

ANNUAL REPORT



2008



UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION
THE EUROPEAN NETWORK
AGAINST NATIONALISM, RACISM, FASCISM
AND IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



UNITED for Intercultural Action

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

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THE EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST NATIONALISM, RACISM, FASCISM AND IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

UNITED

We believe that racism can only be combated by unity. Since 1992, more than 560 organisations from 46 European countries have joined to make Europe a better place - for all. We have to stand together, be united to support the anti-racist and anti-discrimination vision and to speak out against racism and the negative political tendencies in Europe! With an authentic and living movement we can put antiracism into the mainstream of contemporary culture. Young people can and should be a part of the solution to the problem of racism. The movement can grow with their opinions and their visions of the Europe they want to live in.

FOR

We stand for unity and hope, fascists spread division and fear. Our vision is one of peaceful co-existence and intercultural respect all over the world. Together we want to build a Europe of tolerance and solidarity, a Europe of respect and perspectives. Diversity is for us more than just living our lives next to each other. Intercultural understanding and cooperation is our goal.

INTERCULTURAL

The best way to stop racism is to get to know each other and to learn from common experience. Every organisation is an expert in its field and in its region, all sharing the same goals. Strengthening these existing intercultural relations between civil societies, minority groups and political and economical actors is UNITED's most important target. Diversity is a virtue, solidarity a duty.

ACTION

It's the variety and creativity that makes UNITED campaigns unique. By linking local and national actions, we can generate European-wide solidarity and publicity. We can show that there is an enormous amount of people that believe in an intercultural open society. European-wide campaigns against racism (21 March), in support of refugees (20 June) and against fascism and antisemitism (9 November) have been overwhelmingly successfully coordinated by UNITED for more than a decade. UNITED also does effective lobby-work at the European commission, the OSCE and the Council of Europe to make our voice heard. Raising awareness in all fields of life - that's the key to defeat racism!

THEMATIC LEAFLET



Come comprendere e affrontare il discorso razzista

Si può sostenere che nonostante nell'eterna disputa sui valori fondamentali, la libertà di parola è importante, ma non è il solo valore esistente e non deve avere priorità su tutte le altre considerazioni. Altri diritti, che non sono meno fondamentali del diritto alla libertà di parola, comprendono - ad esempio - il diritto a vivere senza paura e intimidazioni, il diritto alla dignità umana (sia a livello personale e sia di gruppo) e il diritto ad essere parte della società in ugual misura degli altri, senza subire discriminazioni ed esclusioni.

Volendo trarre delle conclusioni dalla storia europea possiamo affermare che è stata senz'altro un'esperienza univoca in riferimento al diffondersi del fenomeno razzista che porta dopo il Holocausto.



UNITED for Intercultural Action is the largest pan-European network of diverse non-governmental organisations - with more than 560 partner organisations in 46 European countries - bringing together the European anti-discrimination movement in all its shades and varieties.

Despite the fact that working-topics, political attitudes and organisational structures may be different in most of the cooperating organisations, they all are unified in the struggle against racism, nationalism, fascism and other forms of discrimination and in support of migrants and refugees.

The story of the UNITED Network began in 1992, when participants of two anti-racist European youth seminars in Strasbourg (F) recognise the need for a pan-European tool to strengthen and cross-link grassroots organisations and their actions against racism, fascism, and nationalism and in support of migrants and refugees. 1992 was the year of the most violent and massive xenophobic riots that took place in Germany after the Second World War - against this background the need for a structured info- and networking system urged and since 1993 the basic working principle «**UNITED WE ARE STRONGER**» spreads across entire Europe.

The Network provides a forum for active solidarity and cooperation between member organisations and their activists – special emphasis is put on supporting cooperation between organisations from Western and Central and Eastern Europe. Open access to information, constant stimulation and the free provision of effective (net)working tools is therefore a key factor serve the needs of the very diverse organisations and groups throughout Europe and to make the anti-discrimination movement in Europe function. The often proven networking-tools enable a steady and smooth flow of information among all active groups in Europe and give UNITED the possibility to act as ‘spider in a net’, cross-linking grass-roots organisations, nation-wide anti-racist networks, international and national human rights and youth organisations, antifascist groups, refugee and migrant support organisations, sport groups, educational institutes, expert sources, officials and authorities, lobby organisations, media and journalists, museums and cultural centres and many, many more.

UNITED is a progressive Network with a future-oriented approach. In fast changing Europe we need to act courageously and not just reacting on recent incidences or deadlocked situations. The passion to develop and advance, to take risks in order to support innovative and courageous projects, is reflected in the work of UNITED since 1992.

The Spider's Net

It needs a lot of work, patience and organisation to keep an international big-scale network alive. Although the constantly enlarged ‘net’ of UNITED is huge, the ‘spider’ that is weaving it is small. Not more than 3 staff members and 4-8 (international and intercultural) volunteers worked 2008 in the Amsterdam based secretariat and kept UNITED for Intercultural Action productive. UNITED is able to work with international volunteers thanks to a partnership with Austrian Service Abroad, a vocational training program of the *Ca'Foscari University of Venice* (Leonardo da Vinci exchange), cooperation with *Action Reconciliation Service for Peace* (Germany) and additional EVS (European Voluntary Service) projects granted by the EU.

UNITED coordinates, supports and strengthens a network of more than 560 organisations from 46 European countries. Voluntary cooperation and mutual respect are the main working principles of this broadest and largest pan-European network of NGOs. Everybody who wants to contribute can join the European struggle against inequality – no hierarchic structures interfere the neural fibres of UNITED that connect and advance the work within the network.

The Amsterdam based secretariat itself functions as network- and information-desk for the antiracist movement where logistic planning and administration takes place and all of the network data and information is processed. Many organisations, individual activists, journalists, researchers etc. call the secretariat and ask for support, special information and advice. The intercultural young team working in the UNITED secretariat is responsible for the - maintenance and development of the UNITED networking tools and information system



- stimulation and coordination of the annual pan-European campaigns
- preparation and organisation of the annual international conferences
- planning and creation of publications and effective dissemination of this material
- monitoring and documentation of the European anti-racist movement
- handling of requests and information and archiving of publications of organisations and institutes from all over Europe
- dissemination of UNITED campaign and educational material, as well as explanation of the important principles and concepts of international networking during delegations and conferences all over Europe

"We will keep in touch with you and will send you the information about our organisation projects and activities. Hope to receive news as well from you. It is highly important to have a fruitful collaboration."

[Lilia - CIE (MD)]

Money makes the world go around...

"...this is a terrible truth and especially valid for non-profit organisations. UNITED is an ambitious project with no stable income – year for year anew UNITED needs to fight for funding and the last five years were an almost killing struggle for the network.

Although we are very thankful about the financial support that comes from the network organisations itself and individual supporters UNITED worries about necessary funds for the upcoming period – if nothing else, because of the international economic crisis.

The participation in UNITED campaigns is free of any costs, organisational and administrative support is given for free to NGOs and the use of UNITED material and tools is free of charge for everybody – all these things are directly connected with the work done in the UNITED secretariat and the very most of this work is done by volunteers (unsalaried of course). While it is possible to partly fund projects, campaigns and conferences with granted sponsorships we still need to cover our administrative costs with ridiculous small amounts in relation to the individual effort and the working force needed.

UNITED worries not be able to keep the high working standards in the upcoming year, simply because professional work is not affordable anymore. Qualified and trained staff/experts are forced to switch their work in order to afford minimum living standards and maybe also a family. It is very hard in these days to do non-profit work and a lot of self-discipline, as well as a strong believe in the need social work is mandatory in order to carry on working at UNITED.



COMMUNICATION HARDWARE THE TOOLS OF THE UNITED NETWORK

All defined Networking-Tools below evolved and are constantly upgraded due to the long lasting experience of UNITED in its working field – the often proved and reliable tools are well established throughout Europe and enable professional networking on European level.

Database – The First Brick in the Wall

The internal UNITED database maintains details on over 8000 diverse contacts from all over Europe active in the working fields of UNITED and builds the basic fundament of the UNITED network and its tools. Since the database is also one of the essential tools in the secretariat's daily work it is constantly reviewed, updated and expanded.

"We are looking for 6 young people to attend at a meeting we are organizing; it could be great if you can help us to find these young motivated people from Europe".
[Didier - Le Monde des Possibles (B)]

Archive – Preserve the Past to Build the Future

The archive forms the backbone of the UNITED information service. With documentation on more than 3000 organisations and their publications, UNITED holds the biggest and most up to date databank of material in its working field. Journalists and organisations both inside and outside the network use archived material provided by the UNITED secretariat. Since 1998 UNITED cooperates with the *International Institute of Social History* (IISH) of the University of Amsterdam with the aim to preserve the archive in a responsible way. The archive is handed over to the IISH for further research and safekeeping - already more than 50 m archived material from UNITED is preserved by the IISH.

Mailing-System – Reaching Out to the Movement

UNITED publications are distributed all over Europe via a direct mailing-system to more than 2200 grass-roots organisations, youth groups, educational institutes, journalists, media, ministers and members of European parliament. There were four big mailings sent out in 2008. The other way around UNITED receives information and publications from over 2500 organisations active in the field. All the received material gets processed, documented and archived by the UNITED secretariat. UNITED makes extensive use of the Internet and email communication and reaches out to more than 8000 up-to-date contacts (e.g. for disseminating e-news including important information on actual situations, alerts for international/national actions or to enable to protest against unjust deportations of refugees, calls for participation in UNITED campaigns and conferences, forwarded calls for trainings and meetings from the Council of Europe/OSCE-ODIHR etc.).



Mailings and E-mailings conducted in 2008:

Post mailings	4 times to over 2200 contacts
E-news	39 times to over 8000 contacts

"Could you please shift some information about your organization as well (brochures, pictures, t - shirts), I will be glad to inform Kyrgyzstan's citizens about your organization and boost your mission here"

[Future Leaders Exchange (KY)]

Publications – Hitting the Streets through Slogans and Education

UNITED has a vast collection of already over 300 publications. These publications are developed in the framework of the co-operating network organisations and designed, produced and disseminated by the UNITED secretariat. The basic language used for every publication is English, but up to today several UNITED publications have been translated and reprinted in different languages, such as Azeri, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Spanish and Swedish.

All the materials published by UNITED are free of copyrights, although when copied the source or the information needs to be mentioned. All UNITED publications can be found and downloaded from the UNITED webpage (www.unitedagainstracism.org).

Beside the 'Address Book Against Racism' and the 'Calendar of Internationalism' there are in general three different kinds of publications:

Information and Thematic Leaflets

On a regular basis, UNITED published Info- and Thematic Leaflets that enable NGOs, activists, but also educators to find hints, best-practice and specific know-how about topics relevant for the every day anti-discrimination work. The authors are expert activists from within different parts of the UNITED network and share their knowledge and experience. The leaflets are regularly updated and reprinted. Up to more than 30 information and thematic leaflets about various topics and concepts used in anti-discrimination work are available:

- definition leaflets like 'The Danger of Words'
- conceptual leaflets like 'How to Recognise and Confront Hate Graffiti'
- statistical leaflets like 'Death by Policy: The Fatal Realities of "Fortress Europe"'
- documentation leaflets like 'History Interpretation as a Cause of Conflicts in Europe'
- basics in anti-discrimination work like 'Get Active – How to Organise an Activity?'

New developed, produced and disseminated in 2008:

UNITED We Are Strong – Get active against right-wing extremism (published in Czech, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish language)

Football without Racism (published in English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Slovakian, Spanish language)

How to recognise and confront Hate Graffiti (published in Czech, English, German, Italian, Polish, Slovakian and Spanish language)



Updated and newly disseminated in 2008:

How to Understand and confront Hate speech (translated into German, Italian, Polish, Slovakian and Spanish language)

Campaign Material

For each UNITED campaign the secretariat prepares and spreads special campaign material like newspaper-posters, stickers, postcards, logos and slogans adapted to the topic of each campaign. The visual materials are developed according to inputs given by participants of international UNITED conferences and produced by UNITED. Every year the secretariat gives its best to create new publications. The supply of grass-roots organisations with professional campaign material for free ensures a broad visibility throughout the continent and stronger local impact and media coverage. Since 2006 UNITED not only provides and distributes campaign material in English, but also in Russian language.

New developed and produced campaign material in the year 2008:

Purpose: **European-wide Action Week Against Racism, 15-23 March 2008**

Slogan: *Colour Your Picture*

3.500 Lists of Activities, which facilitates the overview on European level about participation

Purpose: **International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, 9 November 2008**

Slogan: *UNITED We Are Strong – Get active against right-wing extremism*

40.000 newspaper-posters (published in English) **Including:** campaign logo; additional background information about the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom and the focus in this year's campaign; tips on how to promote participation in the campaign and how to organise the campaign on local level

4.800 order leaflet/questionnaires, which facilitates the distribution of materials and informs the secretariat on participation and local activities

3.500 Lists of Activities, which facilitates the overview on European level about participation

Purpose: **European-wide Action Week Against Racism, 14-22 March 2009**

Slogan: *Look Deeper – Value Diversity*

2 times 40.000 newspaper-posters (published in English) **Including:** campaign logo; additional background information on diversity issues, intercultural learning and the struggle against racism, intolerance and discrimination and the focus in this year's campaign; tips on how to promote participation in the campaign and how to organise the campaign on local level

5.000 order leaflet/questionnaires for "European-wide Action Week Against Racism, 14-22 March 2009", which facilitates the distribution of materials and informs the secretariat on participation and local activities

Reports

The UNITED campaign reports give background knowledge on the development of racism and fascism in different European countries and an overview of activities conducted by NGO's all over Europe, as well information on the campaign's impact in each country. The campaign report also aims to inspire new organisations in joining UNITED campaigns by showing good practices throughout Europe and helps NGOs in reporting to their sponsors, lobby at local and national level and provide new ideas for future activities. Conference reports provide the structured results of lectures, presentations, discussions and thematic contents analysed during international UNITED network conferences. The conference reports reflect what has been going on within the network in recent time and what are the current trends in society according the anti-discrimination movement in Europe.



Reports produced in the year 2007:*Campaign Reports*

International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism 2007 'ACT Against Intolerance!' (published in Czech, English, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish)
European-wide Action Week Against Racism 2008 'Colour Your Picture' (published in English language)

Conference Reports

'Get Educated, Fight Racism!'; 27 May – 1 June 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden (published in English language)
'Europe under Construction: Imagine our Future without Hate', 4-9 November 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia (published in English language)

"I would like to say a big thank you for the material sent to my organisation. It's highly appreciated. We are expecting more of these brochures in future. Please send as many posters as you can afford. We need them for our upcoming programs.

Thank you for your help and understanding"
[Deen - Mahatma Gandhi Organisation (H)]

"I am very thankful for all your work and your support. Your solidarity is very welcome in this period. Please send us as much material as you can"

[Daniela – Associazione Them Romano (I)]

"I have been looking for information that our equity office could use for promotional. I am wondering if there is a copyright on your posters and postcards. They express such important messages and it would be excellent if we could use these ideas to further educate others on our campus.

Could you let me know if we are permitted to produce copies of these images for display purposes? It would be greatly appreciated."

[Maria – Equality Office University of Prince Edward Island (IS)]

Address Book Against Racism – The Yellow Pages of the Anti-discrimination Movement

The European Address Book Against Racism is one of the best-known and most widely used reference books in the anti-discrimination movement throughout Europe. It provides detailed contact data and information about active groups, institutions and NGOs in Europe and their operative fields. Thanks to the Address Book organisations have an elementary instrument to get in touch with each other to exchange information and initiate collaborations. The updated printed edition 2008 contained the addresses of about 2300 organisations and magazines active in the field and 140 funding institutions. This publication was exclusively realised through donations of participants at international UNITED Network conferences.

The Address Book is an invaluable networking-tool with several tens of thousands copies in total circulating throughout Europe due to the fact that groups produce own duplicates for their affiliates. Also here UNITED follows its 'open access to information' policy – there is no copyright on any publication produced – only the source has to be mentioned if individuals or groups republish our material.

In addition to the printed Address Book there is also a searchable online version on the UNITED website. The website version of the Address Book includes extra searchable categories and also more detailed information on about 4000 active groups, NGO's, funding institutions, media, etc.



*“Dear Colleagues at UNITED,
Please mail me your latest European Address Book Against Racism, which I find very useful
in my advocacy work.”
[Cesar - Bayan International (NL)]*

Calendar of Internationalism – Road Map of Human Dignity

The *Calendar of Internationalism* is an ongoing project of the UNITED Network and constantly updated by volunteers in the UNITED secretariat. The Calendar acts as public source and information tool about events, seminars, training courses, conferences, demonstrations, exhibitions, festivals, campaigns and any other action linked with the working fields of UNITED. It is a promotion tool for active groups and organisations in Europe, but also an international action agenda and source of ‘good practice’ examples for active citizens and activists in Europe.

This project was implemented in 1992 and proofed to be an excellent reference guide to good practices and co-operations within the European anti-racist movement. As the information comes from the movement to serve the movement, it documents the ongoing struggle for equality and reflects the themes and dimension of the anti-discrimination work in Europe. The Calendar is also used as reference to find like-minded and active groups on local level to join forces and/or to start common actions.

Beside the weekly-updated online version of the Calendar, UNITED published 4 printed editions in 2008 (each containing about 140-160 announcements). With the printed editions of the *Calendar of Internationalism* UNITED also described a more detailed documented ‘Good Practice’ case that took place within the anti-racist movement in Europe. This short documentation of one special activity aims to show innovative and also unconventional ideas of giving resistance to intolerance and inequality. Beside of the pure information about: What? Why? Where? How? A good practice always targets to motivate individuals or groups to start acting themselves.

Within the Calendar special listings (List of Activities) of events that take place in the frame of UNITED’s three annual campaigns were published:

- European-wide Action Week Against Racism (around 21 March)
- International Refugee Day (around 20 June)
- International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism (around 09 November)

*“Thank you so much for putting the conference on the events page of your website, we are
extremely grateful for your support.”
[Karen - Media Conference LTD (GB)]*

*“Can you please add my email accounts on your mailing list with announcements (like for
calendar)? For many years now, I’ve been following your activities.
Keep up with the good work!”
[Jovana - Regional Centre for Minorities (RS)]*

Cyber Resistance – Globalise the Movement

Through the UNITED website www.unitedagainstracism.org all UNITED announcements, networking tools, publications, background information on campaigns, projects and international conferences are easy accessible for



public use and download. The website provides public access to the online searchable *Address Book Against Racism* and to the archived listings of the *Calendar of Internationalism* since 2004. The website is a very important tool for the European anti-discrimination movement to stay up-to-date about the diverse actions taking place all over Europe, to get in contact with each other and to do research on possible partners and partner projects. The secretariat in Amsterdam is responsible for maintenance, advancing and up dating of the website.



UNITY THROUGH ACTION!

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION AND RESISTANCE

The campaigns UNITED for Intercultural Action organises are based on the principle of “think globally and act locally”. Organisations arrange activities on local level within an intercultural and international framework. The UNITED secretariat coordinates the diverse activities all over Europe on a common date and provides organisations with campaigning-tools (like posters, thematic leaflets, PR-material, background information on the campaigns, etc.) advice and contacts of local like-minded organisations for possible co-operations.

UNITED's long lasting experience in organising large-scale campaigns and the often proven and reliable networking tools ensure professional campaigning on European level. The well-established information system guarantees a smooth flow of information and exchange of knowledge and good practices throughout the participating NGOs. The diverse activities, taking place within the annual UNITED campaigns, are carried out by youth NGOs, informal groups, educational institutes etc. in all Council of Europe member states. Different contents and core topics are individually applied due to the local, national and international situations.

The strength of coordinating many actions on a common date is, that you can draw European-wide attention on one specific principal topic. Media, general public, but also policy makers are more likely to be interested and attracted by the highlighted issues.

Another advantage of the UNITED campaigns is the ‘good practice’ effect. European-wide UNITED campaigns interconnect a lot of organisations in different countries and through the successful implemented events the different groups are enabled to share experiences, ideas and good practice and empower each other in their actions.

COLOUR YOUR PICTURE

European-wide Action Week Against Racism 15-23 March 2008

On 21 March 1960 police opened machine-gun fire on a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa: 69 demonstrators were killed and hundreds were injured. This event storied as the ‘Sharpeville Massacre’. In reaction to this massacre and to protest against the legitimisation of racism and white superiority in the South African regime (1948-1994), the United Nations declared 21 March the ‘*International Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination*’.

In 1992 UNITED initiated the first *European-wide Action Week Against Racism* and coordinates it since then every year with growing numbers of participating NGOs all over Europe. The *Action Week* has become the broadest annual anti-racism campaign in Europe, inviting people to get active to promote the values of equality, respect and diversity.

At the UNITED conference in Baku (AZ) in October 2007, representatives of active groups from 32 European countries discussed strategies for the *European-wide Action Week Against Racism 2008* and exchanged experiences: It is important that we work united because our message will be stronger.

Today we can travel, work and live in other countries in Europe, but we experience a clash of differences on social level and we are confronted with social exclusion, which endangers daily life of migrant groups. In this respect Europe is experiencing a growing discrimination especially towards migrant and minority groups. Governments have the responsibility to build anti-discrimination measures and protect equal rights of people. Instead we have poor reactions of state institutions, political parties and media that even put the blame on discriminated groups themselves. Innocent people continue to be victims of racism.



Again in 2008, NGOs, youth groups, educational and cultural institutes, informal groups etc. all over Europe joined the Action Week against Racism and organised hundreds of activities on local and national level. All over Europe - from Valetta to Moscow, from Oslo to Belgrade – street actions, workshops, seminars, conferences, intercultural festivals, exhibitions, round table discussions, poster actions, lectures, theatre plays etc. encouraged the general public to take a stand against discrimination, inform about the affects and forms of racism and promoted the value of diversity. In several countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania or the Netherlands, nationwide campaigns were organised, involving a whole country in one common action: to act against intolerance! From 15-23 March 2008 more tens of thousands of people in 47 European countries were united under the common slogan 'Colour Your Picture' and sent out a strong message for a Europe without discrimination.

Good practices were put into practice all over Europe - here some examples:

- 'Interkultureller Rat Germany' coordinated again a huge nation-wide campaign in frame of the *Action Week against Racism 2008*. For the first time the local organisers proclaimed two weeks of action against racism. This step was quite successful: More than 500 individual local activities involved over 50.000 people throughout Germany in the common struggle against inequality.
- In Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship, the constant violation of human rights and democratic principles, as well as brutal neo-nazi attacks threatens anti-racism activists and strongly suppresses an active civil anti-discrimination movement. Nevertheless, brave anti-racist activists of the 'Tretya Zmena Network' organised an anti-racist info night in Minsk, including discussions, movie screenings and music performances.
- On the 17th of March, St. Patrick's Day, a national holiday in Ireland, the organisation 'Kerry Action For Development Education' held an intercultural music and dance event, presenting music from all parts of the world. By involving the city's migrant communities and the diverse cultural backgrounds in celebrating a traditional national holiday, the organiser and the citizens demonstrated that migrants are welcome in their city and are invited to be an active and equal part of the community.

The produced campaign material to the *Action Week Against Racism 2008*, the complete listing of all actions and participating groups as the complete campaign report can be found and downloaded on the on the special campaign and publication websites under www.unitedagainstracism.org.

"Thank you a million times!

I wish I could hug each one of you in person, not only through e-mail!

Of course we will do something for the campaign, even if small can be significant. We have a case of racism and I plan to go on TV and on a newspaper to make a story ...we can mark that day and mention your campaign too. You are so wonderful with all you do".

[Ioana Culture of Peace Association (RO)]

"Thanks for your letter. Our week against racism was intensive and, in my opinion, successful.

Actually this year it was a really hot topic in Lithuania, because we have more and more manifestations of racial discrimination in our country. As our activities became more conspicuous at the same time skinheads movement became more intensive...

I will send you all information this week."

[Aina - Human Rights Monitoring Institute (LT)]

International Refugee Day – 20th June 2008

The International Refugee Day 2008 was anticipated on the 18 of June by the adoption within the EU Parliament of the directive on 'Common Standards and Procedures for Returning 'Illegal Staying'".



The contents of this directive not only represent a setback to the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 14-1), but also the chosen date for its adoption represented an outrage towards human rights activists and those who flee their countries in search of protection and a better future. The EU directive represents the supporting pillar of the policies of Fortress Europe. The 'Coercive measures' to enforce return include the organisation of joint flights between two or more member states. Detention is permitted as a part of the enforcement process, and it can be applicable for up to 18 months - exceeding existing timeframes of most EU member states. Forced expulsion entails a ban on re-entry to the entire territory of the EU. The duration of such a ban 'should not normally exceed five years', but can be extended if the individual had already been the subject of a removal order.

The International Refugee Day 2008 represented the climax of the protests against the directive: more than 15.395 people from 21 European Countries join actively forces to promote the respect of human rights for all and take a stand against the raise of racism and xenophobia.

Various activities were organised to celebrate the values of diversity and respect. Festivals, movie screenings, concerts, seminars, conferences, open forum were realized all over Europe.

In the frame of the campaign, also this year the thematic working group established within the united network to monitor institutes that operates on the issue of welcome and integration of migrants organised a meeting in Italy. The meeting aimed to visit different projects implemented in the city of Rome both by the cooperation of NGOs and immigrants themselves.

The group visited the following projects:

- ARARAT is an emergency centre for Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers. The project is located in the biggest occupied building in the periphery of Rome. Although the project ended because of lack of funds in 2000, the centre is still active and is run autonomously by the Kurdish community.
- Associazione Rieti Immigrants provides legal support to migrants and assists them by promoting language courses, caring for their children after school, helping them when facing unemployment, and so on. It also runs a hosting program, which allows some immigrants to stay in some NGO-owned apartments, where they can have 24 hours assistance. ARI ultimately promotes the encounter among cultures through its action.
- ProAsilo Terni is a project for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and people under humanitarian protection; the project started in 2006. Since 2006 the Project has hosted 22 people, mostly from Africa. The project is oriented to "vulnerable" people: victim of torture, individuals with health problems, women with children.
- Hope Project Narni is a project for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and people under humanitarian protection and was established in 2004. Hope Project Narni is a project for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and people under humanitarian protection and was established in 2004.
- Asinitas association was founded by a group of professional lawyers, teachers, educators, psychologist, psychotherapists and also migrants. The association provides social care for victims of human rights violations and collects their testimonies. Asinitas, together with migrants, tries to build an educational approach that is based on the active participation of the migrants themselves and is centred around their needs. For this reason the places where the projects are implemented are the spaces that are commonly used by migrants.
- ARCI is involved in the promotion and development of the associative system as a factor of social cohesion, as a place for civil and democratic involvement, of affirming the rights of citizens and fighting against any form of exclusion and discrimination. The ARCI association cooperates with the Roma community living in the biggest camp in the city of Rome to facilitate the administration and care of the life of the families in the camp.

Without the work of these organisation the fates of undocumented migrants, asylum seekers and refugees would be 'hidden' in our society without a chance of any formal care and support.

"Thank you for your materials, they are really impressive. I will make them available for our students. Best regards and keep up the good work!"

[Mira – Faculty of Law (HR)]



"I have been given the opportunity as the equal opportunities and diversities officer of Bridgwater College Student Union to try to help students in our college to have better communication with each other and in particular international students and learner services students. It would be a great help to me and the college if you were able to give us any information or materials to help us in achieving this objective, and making the college, and eventually our community a better place to live for everyone."

*[Peter - Equal Opportunities & Diversities Officer
Bridgwater College Student Union Bridgwater College (GB)]*

Death by Policy

The Fatal Realities of "Fortress Europe" - More than 12.000 Deaths

Since 15 years UNITED monitors the deadly results of the building of a Fortress Europe.

More than 12.000 deaths of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have been documented until the end of the year 2008; their deaths can be impute to border militarisation, asylum laws, detention policies, deportation procedures..

Can we just read the newspapers and ignore these brutal facts?

Behind the number of 12.109 deaths are names, families, stories... human beings.

The List of Death compiled by UNITED is a testimony for all the victims and a mighty tool to raise awareness against unjust immigration policies. UNITED worked also in 2008 to spread the message: no more deaths at European borders! Raise awareness towards the situation of refugees and asylum seekers is the most powerful tool to create a strong campaign against European immigration policies.

During the year 2008 UNITED cooperated with several forms of media to spread the message of the campaign: the UNITED campaign coordinator participated to the radio programme 'Awakening' and took contacts with journalists all over Europe. Information about the UNITED campaign were published in the Routledge Journal, and the organisation 'De Fabel Van de Illegaal' published an article about concerning the List of Deaths.

It is fundamental that all organisation can contribute in the fight against more deaths and join forces to protest against the restrictive asylum and migration policies, that are referred as 'Fortress Europe'.

"I'm a danish journalist and I'm writing a series of articles about the living conditions of African migrants in the EU and the dangerous travel across the Mediterranean Sea.

I did an interview with the Karawan organisation, in Germany and he mentioned United Against Racism and your list of deaths of illegal migrants.

I was hoping that I could get an interview with someone from your organisation, so that I can get some input on the many deaths and the lives of illegal migrants in the EU. Can you help me find someone who I can talk to?"

[Mikkel – Free Lance Journalist (DK)]

Thank you very much for allowing the use of your document "The List of Deaths". In your enclosed email you can find the last Edition in which your publication appears.

[Jane - Routledge Jornals (GB)]



UNITED AND STRONG

9th November - International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

The International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism is the Europe-wide UNITED campaign that aims to create a strong voice against this violence. After the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, Jews were subjected to increasingly discriminatory treatment accompanied by organised violence. November 9th 1938 is the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust - at that date the Nazis unleashed the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom against Jews: Synagogues were set on fire, Jews faced brutal violence on the streets and Jewish shops were ransacked and devastated during the so-called 'Night of Broken Glasses'. It was just the very beginning of the darkest European hour.

To the occasion of the *International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism* UNITED unifies organisations all over Europe under one common slogan to commemorate the Holocaust and take a stand against present right-wing extremism. It aims at being an inspiration and motivation for those who want to organise low or no-budget activities to act against intolerance. In 2008 NGOs became active under the slogan 'UNITED and Strong!'. Within the frame of this campaign the UNITED secretariat coordinated hundreds of local actions of organisations in 39 European countries.

The three main principles on which this campaign is based on are:

Monitor... the present - Remember... the past - Act... for the future

UNITED collected diverse examples of good practice during the *International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism* and documented them in a special 'Campaign Report' and the 'Calendar of Internationalism'. Some examples of good practices related to the individual national situations are:

- The organisation 'Young Left of Sweden - Ung Vänster' organised actions all over Sweden in order to 'awake' civil society and raise common awareness about the extreme violent and emerging neo-nazi actions in Sweden throughout the year 2008. Activities like torchlight processions, demonstrations, discussions and manifestations aimed to mobilise antifascist activists as well as the Swedish population and involve them in visible street actions.
- In Spain, at high schools in Malaga and Seville, the association 'Movement Against Intolerance' used the power of art to draw the line between the past Franquism and fascism of the Spanish Civil War and the present violence on the streets of Spain driven by actual fascist ideologies and neo-nazism. The activity focused on the Picasso painting 'Guernica', which allegorises the pain and horror of the Spanish Civil War and symbolises a today's universal metaphor of crimes against humanity. High School students re-painted parts of the original painting and reassembled them on a big wall in a public action to show that the fatal realities of the past are present here and now. During this process the symbols used in the painting and its relation to the Holocaust and the 'Kristallnacht Pogrom' were explained to the audience.
- In Moldova the respected Holocaust historian Piotr Shornikov, who cooperates with the 'Helsinki Citizens' Assembly of Moldova', has initiated a media campaign devoted to the 'International Day against Antisemitism and Fascism'. He wrote several articles published in mainstream and minority newspaper, where he strongly condemned anti-Semitic manifestations as well as Holocaust denial in Moldova. In Moldova anti-Semitic propaganda has accompanied the campaign to rehabilitate the legacy of wartime fascist ruler Ion Antonescu and to whitewash historical memory of the fate of Moldovan Jews, Roma and other persecuted groups during the Second World War. The value of those articles has been supported by the fact that very rarely the issue of Holocaust in Moldova has been presented from such an anti-revisionist perspective and media discourse.
- Music has always been one of the most powerful tool for all antifascist campaigns, not only because it reaches out to people from different ages, but also because music speaks directly to the heart of people. The events organised in Slovakia were all focused on music. Beside smaller local concerts all around Slovakia, where also info- and campaign material was distributed, a huge 'Antifascist Happening' was organised in Bratislava. Many different bands from all over the country participated in the very broad program of the Happening. Not only music was performed, but also several topic-related film screenings took place and the testimony from a Holocaust survivor emotionally touched the audience.



"Thanks for your quick answer and for sending us the very helpful and nice posters; we can not organised the event we planned 'cause we don't really have the money for it, but with the help of your material we can at least do something! Thank you a lot for that!... We'll wait for better days".

[Director - CASTRAMI (F)]

"The promotion materials from United were and still are continuously used at other activities organised by Kontakt foundation (in the schools, movie nights etc.) When received an Antiracist poster after such an activity a young participant (15) said: 'The posters are so nice; it is because they are so TRUE!'"

[Jano – Kontakt (H)]

"We here at Island Panorama will forever and endlessly be grateful for the unparalleled support and educational tools you provide thousands of NGOs with across the continent. Your work is priceless and I personally do hope that the EU starts to support your work more financially. We will like to ask for some copies of the latest flyer "United We Are Strong""

[Akeem – Island Panorama (IS)]



INTERNATIONAL UNITED NETWORK CONFERENCES

Every year UNITED organises international network conferences bringing together around 60-70 NGO's from all over Europe. With this conferences UNITED provides a training-, exchange- and working platform for NGO activists and experts. 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 regions of Europe. A conference theme is chosen from the needs of the network thanks to a communication that goes on constantly. Also the hosting country of the conference is rotating depending on the needs of the network.

UNITED has an open invitation policy for its network conferences and every individual belonging to a NGO or active informal group within Europe can apply. The selection of participants is made according to the participants' profile set by the IPG. Care is given to a gender and geographical balance as well as to the ratio of minorities.

These network conferences work on the basis of non-formal intercultural learning. Organisations and activists are taking part in activities in ever-changing roles. Young activists gain experience from an educator-perspective as for example in leading a working group as facilitator – on UNITED conferences you will not find 'ordinary' participants as great importance is given to active participation from everybody. This concept has been developed in close co-operation with the youth directorate of the Council of Europe.

Education takes place in the form of cognitive learning, emotional learning and behavioural learning. UNITED conferences use all three methods. Emotional learning is stimulated through working with people in a safe environment. Cognitive learning is stimulated by presentations and lectures as well as plentiful written material to take home and study later. Behavioural learning is taking place in the practical 'working groups' as well as the 'planning/campaigning working groups'. Conferences are often roughly summarised as 'information – training – exchange – campaigning'. Participating to a UNITED conference is a unique experience that hardly will be forgotten.

The usual working methods are: expert-lectures, presentations, workshops and thematic working-groups, panel discussions, debates, political cafes, video-presentations, study trips and other diverse interactive ways of working.

The UNITED secretariat organises conferences as part of the network's overall work and conferences are seen as catalyst part of a longer process. The conferences have many links to the other work in the network, such as the campaigns and the publications. There is an interaction between the information exchange through the mailings and the conferences; there is an interaction between the conferences and the campaigns that are coordinated on a European level, etc.

GET EDUCATED - FIGHT RACISM!

International UNITED Network Conference in Stockholm (S), 27 May - 1 June 2008

Europe today is experiencing an alarming spread of violent racist manifestations and young people are affected both as victims and perpetrators.

In cooperation with the *National Afro-Swedish Association* and *Get Educated - Learning Media Against Racism*, UNITED for Intercultural Action organised an international conference near Stockholm, with the aim to create a space for antiracial educational tools to be available and accessible all over Europe. For 5 days, 67 antiracism activists, experts and multipliers representing 65 organisations in 31 European countries worked together, shared practices and developed strategies on current issues related to right-wing extremism, manifestations of racism and migration, borders of Europe and inequality in Europe.



The conference “Get Educated, Fight Racism!” was part of the long-term cooperation project ‘Civil Society Against Right-wing Extremism’, initiated by civil society organisations from different European countries as a response to the alarming spread of deeply rooted racism, nationalism, antisemitism, hate speech and right-wing extremism in Europe. Within this project, nine partner organisations active within the UNITED network are closely cooperating in analysing occurrences, forms and strategies of right-wing extremism in Europe, sharing practices on how to deal with the increasing influence of extreme right-wing groups in their countries and finding common approaches to push back the extreme right from the public space.

The program of the conference was prepared by an International Preparatory Group, consisting of experienced antiracism activists from partner organisations involved in the project ‘Civil Society against Right-Wing Extremism’ and other grass root organisations from different European countries:

Italy: Associazione Rieti Immigrants -ARI
 Hungary: Foundation of Subjective Values
 Sweden: National Afro-Swedish Association
 Sweden: Get Educated -Learning Media Against Racism
 Romania: MTP Oradea
 Georgia: The Union 21st Century
 Denmark: Worthy Life for Asylum Seekers
 Russia: Youth Human Rights Movement

The conference made use of different non-formal education methods such as: panel discussion, working groups, debates, lectures, plenary sessions, political cafes, intercultural activities, information market and many others. In the evening of the arrival day, participants were invited to get into an ice-breaking activity where they could get to know each other and to share opinions about minority-majority, political views, etc.

Beyond the working sessions, there was time to get to know each other, to build fellowships, to network and socialise, to catch inspiration or to create basis for future cooperation. A great spectrum of social and optional activities had animated such burst of bridging of cultures and identities.

During one evening of the conference, the ‘info-market’, all delegates have their space to introduce the activities of their own organisation and to share with the rest of the group a taste, a sound or a specialty of their own culture. Everyone exchanges opinions and practices, and in particular, explores the possibilities of future partnerships. Later on in the evening, the atmosphere of exchanging International snacks superseded all serious talks, the participants set out for tasting drinks and snacks they have never tried before or they have had some good memories of. Such energiser catalysed a passionate socialising and mutual cultural interchanges.

There was also space in the program to explore the cultural life of Stockholm, during a cultural tour through the city and a visit to the historical museum. After exploring the beautiful scene of Stockholm participants were delighted with a delicious dinner prepared by members of the local Afro-Swedish Association accompanied with a wonderful live concert with African music and dance performed by a local band.

“It had been a pleasure to meet with all of you on the Conference last week. I am very inspired to know now so many people working on the same problems as me and my colleagues.”

[Irene - No Border (UK)]

First of all, thanks for all the hard work over the last week. We participants really appreciate the effort you went through. it was one of the best conferences I have been to in recent times in terms of content, due to the unique blend of participants that is so crucial to the events of this nature.”

[Jamil - Harmony (E)]

“It was a pleasure to meet all of you from United, it was so inspiring and good to meet with so many strong personalities not to mention the diversity of people.”

[Alan – Fryshuset (S)]



Lectures, presentations followed by open discussions in the plenary:

Anti-racism Activism in Sweden - by Center Against Racism (S)

Structural Racism in Sweden - by Discrimination Ombudsman (S)

Afrophobia in Europe - by Center Against Racism (S)

Discrimination and Violence in Sweden - by Fryshuset (S)

Right-wing Extremism in Italian Stadiums - by Luxembourg Against Racism (L)

Political agenda of new fascist groups - by Kulturbüro Sachsen (D); Social Action Centre (UA); Kurt Lewin Foundation (H)

Music against Racism - by Never Again (PL)

Refugees between Hate Crimes & Discrimination - by Initiative No Border (UA)

Being A Refugee: A personal testimony - by SOS Against Racism (DK)

21 March - Action Week Against Racism

20 June - International Refugee Day & Fortress Europe no more Deaths'

9 November - 'Kristallnacht' Commemoration

by UNITED (campaign workers & volunteers)

Working Groups and Campaign Working Groups:

Face-it! New Faces of Racism

Fascism! Spot it and Stop it!

Enough Slavery! Time for Equal Rights!

One Europe, Two Europe... Find your Place!

Welcome Refugees! Tear Down the Walls!

Speak-Up!: Action Week Against Racism

Open Borders! International Refugee Day

Combat Fascism:

International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

Media Campaigning: Communication in Action!

Networking: Tell me How You Do It

Educational Tools & Campaigning: Learn & Use

Open the Gates! Get Educated

The Danger of Words

Political Cafés:

Anti-racism versus Tolerance

Nazirock and Radical Right

Europe under Construction: Imagine our Future without Hate!

International UNITED Network Conference in Belgrade (RS), 4-9 November 2008

Entire Europe has been facing great social, economic, political and cultural changes in the last few decades. Twenty years ago our continent was still divided by an iron curtain in a Western and Eastern Block and it was not commonly expected that this situation would ever change. Moreover, 20 years ago there was a country in the Balkans called Yugoslavia - and the war in the region was not expected either. But it happened. Communism collapsed and Yugoslavia was dissolved. From November 4th-9th, 63 participants from 29 countries stayed in a former refugee centre in Serbia, now a recreational venue run by refugees who used to live there themselves. The issues discussed were broad – spanning from the current political situation in Serbia, over UNITED campaigns to racism, fundamentalism and refugee issues in Europe. The working methods were plenary sessions, thematic working



groups, practical workshops and sharing of good practices. Of course there was also time for social activities in a very international atmosphere with snacks and music from the participants' countries, as well as political cafés and contributions of the participants to the open forum.

Some of the sessions of the conference focused on the host country, zooming in on its difficult past and the problems it has dealing with it. Speakers from local NGOs presented current issues like the denial of historical facts, nationalism and homophobia.

The topic of religion, fundamentalism and radicalism was addressed for several reasons. On first place, because religion maintains its significance in Europe and on second place, because the conference was set in the Balkans where these issues have played an important role in the war of the 1990s – and still do.

Refugees and asylum seekers are groups which are always present in UNITED's work. At the conference, the network's ongoing campaigns were presented and discussed, while a thematic working group talked about the asylum policies in different countries and the importance of empowering refugees and asylum seekers in regards to using the media. Another working group looked closer at the vulnerable group victims of trafficking. Several participants at the conference were refugees themselves. One of them shared his story in a moving refugee testimony.

Racism is not a never-changing constant; just like fascism it can change its form and targets. One of the thematic working groups looked at this phenomenon and suggested strategies for dealing with it. Another working group developed and presented strategies for anti-racist campaigning while two examples of best practice in anti-racist work in schools served as inspiration to the participants of the conference.

This UNITED conference was also action oriented and among other things offered the participants a presentation about monitoring hate speech on the Internet and three mini-workshops in which they could acquire some practical skills for their work against racism and fascism. During the departure day of the conference, on November 9th, 'Women in Black' commemorated the Night of Broken Glass with a street action in Belgrade together with local NGO activists and about 30 conference participants who were still in town. Peace flags and signs with slogans were used such as "Women in Black for peace and human rights", "Antifascism is our choice" and "Denial of war crimes, genocide and holocaust is a crime", referring to the local problem of denial of the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the program of the conference there was time for international evenings with snacks and music from the countries represented as well as networking and exchange of info material by participating organisations. The participants also had a free afternoon in Belgrade followed by dinner in a restaurant with local cuisine. On the last day of the conference there was free space in the program for participants to contribute with their own presentations and activities.

International Preparatory Group (IPG) consisted of 8 experienced activists from:

- Cyprus: Association of Recognized Refugees in Cyprus
- Greece: Anti-Nazi Initiative
- Italy: University of Venice, Master on Immigration Programme
- Moldova: Afro-Asian Community of Moldova
- Romania: MTP Oradea
- Russia: Civic Assistance Committee Refugees & Forced Migrants
- Serbia: QUEERIA Centre
- Serbia: Ethnic Research Center

"I came with an open mind and left with an ever wider one"
[Conference Participant]

"A really impressive understanding to simply coordinate the logistics of bringing us all together, wonderful to feel part of a wider community who are all working for common goals"
[Conference Participant]



Manifestări dedicate Noptii de Cristal

Mișcarea Tinerilor pentru Pace (MTP) din Oradea, organizație nonguvernamentală, a organizat, la sfârșitul săptămânii trecute și ieri, o serie de manifestări care fac parte din cadrul campaniei europene "United we are strong"

I met many extremely interesting, friendly, passionate people, who I doubt that I will ever forget "learned a lot from the others, and I will come home with a lot of new energy to keep on working!"
[Conference Participant]

Lectures, presentations followed by open discussions in the plenary:

Post-communism, post-war, challenges today - by Ethnicity Research Center (RS) and Ars Balcanica (RS)

Tackling Homophobia in Public Space - by QUEERIA Center (RS)

Religion and Fundamentalism - by Lubljana Youth Dept (SI) and Ars Balcanica (RS)

Refugee Testimony - by Tür an Tür Integrations Projekt (D)

Monitoring Hate speech on Internet - by People Against Racism (SK)

Teaching about Tolerance in Schools -by Network for Democracy and Courage - NDC (D)

Tackling Racism through Sports - by Show Racism the Red Card (UK)

21 March - Action Week Against Racism - by UNITED (campaign workers & volunteers)

20 June - International Refugee Day & Fortress Europe no more Deaths' - by UNITED (campaign workers & volunteers)

9 November - 'Kristallnacht' Commemoration - by UNITED (campaign workers & volunteers)

Working Groups and Campaign Working Groups:

The Dead end of Dialogue! Radicalism and Tools of Propaganda

Accept your Past, Build your Future! Post-conflict Solidarity, Responsibility & Reconciliation

No Way In, No Way Out! Refugees, IDP's & Asylum Seekers

Who Shall we Blame Now? Inequality & Vulnerable Groups

Do you believe it? New Faces of Racism! New target Groups of Racism!

Sociophobia! Creating the Enemy, Facing our Fears!

How to Organise an Activity in Public Space

How to Recognise/Deal with Racist Symbols

Stay Visible! Involve Media in you Activities

Campaigning with UNITED

Political Cafés:

The role of Church in Wars - Islamophobia

The "Putin-System" - Solidarity with the Russian antifascist Activists

Parents Against Deportations



UNITED PROJECTS

REFLECTING OBJECTIVES - BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS

Civil Society Against Right Wing Extremism

The fight against hatred, fascist and neonazi discourses is an extraordinary challenge that must be based on good strategies and practices. This is one of the main goals of 'Civil Society Against Right Wing Extremism', a partnership of UNITED in the frame of the EU life-long learning program GRUNDTVIG. The project 'Civil Society Against Right Wing Extremism' was developed after many years' experience of the UNITED network in antidiscrimination campaigns and deep analysis on the current trends of European civil society active in the fight against right-winged extremism, racism and discrimination.

Education is an excellent instrument against indifference, just as much as knowledge is an excellent counter-act against hatred. The determination of the European civil society to act against right-wing extremism requires of the overcoming of indifference, since indifference is one of the best allies of right wing extremists.

2008 was the 'core' year for the project implementation. During the year UNITED offered a new range of options to counter right-wing extremism and report any form of violence and offense related to it by spreading good practices and providing tools such as campaign reports, posters, information leaflets.

During the year one poster-leaflet with the slogan '*UNITED We Are Strong*' and two thematic leaflets on the topic of '*Football Without Racism*' and '*How to Recognize and Confront Hate Graffiti*' were produced and disseminated all over Europe. To create a stronger message all these products were translated by the partners in the local languages. In this way the access to this educational tools is guaranteed to individuals who don't have proper English skills and the reach-out to more grass-roots organisations was possible.

The 'Civil Society Against Right Wing Extremism' partnership involves the UNITED secretariat as technical supporter and coordinator of the information flow.

The partnership is composed by 7 NGOs:

- ARI - Associazione Rieti Immigrants (I)
- DUHA - Rainbow Association (CZ)
- MBT - Kulturbüro Sachsen - Mobiles Beratungsteam (D)
- MCI - Movimiento Contra la Intolerancia (E)
- Never Again Association - Stowarzyszenie Nigdy Wiecej (PL)
- NPA - Norwegian People's Aid - Norsk Folkehjelp (N)
- LPR - People Against Racism - Ludia Proti Rasizmu (SK)

Educational support for the project is given by the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The involvement of the University is guaranteed thanks to the presence of one of its representatives within the UNITED secretariat.

I am writing to you from Youth Union Siin, Tallinn. I would like to ask you for some documents you sent to us recently. More exactly, the "UNITED thematic leaflet no. 5", called "CLEAN THE WALLS". We received it in paper, but we'd like to know if it is possible that you can send us also by email, because we would be interested in showing it in our website, and it's easier for us to have it in a document more than being scanning it. I hope that you can help us. Thank you in advanced, and best whises from Tallinn!
[Luis - Youth Union Siin (EE)]



COMMUNICATIONS IMPACT

Peers in the Hallways of the Movement

The UNITED network can boast of good links with the most important agencies and institution at European and international level.

UNITED has special consultative status at the United Nations - Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Excellent connections exist with both, Council of Europe and European Commission. UNITED has participative status at the Council of Europe and is elected in the 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 such as migration, youth participation, youth policies, antiracism action plans.

During 2008 UNITED fruitful cooperated with the OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, based in Warsaw (PL): representatives of the UNITED Network were invited to OSCE meetings to give inputs from a NGO perspective.

Several members of the European Parliaments are directly supporting the UNITED Network - organisations that are part of UNITED are often consulted by MEPs regarding anti-racism and antidiscrimination issues.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH) and Fundamental Right Agency (FRA) invite regularly representative of the UNITED network for strategic planning meetings together with a selected group of international NGOs.

The Cyprus Youth Board and the Service National Jeunesse Luxembourg regularly fund national participants to UNITED events.

UNITED Delegations – Lets disseminate our Voices

The growth of the UNITED network is guaranteed by its representation within international and local meetings, conferences and events all over Europe. Thanks to UNITED delegates the voice of the network is becoming more and more visible and accessible.

The mission of the delegate is to spread the message, and the voice of the network, its aims, results and material of the projects and of the campaigns. For this reason the 'delegation kit' comprehends all the material related to the topic of the meeting that UNITED produced, but also the 'book of contacts' in which all the new contacts that the delegates made during their delegation are documented.

Thanks to our delegates UNITED was presented, and represented to the following meetings:

Date	Place	Conference / Meeting	Organiser
24 January	Dublin (IE)	Launch of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue	NCCRI
29-31 January	Portimao (P)	ADAE 'Evaluation and Vision' in Portimao	Council of Europe



8-12 February	Dresden (D)	Remembrance as a commitment for peace, democracy and human rights?	Kulturbüro Sachsen
11 March	Leipzig (D)	The State and 'The Others': Reacting to Xenophobia	Leipzig University
13 March	Brussels (B)	ENAR Shadow report	ENAR
26-30 March	Amsterdam & Den Haag (NL)	Amnesty International Film Festival	Amnesty International
30 March	Rotterdam (NL)	Diversity Awards	Rotterdam Youth Council
1 April	London (GB)	The war against migrants at EU new borders	ABCDS
4 April	Brussels (B)	Workshop on the Protection of Undocumented children in their access to basic social rights	PICUM
6-10 April	Rust (D)	Youth, racism, violence and sport	Council of Europe
22-26 April	Den Haag (NL)	Proud and Embarrassed of the European Expansion	EUROCLIO
7-10 May	Warsaw (PL)	European Parliament +/-50	European Parliament
15 May	Amsterdam (NL)	workshop with Philippe Rekacewicz	Electric Palm Tree
15 May	Dresden (D)	Right-wing extremism in Europe. Trends and Strategies	SPE
29-30 May	Vienna (A)	Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting: The Role of National Institutions against Discrimination in Combating Racism and Xenophobia with Special Focus on Persons belonging to National Minorities and Migrants	OSCE
7 June	Basel (CH)	Basel's Conference Against Racism	FARE
21 June	Amsterdam (NL)	International Refugee day	Support group Undocumented Women
29 June – 19 July	Trento (I)	Italian language course Council of Europe	Council of Europe
4-8 July	Roma (I)	Analysis and Study of Asylum Seekers and Migrants Issues in Italy	UNITED / ARI



6-11 July	Stadt Schlaining (A)	25. Sommerakademie Globale Armutsbekämpfung - ein Trojanisches Pferd?	Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution - ASPR
22 August	Amsterdam (NL)	Vrienden van Kerwin	Vrienden van Kerwin
25-30 August	Munich (D)	Summer University of the CDEJ	CDEJ
11-13 September	Madrid (E)	World Social Forum on Migration	WSFM
12-13 September	Warsaw (PL)	Intolerance Kills - Monitoring Crimes and Victim Support in Poland and Germany	Never Again
14 September	Rivas (NL)	Manifestation	WSFM
17 September	Brussels (B)	Mixing European and Arab identities In the quest for a mixed Mediterranean identity	EuroArab Forum
23 September	Hannover (D)	Internationale Woche gegen Rassismus (prep meeting 2009)	Interkultureller Rat
30 Sept - 4 Oct	Strasbourg (F)	Advisory Council Meeting	Council of Europe
10-11 October	Kiev (UA)	8th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth	Council of Europe
17-18 October	Paris (F)	Citizen Summit on Migration	Des ponts Pas Des Murs
20 October	Paris (F)	ECRI's consultation meeting	ECRI
18 November	Amsterdam (NL)	Meeting	UNITED / SPD Saxony
29-30 November	Berlin (D)	EL Conference for the European Elections 2009	European Left
2 December	Brussels (B)	ENAR's 2007 Shadow Report on racism in Europe	ENAR
8-9 December	Paris (F)	Freedom of expression, cornerstone of democracy - Listening and communicating in a diverse Europe	FRA
17 December	Vienna (A)	Young Muslims at OSCE roundtable meeting	OSCE
23 December	Amsterdam (NL)	Awakening	Free Radio PATAPOE 88.3 FM



THANKS TO...

First of all we want to give our very special **'Thank You!'** to all the committed activists and people, network-organisations and supporters of UNITED that keep the anti-discrimination movement and the fight for human rights alive.

Thanks to the members of the International Conference Preparatory Groups (IPG) for the enthusiasm and voluntary engagement to make both conferences in 2008 an extraordinary experience.

Thanks to the dedicated UNITED volunteers and delegates throughout 2008, without them the UNITED Network would not have been able to contribute to a more open-minded Europe (Adam, Amila, Anastasia, Belal, Boban, Camelia, Dorien, Elena, Emanuela, Emmanuel, Eva, Franziska, Garrett, Geert, Imane, Jana, Ksenia, Maria, Martin, Martina, Michael, Michal, Mirek, Miroslav, Natasha, Natia, Neil, Paola, Rafal, Sarah, Sébastien, Stasya, Tom and Yvonne)

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

UNITED is supported by...

more than more than 560 organisations from all European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, Austrian Service Abroad and Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

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, Rechtstextremismus 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, Comunidad de Madrid, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan, Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs, Final Frontiers Internet, Dijkman Offset and others.





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