations

2.4

One of the most striking aspects of UNITED is its capillarity. With its numerous associations, it can be present and visible in many different circumstances and at all major events dealing with one of the themes of the network. One of the tasks of the secretariat is to make sure that at least one representative of a network organisation is present at every important event in Europe, so that not only does the voice of UNITED get heard, but the voice of the movement is reflected in the work of UNITED afterwards.

In 2006, UNITED representatives took part to events organised by, amongst others, OSCE, European Commission, Council of Europe, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and many other European and International Conferences. UNITED is invited to take part in all these events because our work in Europe is appreciated and give as a good example to organisations all over Europe. In each meeting and event we organise an info-table with our publications and campaign materials in order to keep organisations up-dated on our activities and to stimulate others with ideas of activism and to join the movement.

Participants for educational events of SALTO-Youth and Council of Europe were found through the information system of UNITED and E-news.

UNITED as consultative actor and lobby partner

2.5

UNITED has a consultative status with the Council of Europe and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. UNITED has good links with several members in the European Parliament. Some MEP's are themselves supporters of UNITED and with others we had contacts. The organisations that are part of UNITED are often consulted by MEPs regarding anti-racism and anti-discrimination issues. Around 100 MEPs receive regular mailings with our publications and current network activities.



UNITED representation, Diversity Forum in Budapest (H)



UNITED infostand, Youth Project meeting in Brussels (B)

During 2006 UNITED had a fruitful cooperation with the OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, based in Warsaw. An OSCE representative participated in each of our conferences (Bulgaria and Switzerland) and UNITED has sent delegates in OSCE meetings as well. Starting with this year UNITED and OSCE-ODIHR merged forces in fighting racism and hate-motivated actions. OSCE makes use of the UNITED NGO database to update the Huridocs search-engine.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), OSCE and European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) also invites regularly UNITED for strategic planning meetings together with a selected group of international NGOs.

Excellent links exist with the Council of Europe and European Commission as well. Within the Council of Europe, UNITED has a consultative and participative status in Advisory Council on Youth. Several times during the year the Council of Europe invites delegates of UNITED to take part in hearings and working meetings on issues like Migration, Youth Participation, Youth Policies, Antiracism Action Plans.

Within the European Youth Campaign “All Different, All Equal”, coordinated by Council of Europe in partnership with European Commission, UNITED was co-chairing the Steering Committee that coordinated the whole campaign and it was invited to bring it's experience in supporting National Campaign Committees to plan their local activities in the frame of the campaign.

UNITED was selected in 2006 by the European Commission as one of the Best Practices at Community level with the project “Youth Vision”. With this occasion, European Commission invited UNITED to participate in the conference “Intercultural Dialogue. Best practices at Community level”, which was held in Brussels.

“We would like to invite UNITED for the NCC meeting in December, as we see you an important partner in the Campaign. [...] for the NCC meeting it would be great to have an activist who could also give some input or would even be willing to chair a workshop ...(how to organise projects against antisemitism for example, a topic not well covered by now or working with migrant organisations or ...).”

14/11/2006, Katrin, NCC Coordinator “All Different, All Equal”
Directorate Youth and Sport, Council of Europe



UNITED info stand in city centre Amsterdam (NL)



Exhibition of UNITED poster collection in Dachau (D)

Other UNITED activities in 2006

2.6

The Utilization of the Network of Ethnic Associations for Opposing Xenophobia in Russia

Based on a partnership between UNITED for Intercultural Action and the Centre for Interethnic Cooperation in Moscow a joint project called 'The Utilization of the Network of Ethnic Associations for Opposing Xenophobia in Russia' has started in July 2006. A big country like Russia where weekly killings of migrants are happening and inter-ethnic stress is growing at society level, needs a strong initiative to counteract such phenomena and develop solidarity at civil society level. With the financial support of the European Commission (delegation Moscow) UNITED and the Centre for Interethnic Cooperation are actively working on promoting networking between Ethnic Minority NGOs throughout the Russian Federation, thus strengthening the movement against intolerance and discrimination.

The project aimed to train youth leaders from ethnic organisations of 12 regions of Russia, to work with both authorities and non-governmental organisations in Russia, to learn practices from other European countries in opposing xenophobia, to develop a networking mechanism in Russia, to bring information about the situation in the Russian Federation in Europe and to strengthen cooperation between NGOs.

The main target groups of the project were ethnic minority organisations in Russia, mainstream NGOs in Russia, representatives of local authorities and journalists.

The results of the activities organised in 2006 were: first time ever UNITED campaign posters and order forms in Russian language (available online and printed) that were used in local activities particularly amongst youth groups; a web-page containing online information about this project, reports from each training course and support materials for campaigning in Russia; local events and actions organised all over Russia; training courses in Anapa (August 2006), Samara and Yaroslavl (October 2006), Irkutsk (December 2006).



Training course for youth leaders in Irkutsk (RUS)



Promoting networking in Russia, meeting in Yaroslavl

Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism - Developing New Lifelong Learning Strategies for NGO's

We were honoured to be selected in 2006 for granting of this project by Grundtvig Program of the European Commission. The project was developed after many years' experience of UNITED network in anti-discrimination campaigns and deep analysis on the current trends of European civil society active in the fight against right-winged extremism, racism and discrimination. Our partner organisations in this project are: ARI Immigrant Association (Italy), Duha Rainbow Association (Czech Republic), Kulturbüro Sachsen (Germany), Movement Against Intolerance (Spain), MTP Oradea (Romania), Never Again Association (Poland), Norwegian People's Aid (Norway), People Against Racism (Slovakia), University of Venice, Master of Immigration Programme (Italy). Experience shows that despite the quantitative and qualitative work done by many organizations active in this field, many NGOs have little knowledge about democratic institutions and processes. Nevertheless, there are effective ways to tackle discrimination at its local and regional level through innovative and informal learning strategies. There are as well ways to give the best practices a European dimension.

The aim of the project is to create a space for antiracial adult education and make it qualified, available and accessible throughout Europe. The objectives are: the creation of feasible way to enhance the work of local grass-root groups and NGOs active in the field of antiracial education, their training as learning facilitators in antiracial education and the counterbalance of the unevenness in antiracial fight Europe-wide. The project has as its direct target group precisely NGO activists. Ultimately, the project is also expected to reach-out the NGOs' target groups, mainly disadvantaged social categories with less opportunities to access education else way.

Started in October 2006, main activities envisaged include: identification, selection and dissemination of best practices in the antiracist field, conferences, workshops and campaigns, which will eventually bring as outputs publications, handbooks, info leaflets, web-pages and campaign material.



Working group on civil society against right-wing extremism Opposing xenophobia in Russia, training in Anapa (Rus)

3

UNITED as a unique information source

"With the help of UNITED and its publications hundreds of local groups are able to carry out their activities and find information about relevant activities realized by other NGOs and find partners for their projects. It is very important for small youth groups that address book and posters and other paper matter are printed and disseminated by regular mail. Internet is fairly the best way for communication in rural areas, whereas it is extremely important to provide grass-roots youth groups with updated information about current resources available."

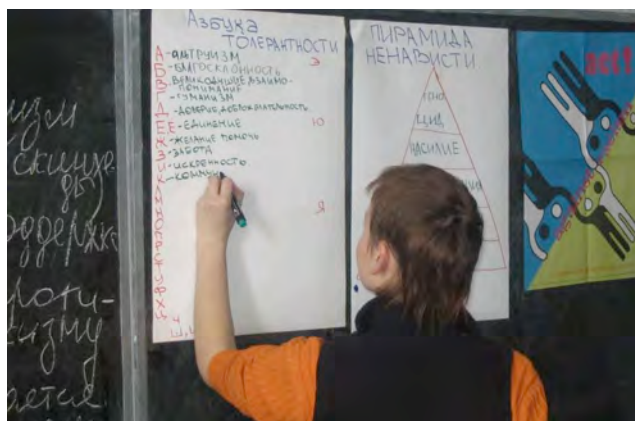
30/11/2006, Anastasia, Youth Human Rights Movement, Russia

The importance of producing and spreading information

3.1

Within such a large network, it is essential to keep organisations in touch and information open and available. To this purpose, also in 2006 the information flow system elaborated and updated throughout the years by UNITED proved to be important. Whilst in western European countries, NGOs can easily use modern IT means to access information, in eastern European countries NGOs often have difficulties accessing information through Internet. Being sensitive about this difference and acknowledging the importance of NGO work in all countries, UNITED understands that information has to be spread both in electronic and printed formats and make it available online.

Information gets immediately passed by via post, e-mail, fax or telephone whenever there is a direct request. Requests of information mainly concern finding partner and like-minded organisations, resources, experts and contents support. Nevertheless, individual request cases of refugees, people living in risky political and social insecure place are also arriv-



School lessons in Russia with help of UNITED material



Preparing campaign materials to be sent all over Europe

ing to the UNITED secretariat. Though the Secretariat does not have the capacity to solve them, all individual requests for assistance are re-directed to experienced organisations on the respective issue, wherever it is necessary in 45 countries all over the continent.

"...They have a database of over 550 organisations across Europe who all have some link to anti-racism work. You can use their Calendar of Activities (produced 5 times a year) to advertise your course, or if there is something significant or appropriate, they can send an e-news. They were approached by the Commission to help them find pax for the Citizenship modules and the Berlin anti-discrimination conference (nearly all pax on the Citizenship module in Luxembourg came through their network)."

2006 Susie, SALTO-YOUTH - Cultural Diversity Resource Center, London, Great Britain

UNITED in cyberspace: A web site with many possibilities

3.2

One of the most important instruments used by UNITED is the web site, where all relevant information, all publications, all reports are uploaded and are at disposal of anyone interested, for further distribution. This is a powerful way to let the network contents be opened to everybody within and outside the movement.

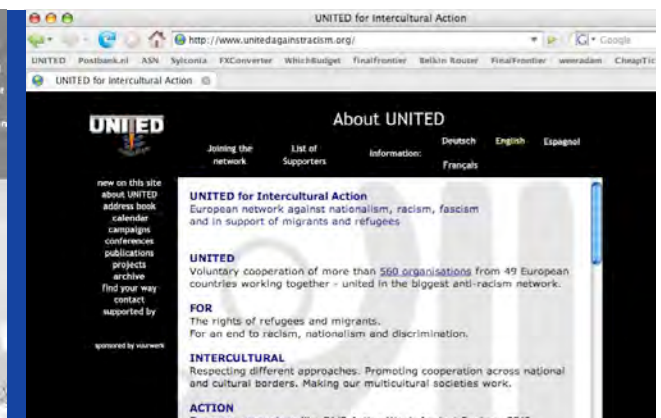
The web site contains a searchable version of the contact data base, which is available to anyone in need of finding contacts all over Europe. In 2006 we managed to bring a major improvement in the search options of the online database. Now it is possible to find organisations in any European country searching by country, city and field of activity. From the search result one can find the entire name of the organisation and its abbreviation, country and city where it is located and a link to the website.

"UNITED's E-news proved to be a very useful tool to spread information to potential participants in the Partnership Training Modules on European Citizenship in 2006. It definitely helped the partnership to reach good and motivated applicants for its activities."

23/10/2006, Florian, Educational Advisor,
European Commission and Council of Europe Partnership on Youth



All publications are at disposal of everyone interested



UNITED in Cyberspace

Reaching out: UNITED's efficient mailing system

3.3

The UNITED E-NEWS are becoming more and more important to spread news of interest, call for nominations and to publicise relevant events organised all over Europe. In 2006, UNITED sent out around 45 E-NEWS to 8000 email recipients.

UNITED has a regular mailing system which consists of sending to over 2500 stakeholders all the material UNITED publishes, i.e. CD Rom 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 2006 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 demand for this kind of printed material among NGOs.

"During the whole year, we are receiving materials from you. Your activities are very impressive for us, especially their world-wide dimension."

Georgi, International Film Organiser, Belfast, North Ireland

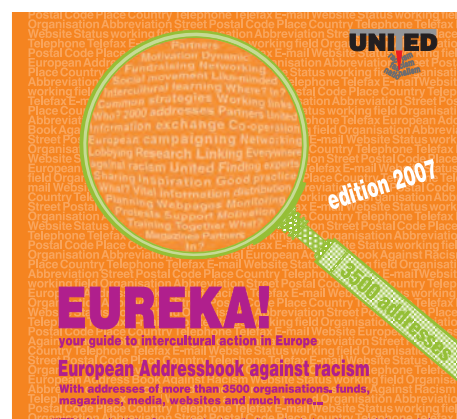
Networking: The Address Book Against Racism

3.4

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



Campaign posters being used on the street in Armenia



UNITED Address Book on CD Rom, easy access for all!

In 2006, the annual printed edition of the Address Book was not possible, as it didn't receive financial support. Instead, an up-dated electronic version of it was published on CD: 'EUREKA! - Your Guide to Intercultural Action in Europe'. This guide contains addresses of more than 3500 organisations, funds, magazines, media websites and much more.... The European Addressbook against Racism was substantially updated, thanks to an intensive research UNITED did in the anti-racism field in 2006, reaching more than 6000 contacts.

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. Although there were no available funds to publish a 2006 printed edition of the Address Book Against Racism, we have updated the version available online at www.unitedagainstracism.org.

Participation: The Calendar of Internationalism

3.5

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 permanently up-dated on the UNITED web site and the printed version is regularly sent by post to 2500 contacts.

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 both as an excellent source of up to date information and an interesting archive about activities organized at short notice too.

"We are very interested in including our activities in the new edition of the Calendar of Internationalism. ...I find three of our activities which we would like to announce via your calendar. Thank you so much!"

16/10/2006 - Katharina,

European Network Coordinator UNOY Peacebuilders, The Hague, Netherlands

"Thank you very much for the opportunity you have kindly offered to put our projects into the UNITED Calendar. It is very honouring for us and promising for our project offered for young people all over the world."

14/09/2006 - Nóra, SIEN Foundation, Pecs, Hungary



Printed version of the Calendar of Internationalism



Advertised via the Calendar: Sport Against Racism in Hungary

Get updated: UNITED's publications

3.6

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 and reprinted. They have been widely distributed and made available on the website of UNITED in easy printable format, 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 ensuring that your work with volunteers can become a success- for everybody. The revised 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 reports

The UNITED Campaign Reports printed in broadsheet newspaper form are another popular information tool. They give an overview of campaign activities organised by NGOs in over 40 European countries emphasizing the achievements of anti-racist movement throughout Europe and inspiring others to become active. Campaign reports help individuals and NGOs in reporting to their sponsors, lobby at local/national level and provide new ideas for future activities.

Conference reports

The Conference reports are also powerful in a way that they provide results of thematic contents discussed during the UNITED conferences, project presentations and campaigning concrete ideas. They stimulate the work of NGOs by reflecting what has been going on within the network in the past months and what are the current trends in anti-racism field in Europe. In 2006 UNITED organised two conferences (Bulgaria and Switzerland), and, consequently, two conference reports, which were both included in the mailings and are also accessible on our website.



Campaign reports: used to inspire for new activities



Conference reports: update on current issues in the network

Get active: UNITED's campaign materials

3.7

Visual materials for activities Europe-wide

For each campaign, UNITED prepares 5-6 months in advance visual materials such as posters, postcards and stickers connected with the topic of the campaign, using the logo and the slogan in order to achieve a better local impact through media and events organised in public spaces. The visual materials are sent all over Europe weeks before the campaign start to 2500 organisations in order to support directly those who organise activities in the streets and public locations. UNITED has supported also several National Campaign Committees of the 'All Different, All Equal Campaign' with campaign materials for national and local activities connected with anti-racism, anti-discrimination, anti-facism, migration or refugee issues. Therefore thousands of copies of posters, postcards and stickers find their destination in the hands of NGO activists, people with different minority backgrounds, pupils and young people in schools and universities, members of European Parliament, youth clubs, journalist and many other beneficiaries of NGOs active within UNITED network.

In 2006, UNITED has published first time ever campaign posters and order forms in Russian language. NGOs and civil society speaking Russian was therefore reached-out by UNITED campaign message and materials.

"I would like to thank you for the material sent, in order to help the fight against nationalism, racism, fascism and which can give some support to migrants and refugees"

9/11/2006, Fausto, European Parliament -
Commission Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

"The campaign that we had unfolded from 7 to 9 November 2006, was a great succes, and we thank you for your materials. It was a great help for us"

29/11/2006, Ramona S., Asociatia Montana Mitorilor, Romania



UNITED material send to Romania, and used well!



UNITED posters in Russian language, used in Samara (RUS)

UNITED's databank: The archive

3.8

With its 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 2006 parts of the archive were handed over to the International Institute of Social History for further research and preservation for future generations.

Netzwerk gegen Rassismus



The struggle against racism preserved for research



Information on more than 2400 European organisations

4

UNITED successfull in Intercultural Action!

Thanks to...

4.1

We especially thank all the **members of the International Conference Preparatory Groups** (IPG) who showed extraordinary engagement in preparing and running the UNITED conferences on voluntary basis, as well as their organisations who co-organised the UNITED large scale conferences in 2006:

Antirassistisch-Interkulturelles informationszentrum AriC Berlin (Germany)
Association for Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers Humanitas (Netherlands)
Augustaschacht Memorial (Germany)
Bosporus Society Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (Bulgaria)
Get Educated - Learning Media Against Racism (Sweden)
Golden Ball - Youth National Minority Program (Latvia)
Legal Centre for Human Rights (Estonia)
Movement Against Intolerance (Spain)
MTP Oradea (Romania)
QUEERIA (Serbia)
REFLEXes Magazine (France)
Service Civil International (Switzerland)
Society for Free Minded, Cultural & Political Education Blauschwung (Germany)
The Monitoring Group (Great Britain)

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.



Sharing knowledge during a UNITED conference



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

A special Thank for our dedicated international volunteers for the great contribution and support they invested in the International Secretariat of UNITED to organise and run smoothly our successful activities in 2006. The volunteers were sent for long and short term projects from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste - ASF (Germany), the Austrian Peace Service (Austria) and the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy).

We thank as well to our partner organizations in the projects
“Utilization of the Network of Ethnic Associations for Opposing Xenophobia in Russia”
and “Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism”:

Centre for Interethnic Cooperation (Russia)
ARI Immigrant Association (Italy)
Duha Rainbow Association (Czech Republic)
Kulturbüro Sachsen (Germany)
Movement Against Intolerance (Spain)
MTP Oradea (Romania)
Never Again Association (Poland)
Norwegian People's Aid (Norway)
People Against Racism (Slovakia)
University of Venice, Master of Immigration Programme (Italy).

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

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

More than 560 organisations from all European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and volunteers.



For the first time UNITED campaign posters in Russian

Break the blocks...

UNITED is supported by...

4.2

Since 1992 financial support was received from various sponsors such as:

- European Commission (General Budget/Socrates/Grundtvig/Youth Programme/DG Employment Social Affairs/ TACIS) • Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation/European Youth Centres) • Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung • World Council of Churches • Olof Palmes MinnesFond • Cultural Council Sweden • Ministry of Education Slovenia • Green Group-, Socialist Group-, and GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament • European Cultural Foundation • Stiftung West-Östliche Begegnung • Aktionsbündnis Gegen Gewalt • Rechtsextremismus und Fremdenfeindlichkeit Brandenburg • Home Office UK, Ministry of Interior-BZK NL • Federal Department of Foreign Affairs CH • Ministry Foreign Affairs-BUZA NL • Vuurwerk Internet • Instituto Português da Juventude • National Integration Office Sweden • Service Nationale de la Jeunesse Luxembourg • LNU - Norwegian Youth Council • Europees Platform Grundtvig • Friedrich Ebert Stiftung • Youth Board of Cyprus • Federal Social Insurance Office (Dep. for Youth Affairs) CH • Swiss Coordination Office of Youth for Europe • Federal Service for Combating Racism (Fund for Projects Against Racism) CH • Migros Kulturprozent CH • Final Frontiers Internet • Dijkman Offset • and others •



*The information contained herein does not necessarily reflect the position nor the opinion of our sponsors.
Sponsors are not to be held responsible for any use that may be made of it.*

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



UNITED is supported by thousands of engaged people from all over Europe who raise their voice against racism