

UNITED



in 2010

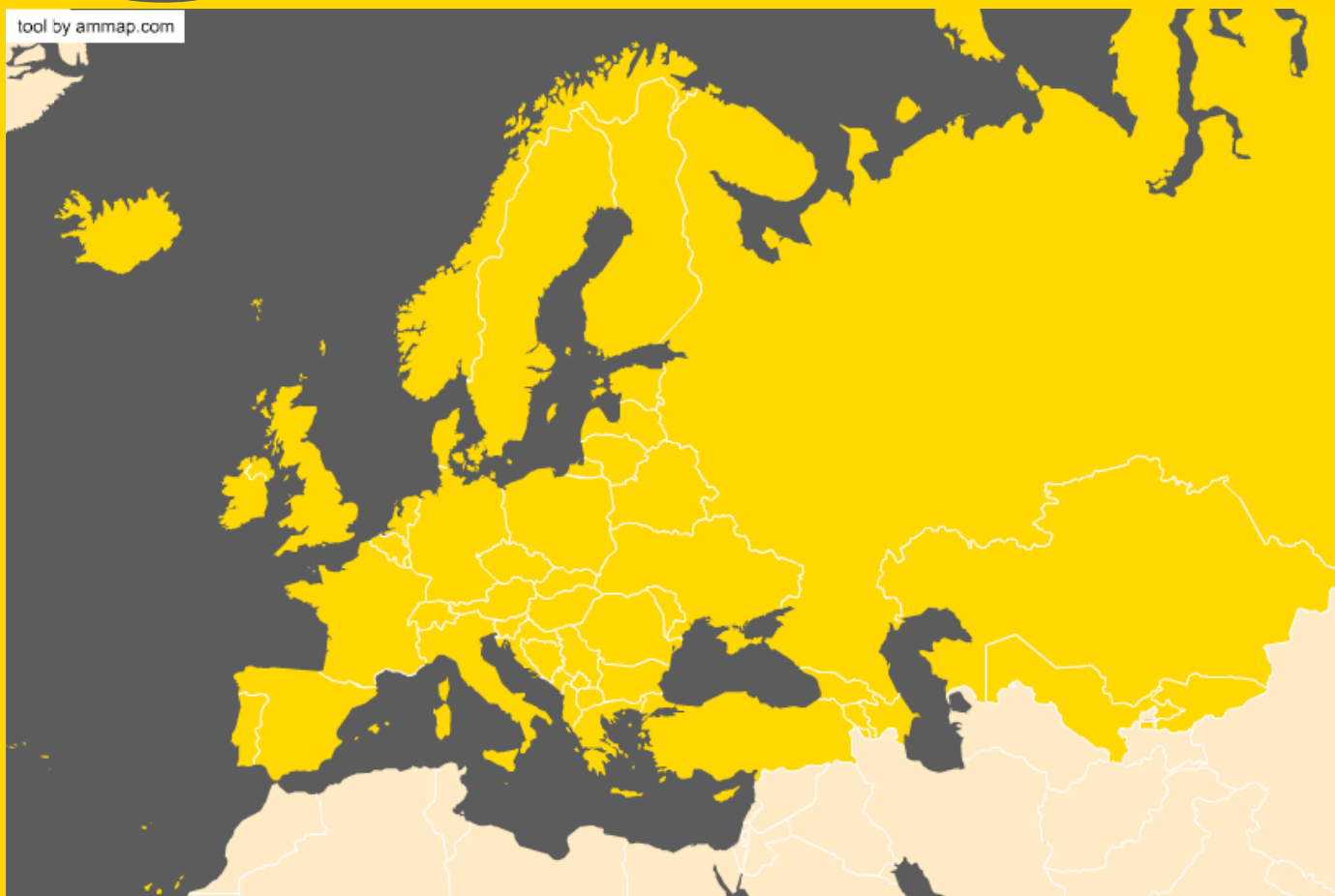
ANNUAL REPORT



UNITED for Intercultural Action
European network against nationalism, racism, fascism
and in support of migrants and refugees

UNITED

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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 IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS REFUGEES

UNITED

We believe that racism can only be combated united. Since 1992, more than 550 organisations from 48 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. Our vision is one of cohesion 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 more for us than just living our lives next to each other; jointly with intercultural understanding and cooperation it forms the fundamental premise of our work.

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, sharing common goals. Strengthening these existing intercultural relations between grass-roots organisations, civil society, minority groups and political actors is UNITED's most important objective. Diversity is a virtue, solidarity a duty.

ACTION

It is 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!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

5 About UNITED

5 About this report

6 Highlights of the year 2010

21 Theory & Praxis

- Campaigns
- Conferences
- Partnership Projects
- Info System
- Funding

28 Thank you & UNITED is supported by...



ABOUT UNITED

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the largest pan-European network of diverse non-governmental organisations – with more than 550 supporter organisations in 48 European countries - bringing together the European anti-discrimination movement in all its shades and variety. Despite the fact that working-topics, political attitudes and organisational structures may be different in cooperating organisations, they all are unified in the struggle against racism, nationalism, fascism and related 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) recognised the need for a pan-European tool to strengthen and cross-link grassroots organisations and their actions to improve their socio-political impact. 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. Therefore, open access to information, stimulation and facilitation of common campaigns, coordination of international conferences, exchange of know-how and good practices, and the free provision of (net)working tools are integral to serve the needs of the very diverse organisations and groups throughout Europe and thus strengthen the European anti-discrimination movement.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report aims to give an overview on the activities of UNITED throughout 2010 and is divided in 2 main parts. The first part is devoted to the “highlights” of 2010 and gives an impression on the physical activities that were implemented and coordinated by UNITED; while the second part, Theory & Praxis, explains the technical and methodological background in more detail.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010

02.03.10–03.03.10

05.08.10–10.08.20

29.08.10–01.09.20

Tolerance Trainings in Russia

Young people, as future leaders, are in a position to shape society according to their antiracist vision, but need to be well-equipped and informed on how to prevent interethnic conflict and spread the concept of human rights for all.

Diverse types of interactive training sessions were the preferred method for engaging participants with these core concepts and providing them with the necessary tools. Discussions and presentations from experienced participants helped to ground ethnic relations in a local context and identify the causes of conflict. These were teamed with role-playing exercises that analysed typical conflict situations, pragmatic responses and explored possible alternatives, and brainstorming sessions where ideas to promote tolerance in civil society were conceived.

In 2010, 3 tolerance-training sessions were organised in the cities of Orenburg, Irkutsk and Anapa. These tolerance trainings were part of the partnership project between *UNITED* and the Moscow based *Centre for Interethnic Cooperation (CIC)*, titled “Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to provide support for Youth Organisations in Russia” (see also *Partnership Projects*). As some of the youth leaders that participated in the tolerance trainings, were eventually able to translate their ideas into local activities with the help of *CIC*, this illustrates how the project developed both their vision and capacities.



04.03.2010

Round Table

“Former Citizens of USSR in Russia, Oblivion and Discrimination”

On 4 March 2010, a round table discussion with the title “Former Citizens of USSR in Russia, Oblivion and Discrimination” was organised in the Sakharov Museum in Moscow for participants from diasporas communities, the *UNITED* network and delegations from EU embassies, UN, IOM, European Commission and Dutch Embassy Matra programme.

The discussion focused on the situation for former USSR citizens being neither recognised Russian citizens nor receiving another legal status. This group of former USSR citizens, so-called “aliens”, are heavily deprived of their rights and belong to the most vulnerable groups in modern Russia. The event gathered a wide audience of those interested in the situation for former USSR citizens. Organisers collected expert recommendations on how to improve the situation and have been refining them so to stimulate a shift towards the state for advancing the realisation of adequate antidiscrimination laws.

This round table discussion was organised in the frame of the *UNITED* and the Russian based *Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM)* partnership project “Civil organisations serving society: youth actions against racism, nationalism and xenophobia and for Human Rights and inter-cultural dialogue” (see also *Partnership Projects*).

13.03.10–21.03.10

European Wide Action Week Against Racism

Enjoy Diversity

21 March marks the “International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination”, as declared by the United Nations as a reaction to the brutal murder of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in South Africa 50 years ago. It is within this frame that UNITED orchestrates the European Wide Action Week Against Racism and thousands of activists across 47 countries organised, attended and made valuable contributions to both the campaign and the ongoing struggle against racial discrimination.



This began right at the conception stage of this year’s campaign, with workshop participants at the UNITED conference in Kiev brainstorming ideas for a theme and poster. These were further developed even after the conference, and it was agreed that the 2010 campaign should focus on the benefits of diversity in our environments. The slogan “Enjoy Diversity” proved to be highly inspirational in helping organisations come up with fresh ideas for very visual activities and events; different coloured lengths of knitting wool came together to create a multicoloured ball at a festival coordinated by *Comité de Liaison des Associations d’Etrangers* in Luxembourg; tying multicoloured ribbons together and entwining them to illustrate the bonds between cultures in Greece, organised by *University of Thessaly* students.

The offices of government and public institutions in Bosnia – Herzegovina were blitzed by postcards containing parts of the prohibition of discrimination law - creative lobbying courtesy of *The Youth Group of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights*, to serve as a reminder for them to recognise this new law. The innovative talents of the network were paraded on the streets in Spain, where students of *IES Usandizaga* turned the pattern of bad weather to their advantage, humorously making the umbrella a symbolic icon of their annual demonstration. In Russia, where overt activism has traditionally been rare, we have made notable advances in involving young people in collective action. 20 local partner groups of the *Youth Human Rights Movement* cooperated on a diverse programme of activities to explore ideas of ‘normality’, demonstrating the expansion of the network and its outreach to this region.



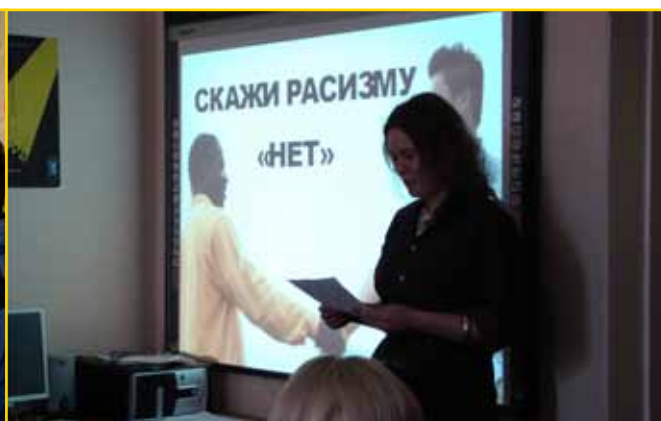
We Want a Colorful World! No words, only colored ribbons, music and movement. With these ingredients students in Volos (Greece) carried out a successful activity symbolising the bonds between people in an intercultural society.



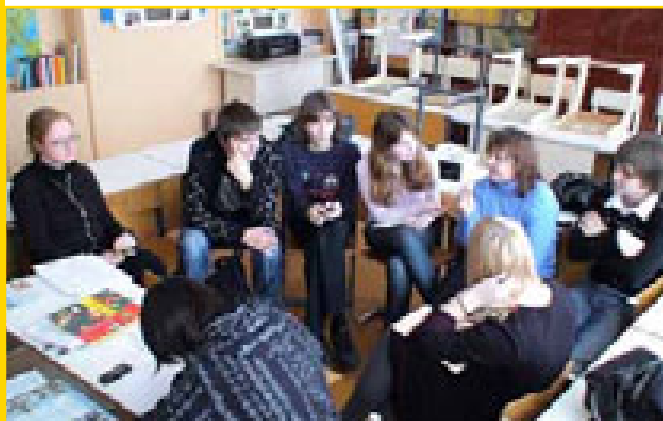
Students in Spain decided a simple tool like an umbrella can be used not only as symbolic protection from racism and xenophobia but also to communicate that it is important to be active and to claim equal rights for a fair society.



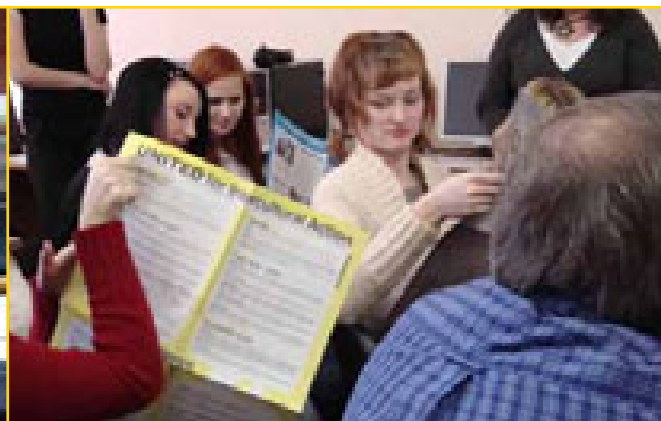
By sending a postcard with a message you can change a person's mind. Imagine you send 150 postcards containing parts of the prohibition of discrimination law to governmental and non-governmental institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.



20 local groups from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine took part in the Action Week. Under the common name "Stop Racism" every local group used a different approach to ask participants the challenging question of what is considered "normal" and "not normal".

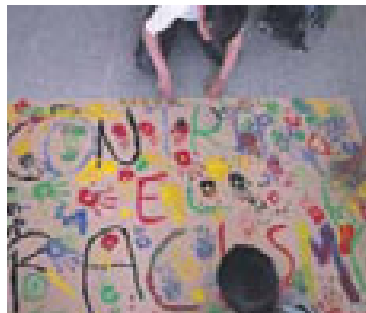


During a 2-day training course with the title "Prevention of Extremism and Building up Tolerance in Youth Environment" 21 students in Saint Petersburg learned about different methods and tools for fighting racism.



Round table and training seminars were planned by students at several universities in Samara on the themes of multiculturalism, antiracism and diversity. These activities were supported by the distribution of antiracist posters, postcards and thematic cultural interactive games.

European-Wide Action Week Against Racism



Enjoy Diversity!

Thousands Campaign UNITED for an Intercultural Europe

Diversity is a Virtue Solidarity a Duty!

The discrimination and exclusion of minorities has a significant impact on society. Biased media coverage, hate speech, political exploitation of topics such as immigration and integration or their religious and cultural customs incites different groups in society against each other. Acts of ignorance, mistrust and hate shape the overall atmosphere and consequently affect everybody's environment - minority or not.

But we must not despair: there are people all over Europe who share a common vision of Europe as a land of equal rights and opportunities for all. People, who look deeper and open their minds, people who have the courage to stand up and speak out against racism. All these people, Europe's antiracist movement, have to stick together and combine forces to be effective and successful in their fight for tolerance and equality. We must work united to make our message strong and promote solidarity!

Open Your Mind - Enjoy Diversity

This year's UNITED campaign focused on highlighting the positive aspects of an intercultural society in Europe. The diversity that enriches our towns, regions and countries should be enjoyed rather than treated with hate and hostility. That is why it was important to campaign with the slogan "Enjoy Diversity" transmitting this message on a local, regional and European level.

**Racism must not be tolerated, not ignored
Let's confront it UNITED!**

Activities in 47 Countries!

The European-Wide Action Week Against Racism, which took place between the 13th and the 21st of March 2010 was joined by hundreds of grass-roots organisations, mobilising against racism and xenophobia. During the

week, thousands of people coming from all over Europe, from Barcelona to Skopje, from Reykjavik to Samara united in their fight against racism and for a world full of respect and understanding.

Diversity was promoted by actions such as interactive workshops, street protests, conferences, roundtables, intercultural festivals, exhibitions, lively discussions, lectures, seminars and much more, all to encourage people to enjoy and value the diversity of today's intercultural society in Europe.

In the Netherlands the Diversity Award Show with international guests honoured people actively involved in antiracist work, giving civil society good examples to follow. In Poland a huge campaign involving more than a dozen cities was organised to stop an auction portal from selling material with racist, xenophobic and neonazi content.

Why This Campaign?

The 21st of March was declared the "International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" by the General Assembly of the United Nations as a reaction to the murder of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in Sharpeville, South-Africa, in 1960. UNITED initiated the European-Wide Action Week Against Racism around the 21st of March in 1992 to protest against current forms of racism and discrimination and to promote diversity, intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. Racism and discrimination are not just local issues, but have a European dimension, which is why they have to be fought on all levels: local, national and European.

The strength of UNITED campaigns is the amount and variety of organisations, individuals and countries that participate in them and the creativity and diversity of the activities that are organised. Shaping this huge campaign together, we learn from each other and gain new energy, inspiration and motivation to continue with our everyday

struggle against racism. We are proof that there is an enormous amount of people that believe in an open, multicultural society, we can generate European-wide publicity for the single actions we organize in our own different countries and the common vision that lies behind. Together we are UNITED!

Campaigning With UNITED

The European-Wide Action Week Against Racism has grown into the largest annual antiracist campaign, involving thousands of people in the fight against racism. We, who work at the UNITED secretariat in Amsterdam, are often asked how such a huge campaign can be coordinated by such a small office with only a few staff members. The answer is quite simple: UNITED is not an office, it is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. This means that all participating organisations carried out their own activities, but were able to benefit from a strong network structure and the support of the UNITED secretariat who coordinated the campaign: we prepared campaign material, distributed it all over Europe, we actively motivated hundreds of NGOs via e-mail and phone-calls, we supported them by offering knowledge and helping them to find partners etc. and we produced a "List of Activities", which gives an overview on all events that took place during the Action Week.

To get European-wide attention for the campaign and to help the single organisations within the network to make their actions visible and known by a wide public, we sent out a media release to all the important European press agencies, newspapers etc. and finally published this report. On behalf of the whole network, we would like to thank the participating organisations for making this successful campaign possible and for their active engagement and support in creating this report.

KOSOVO
MACEDONIA
AUSTRIA
PORTUGAL
NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM
CZECHIA
MALTA
SERBIA
ALBANIA
NORTHERN IRELAND
ICELAND
ARMENIA
RUSSIA
GEORGIA
AZERBAIJAN
LATVIA
ROMANIA
IRELAND
POLAND
DENMARK
SLOVAKIA
HUNGARY
LIECHTENSTEIN
BELARUS
SWEDEN
MONTENEGRO
ESTONIA
CROATIA
TURKEY
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
NORWAY
SPAIN
LUXEMBOURG
GERMANY
UKRAINE
LITHUANIA
FINLAND
SLOVENIA
BULGARIA
MOLDOVA
GREAT-BRITAIN
CYPRUS
ITALY



21.04.10–23.04.10

Kick-off conference Voronezh, Russia

"Combating Racism: Non-violent Strategies and Tactics"

2010 saw the launch of a 3-year project in cooperation with the Russian partner organisation, *Youth Human Rights Movement* (see also *Partnership Projects*). The primary goals are to empower youth organisations in their fight against racism, hate and intolerance, enabling them to build a strong network for support and exchange, and exposing them to efficient tools and positive models in civil society. These were addressed in the opening conference "Combating Racism: non-violent strategies and tactics" in Voronezh and then at an educational level in the seminar "non-formal approaches to History Teaching and Problems of Xenophobia and Intolerance at Schools".

The conference was attended by activists, representatives of anti-racist organisations and groups, young educators, journalists and officials from the regional *Youth Department* and from *United Nations*. The conference was dedicated to following issues:

- discussion of contemporary challenges and problems of anti-racist activity in Russia and Europe;
- presentation of successful practices and discussion of new tactics;
- development of possible non-violent youth actions against racism and discrimination;
- presentation of international networks and initiatives that are open for participation;

A session held by Dirk Hebecker. UN-OHCHR Senior Human Rights Adviser to the UN Country Team in the Russian Federation, was particularly important as he suggested and provided opportunities to cooperate with *UN* office in Russia on several levels. Although scheduled in the programme of the conference, volcanic ashes (volcano eruption in Iceland) unfortunately blocked the international experts, the *OSCE* delegation, the delegation of the European and the *UNITED* staff managed to travel to Russia.

The need to develop such network structures inside the Russian Federation became all the more imperative with the violent clashes between nationalists, football fans and riot police that occurred at the end of 2010. These incidents highlighted the inadequacies of current antidiscrimination policy and the absence of a systematic and coordinated way for all state authorities to handle them. Therefore the project also aims to influence policy through bringing together government, European bodies and NGO experts in a series of seminars and roundtables, such as "How to work with victims of racially-motivated violence: international and Russian experience" which took place in Moscow in November.

Cooperating on this project already has given *UNITED* activities and campaigns a wider geographical scope, as they have recently been able to encompass hard to reach areas in the Russian Federation. Through better integration into the network and improved connections with each other, in just the first year of the project, Russian youth organisations are already starting to benefit from international expertise, and organisational and administrative support.



International UNITED Network Conference in Budapest (H) “Europe All Inclusive? Minorities on the Edge of Society”

Organised at a time of significant political change in Hungary, which has seen the rise of right-wing populism embodied by far-right party *Jobbik*, this conference provided a lens from which participants could explore populist trends across Europe. As the Roma community in Hungary are frequently victimised by racist violence and simultaneously occupy a socially and economically disadvantaged position, this conference provided many opportunities to learn more of their situation as well as workable strategies for its improvement.



Plenary session



Info market - Get connected!

The diverse programme of plenary sessions, small working groups, visits to local NGOs and community led projects and practical workshops facilitated by experts provided a multi-layered approach to learning, teamed with opportunities to put newly acquired skills into practice. During the Political Cafe, a space where issues too current or tangential to be included in the programme can be discussed, participants mobilised in a call for action to support Jock Palfreeman, a man jailed for his involvement in the intervention of a racist attack in Bulgaria. Creative and campaigning skills were also exercised by those participating in the *UNITED Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism* workshop as they brainstormed for new poster ideas. Reflecting on the downfalls and strengths of previous campaigns, the necessity of having easily identifiable images led the group to use just a black marker and their drawing skills to create a picture for the next poster.

A vital ingredient to each successful UNITED conference are the numerous possibilities for participants to broaden their knowledge base through engaging with different levels of expertise. In Budapest, among the 80 organisations from 33 countries attending, there was a fresh burst of enthusiasm and new faces, which was complemented by a strong presence of highly experienced activists who were keen to share their wisdom and talents with others.



working group on policies against 'Fortress Europe'

An International Preparatory Group (IPG) planned the programme content and took responsibility in organising and facilitating of workshops and working groups. The IPG was composed from experienced activists from following NGOs:

L'Arca (Italy)
 Kurt Lewin Foundation (Hungary)
 Never Again Association (Poland)
 Foundation of Subjective Values (Hungary)
 The Union '21st Century' (Georgia)
 Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (Republic of Macedonia)
 UNITED for Intercultural Action



Working group on the 'Danger of Words'



Excursion to Roma radio station in Budapest

19.06.10–23.06.10

23.06.10–27.06.10

Study Trip for Russian Ethnic Minorities

Enabling and empowering student and leaders of youth organisations to spread values of antidiscrimination across different regions in Russia, was at the heart of the partnership project between *UNITED* and the *Centre for Interethnic Cooperation* (RUS), titled "Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to provide support for Youth Organisations in Russia" (see also *Partnership Projects*).

In summer 2010, two study trips to the Netherlands were arranged specifically for groups of Russian ethnic minority youth. The purpose of these study trips was to observe good practices of civil society initiatives, student networking and share strategies with antidiscrimination agencies. 16 leaders of youth organisations from different regions of Russia had the possibility to come in contact with Dutch youth organisations and could observe different strategies to empower representatives of minority and ethnic communities. Among the organisations visited were: the *Rotterdam Youth Council*, the

Youth Centre Factoryzz, Radar - Antidiscrimination Agency, Anne Frank Foundation and many others.

The skills, knowledge and relationships that were established during these days have equipped the participants with a broad range of tools to take their work forward and allow the antidiscrimination and grassroots movement in Russia to grow.



Meeting at the Rotterdam Youth Council



Training at Radar, Dutch anti-discrimination agency



Explanation and tour through youth meeting centre Factoryzz



Excursion with Youth for Environmental Action

20.06.2010

International Refugee Day “Fatal Realities of Fortress Europe”

The United Nations, on the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Convention in 2001, declared 20 June International Refugee Day and UNITED has since been coordinating the European campaign to commemorate this day. Whilst it is an occasion when refugees, migrants and the contribution they have made to our communities are celebrated, it is also important that UNITED uses this opportunity to bring their plight and the injustices they face to the public's conscious.

The causes and flows in movement of migrants and asylum seekers are constantly changing in an increasingly unstable world, so this year we felt it was important to draw attention to the impact that



distribution and wrote an sample letter to be used for lobbying to decision-makers about the need to formally recognise and protect the environmentally displaced. These both informed the network about this topic and provided activists with tools for action. In addition, by promoting the work of a local design student who had created a refugee game as an example of good practice on the UNITED website, network organisations with given a fun and interactive tool they could either print out and use for their activities, or easily modify to make more relevant to their interests. Further campaign activities included demonstrations and flash mobs that caught the attention of the general public, as well as had a strong political message; film festivals, art competitions, performances and exhibitions demonstrated creative ways of engaging people with refugee and migrant issues; round tables, debates and project launches had a strong educational purpose; sports tournaments and human libraries encouraged integration of refugees in local communities; commemorative services that made use of UNITED's 'List of Deaths' raised awareness of the fatal consequences of Fortress Europe. Over 80.000 people made their voices heard in this diverse campaign, and each activity made a huge contribution to its success.

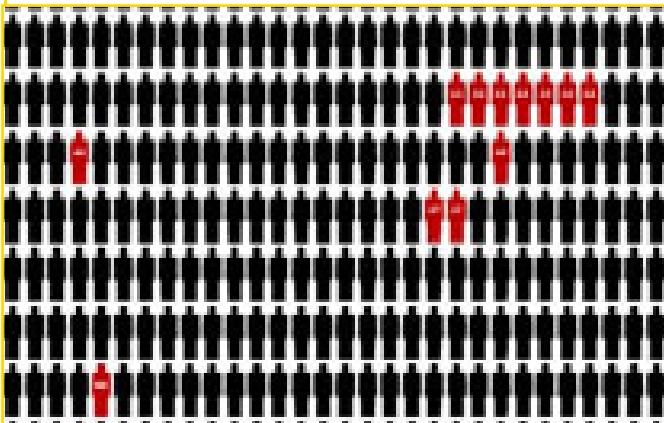


A integral part of this campaign is the so-called “List of Death”, which is a product of the ongoing monitoring project “The Fatal Realities of Fortress Europe” that up to now documented 14.500 cases of refugees and migrants, who have died in their attempt of entering the ‘Fortress’ or as a result of Europe’s immigration policies. Since 1993, UNITED has been monitoring the deaths of asylum seekers.

refugees and undocumented migrants seeking a better life in Europe. The List of Deaths is compiled from this data, including attempts to enter Europe, and as a result of European immigration policies including deportation procedures, detention conditions and the inadequacies of asylum application processes. This ongoing project draws unwelcome attention to human rights violations and the exclusionary immigration and asylum policies taking over Europe.

The strength of the List lies in its ability to be used in projects by researchers, students, journalists and artists working in the field. The document is prepared user-friendly and flexible so that its data can be used creatively, as a lobbying tool and as a starting point for further research, all of which took place in 2010. Making the data more visual has been a long-term goal for all of those working on the List and the past year has seen huge progress in this respect. An interactive web program was developed by Owni, an updated map showing the migration flows into Europe was published in *Le Monde Diplomatique*, whilst Elise du Gay designed a graphic presentation of the data in *Les Visions Cartes*, which sought to highlight the fatal experience of the individual, who can sometimes get lost in quantitative data.

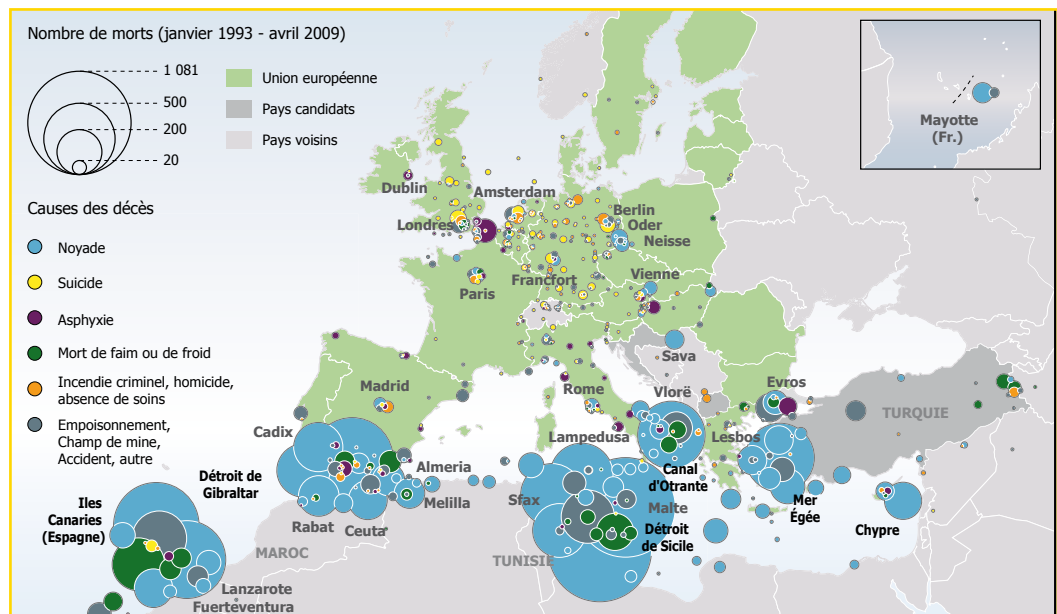
Ubenmorgen made creative use of the List when they did curate an exhibition in Austria; constructing a fictional office of the “Asylum Defence Agency” full of documents and images addressing asylum and irregular migration. Aside from these, a UNITED delegate was also invited to present the data at a Climate Justice Action in Amsterdam.



In various ways the data of the UNITED 'Death List' were made more visual



Constructing a fictional office of the “Asylum Defence Agency”. The UNITED 'Death List' was used for an exhibition in Austria



09.10.10–13.10.2010**Study trip for Russian Antiracism Activists to Amsterdam**

Networking both nationally and internationally remains crucial for civil society organisations as it equips them with long-lasting resources, exchange of good practice and support for their work.

A study visit to Amsterdam, organised in October as part of the *UNITED* partnership project with *Youth Human Rights Movement*, “Civil organisations serving society: youth actions against racism, nationalism and xenophobia and for Human Rights and inter-cultural dialogue”, introduced Russian youth activists to antidiscrimination agencies, human rights educators, community and student led initiatives functioning in the Netherlands. They were also able to contribute their expertise and perspectives to help the local community to understand the particular situation in Russia.

This cultural exchange provided new models for positive action, opened up channels of communication and broadened perspectives in the international movement against racism and fascism.



Visit to the Anne Frank House and 'Free to Choose' training



Lecture by YHRM representatives on the partnership project and the current situation in Russia at the university in The Hague

09.11.2010**International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism
“WIPE OUT HATE”**

On 9 November 1938, Nazi Germany started a pogrom against Jewish people. SA Storm Troopers and civilians destroyed more than 1400 synagogues and other places of religious service, as well as thousands of Jewish homes, shops and graveyards, and imprisoned, injured and killed hundreds of Jews in Nazi Germany and parts of Austria. Pieces of broken windows covering the streets in many German cities gave rise to the name “Kristallnacht”, which freely translated means the Night of Broken Glass. The “Kristallnacht” pogrom is seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust - the systematic extermination of Jewish people. It reminds us that the persecution of Jews by the Nazis did not start with deportations and concentration camps, but developed step by step and eventually led to the murder of at least 6 million Jewish people and 5.5 million “enemies of the German state”: homosexuals, criminals and “asocial” people, Jehovah’s Witnesses, people with mental disabilities, minorities like Roma and Sinti, political “offenders” such as communists, socialists, Spanish Republican refugees or simply people who challenged the national-socialist ideology (antifascists, so to speak).

Since 1993, UNITED coordinates a pan-European campaign on occasion of 9 November and coined this date International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism.

Hundreds of activities in 49 countries

The 2010 International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism was very much influenced by the current tendencies of right-wing extremism and antisemitism in Europe and the particular situation in each country. The lessons taught from human catastrophes, such as the Holocaust and totalitarian regimes, still seem not to be clear enough. Right-wing extremism is gaining ground all around and the alarming rise of hate crimes against particular groups within society becomes a daily constant. Freedom of individuals is encroached by unjust policies and state measures in the name of public security. And the political right-wing seizes chances with the utilization of populist propaganda against a “new enemy” – the Islam – following in the wake of an economic crisis at the expenses of especially workers, employees, families and youth.

Yet again, UNITED unified hundreds of organisations and informal groups all over Europe under one common slogan to commemorate the Holocaust and take a stand against present right-wing tendencies and violence. The large variety and creativity of hundreds of campaign activities in 49 European countries sent out the clear message “Never Again!” and inspired hope for a just and peaceful future in an inclusive Europe.



Right-wing populism drifts over Norway but SOS Racisme and Norsk Folkehjelp don't accept it and marked the 9 November with a torchlight procession.



Hate crimes, attacks on antifascists, high level of xenophobia - that is still the current situation in Russia, but with the action week “Crystal Night-Never Again!” the Youth Human Rights Movement made a huge signal against all forms of hate.



'We Against Fascism and Antisemitism' was the slogan in Lithuania in a week-long series of events as exhibitions, theatre and sport competitions.



In Valencia in Spain, one of the cities with the most hatred attacks, Jewish, Islamic, Roma, migrant and antifascist organisations created together a 'Hate-Free Area'.

'KRISTALLNACHT' POGROM COMMEMORATION

campaign report 2010

WIPE OUT HATE



2009 neo-nazi march in Dresden, Germany

UNITED
racism
fascism
nationalism

9 NOVEMBER
INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST FASCISM & ANTISEMITISM

International UNITED Network Conference in Moscow (RUS) “What Can You(th) Do? Networking for Intercultural Dialogue”

This international conference was the culminating event of “Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to Provide Support for Youth Organisations in Russia” a partnership project of *UNITED for Intercultural Action* and the *Centre for Interethnic Cooperation (CIC)*.

From 21 to 26 November, a diverse group of 81 delegates from 91 organisations and 25 European countries came together with the collective aim of capacity building for youth organisations, strengthening ties between European and Russian human rights activists, and sharing good practice and strategies in their work. Whilst Russia is an ethnically diverse country, ethnic minorities have historically faced a constant struggle for their rights to be accepted within society and organisers were committed to providing a working environment where the development of civil society, active youth participation and a positive attitude towards cultural diversity in Russia could be promoted.

Due to the unique nature of this conference, with regards to the joint project between *UNITED* and *CIC*, many participants spoke either only English or Russian. Therefore, working across language barriers became a key challenge; plenary sessions were conducted in both languages, with consecutive translation provided by a small group of interpreters, whereas workshops were conducted in either Russian or English and participants could select where to go. The efforts of translators were extremely valuable, but in order to foster a truly interactive environment, participants found creative means for mutual understanding and communicating with each other. These involved physical group games, performing and learning traditional music and dances from each other's cultures and being introduced to new cuisine.



Throughout the joint CIC/UNITED project twelve training sessions and events were carried out in twelve cities in Russia. Hundreds members of student and ethnic organisations took part in these sessions.



Part of the conference was a meeting at the Moscow State University, faculty of Journalism.



Discussion after a lecture



Openings session of the conference, with consecutive translation

Corresponding to the pressing concerns of Russian society and the needs of local youth activism, the conference most notably addressed understanding, responding and preventing hate crime, and offered numerous workshops that equipped participants with practical tools to fight discrimination and intolerance.

The International Preparatory Group took overall responsibility for planning the conference and the programme content, supported by workshop facilitators and experts. The IPG consisted of activists from across Europe:

Anne Frank Stichting (NL)
 Augustaschacht Memorial (D)
 Centre for Interethnic Cooperation (RUS)
 Marom Youth Jewish Organisation (RUS)
 Red Cross Youth (CZ)
 European Exchange (D)
 Reach Out Berlin (D)
 Human Rights Monitoring Institute (LT)
 ICUMBI (RUS)
 Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (F)
 Foundation of Subjective Values (H)
 Barcelona Voluntaria (E)
 No Border Project - Social Action Centre (UA)
 Institute of Race Relations (UK)
 Never Again Association (PL)
 Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (MK)
 UNITED for Intercultural Action



26.11.2010

Round Table

“Work with Victims of Racially-motivated Crimes: International and Russian Experience”

Another round table organised in the frame of the partnership project with YHRM “Civil organisations serving society: youth actions against racism, nationalism and xenophobia and for Human Rights and inter-cultural dialogue” was implemented at the end of 2010 at the Sakharov Centre Moscow.

The round table “Work with Victims of Racially-motivated Crimes: International and Russian Experience” aimed to voice the problems of the work with victims of racist violence, to discuss best local practices and to formulate the potential recommendations, which can be implemented both on international and national levels. The number of hate crimes in Russia has been remaining very high recent years, but still there are no state policy or system in the sphere of support of victims.

Those NGOs, which focus their work on consulting and help to people (usually from different social groups – migrants, foreign students etc.), who suffered from right-wing violence, have a lot of valuable experience, which are to be shared and discussed with civil activists, authorities, representatives of international NGOs etc. Therefore, this round table addressed the problems of working with these victims, shared local best practices and formulated potential recommendations which can be implemented both on international and national levels.

National and International organisations such as ODIHR-OSCE, Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, “SOVA Center for Information and Analyses”, Football Against Racism Europe shared their experience and expertise with 47 participants. One outcome of the roundtable is the initiative to map all existing projects, thus strengthening the network and facilitating the search for help. The first results of this mapping are expected in the start of 2011.

Campaigns

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 stimulates and coordinates the diverse campaign 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 cooperation.

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 we are enabled to 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 common campaign actions the different participating groups are enabled to share experiences, ideas and good practice and empower each other in their actions.



Campaign posters for the 2010 'Kristallnacht' commemoration and 'Anti Racism Week' campaigns in English and Russian language

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 campaign material. 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. To create inclusiveness and give visibility to campaign activities, no matter the size, the 'List of Activities' is an opportunity to promote the efforts of those within the network. The 'List of Activities' is an extended listing of activities taking place within a campaign and, next to online publication, it is distributed as supplement of the 'Calendar of Internationalism'.

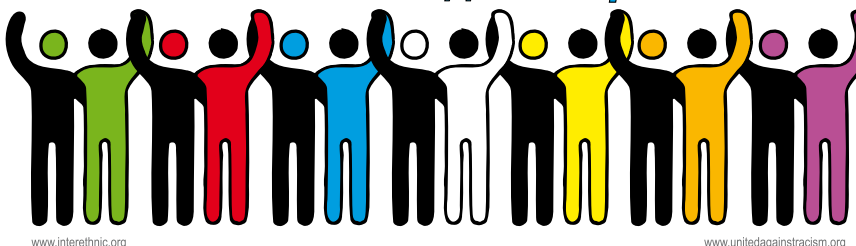
On a regular basis, UNITED publishes Information and Thematic Leaflets that enable NGOs, activists, educators etc. to find hints, best-practice and specific know-how about topics relevant for the every day anti-discrimination work. The authors are expert activists from within different parts of the UNITED network and share their knowledge and experience. The leaflets are regularly updated and reprinted. Up to now, more than 30 information and thematic leaflets about various topics and concepts used in anti-discrimination work have been produced and used as supportive tool for campaigns and are distributed on request.



UNITED information leaflets 'Get Active - The 'How to Organise an Activity?' Guide', 'Human Library - Don't Judge a Book by its Cover!' and 'How to Understand and Confront Holocaust Denial' in Russian and English language were printed in 2010

The UNITED campaign reports give background knowledge on the development of racism and fascism in different European countries and an overview of activities implemented 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 analysed thematic contents 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 to the anti-discrimination movement in Europe.

стань собой - победи нетерпимость



www.interethnic.org

www.unitedagainst racism.org

Conferences

Every year UNITED organises international network conferences, bringing together around 60-80 NGO activists, experts, OSCE-ODIHR representatives etc. 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 according to the needs of the network thanks to ongoing communication. Also the hosting country of the conference is rotating.

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, which is evaluated by the IPG. Care is given to a gender and geographical balance as well as to a fair representation 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, workshops 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 conferences make use of different non-formal education methods such as: panel discussion, working groups, debates, lectures, plenary sessions, political cafes, intercultural activities, video-presentations, study trips information market and many more. In the evening of the arrival day, participants are invited to get to know each other through so-called ice-breaking games.

Beyond the working sessions, there is time to socialise, to build fellowships, to network informally, to get inspired in one-to-one discussions or to create basis for future cooperation. A great spectrum of social and optional activities animates such burst of bridging of cultures and identities. During one evening of the conference, the ‘info-market’, all delegates get 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 colour of their own culture. Everyone exchanges opinions, good-practice and know-how, and in particular, explores the possibilities of future partnerships.

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 other work and projects within the network, e.g. the campaigns and the publications. There is an interaction between the information exchange through publications and the conferences; there is an interaction between the conferences and the campaigns that are coordinated on a European level, etc.

Partnership Projects

UNITED continuously engages in partnership projects with local network organisation throughout Europe. These projects serve specific aims on local and regional level and draw on UNITED’s experience and capacities in project management, as well as the accumulated technical and methodological expertise. On the other hand, such projects are used to translate knowledge and good-practices into practise, test their viability and gain valuable field-experience that is necessary to further develop methods and improve strategies.

In 2010 UNITED coordinated 2 main partnership projects:

- **Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to provide support for Youth Organisations in Russia**

Based on a partnership between UNITED for Intercultural Action and the *Centre for Interethnic Cooperation* (CIC) in Moscow, a joint project called “Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to provide support for youth organisations in Russia” started in 2009.

With the financial support of the *European Commission* (delegation Moscow) UNITED and CIC will actively promote youth participation and a positive attitude towards cultural differences in Russia. Thanks to the experience of the *Network of Ethnic Organisations in Russia* and the *UNITED Network*,



a Network of Youth Organisations will be created to provide support for youth organisations in the Russian Federation. The participation in the project of both ethnic and students' organisations will enable mutual understanding and will draw attention of youth organisations to the problems of xenophobia and human rights.

- **Civil Organisations Serving Society:
Youth Actions Against Racism, Nationalism and Xenophobia and
for Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue**

The goal of this 3-years project (official project-start November 2009) is to strengthen and empower Russian youth, human rights, ethnic and Civil Society NGOs in counteracting racism, xenophobia and hatred. Therefore the project intends to increase the professional level of civil society activists through: the stimulation of mutual relations between concerned parties from governmental and nongovernmental sides, as well as between Russian and European actors by creating acceptable and attractive resources and materials to promote Human Rights and inter-cultural dialogue; educational programs and setting up cooperation and exchange of experience; promoting positive and progressive social changes; stimulating the shift in direction of the state to advance the process of the realisation of an adequate anti-discrimination law by forming and implementing a common agenda on combating intolerance and discrimination into the work of the different actors in the field (both, from governmental and non governmental sides)

The project was developed thanks to the support of the Matra Program of the *Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, after many years' experience of the *Youth Human Rights Movement* and *UNITED* in antidiscrimination work and deep analysis on the current trends of civil society active in the fight against right-winged extremism, racism and discrimination.

Travelling Social Cuisine

This one-year project (start July 2010) was initiated under the lead of the *National Institute of Social Integration* in Lithuania. The aim of the project is to enable the post-Soviet countries Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, to effectively struggle xenophobia and racism; as well as facilitate a dialogue between West- and East Europe in order to establish a sustainable platform of interaction and participation. Therefore the project works out innovative methods of conflict resolution in a participatory process, which has the form of an experimental "cuisine" for young activists to learn and develop new "recipes" of action.

NowHereLand - Improving Services for Undocumented Migrants in the EU

Thanks to this project a knowledge base for providing, exchanging and developing good practice of health care services for undocumented migrants, was created. The project, initiated by the *Center for Health and Migration* in Austria was a cooperation between NGOs and Institutions from several EU countries, among them was also the UNITED Network.

Creating a Level Playing Field

UNITED in partnership with ENGSO, got involved in the project "Creating a Level Playing Field" aiming to create social inclusion in and through sports by supporting sports and specialised organisations to facilitate access to sport for people with migrant background.



Info-system

Database

The extensive UNITED database is updated and added to on a daily basis to form the most comprehensive and efficient networking tool possible. With over 8000 stakeholder contacts and constantly growing, it reflects the diversity and dynamism in the European antidiscrimination movement. Through the database, not only can the secretariat ensure that they remain in close contact with each organisation or individual, but at one click, recommendations, referrals and cooperation can be generated throughout the network.

Mailing system

UNITED carried out quarterly postal mailings to over 2300 contacts in the field, grass-roots organisations, journalists, educational institutes and MEPs which updated them on network activity, informed them about future campaigns and distributed examples of good practice via leaflets and reports. Invitations to more material were also included, to encourage further participation in network activities.

The value of the mailing system works both ways; it also allows UNITED receiving publications, posters and campaigning material from organisations active in our fields. Not only does this help us to be aware of action all across Europe - thereby expanding the network - good practices are also credited, promoted and fed back to other organisations. Internet and email communication is utilised in a similar way; a news article or call for action proposed by even just an individual can be sent to the whole network, making small news that may struggle to reach an audience gain widespread international attention. It is this continuous multi-level synergy, which keeps the UNITED info-system so dynamic and contemporary.

Address Book Against Racism

In 2010, an updated version of one UNITED's most valuable networking tools – the Address Book Against Racism – was published with 2480 addresses. It provides contact details for thousands of organisations active in our fields across Europe, as well as a description of the nature of their work and was distributed through the network via one of the quarterly mailings. As anyone consulting the book is able to quickly discern an organisation's fields of interest, suitability and relevance for their own work, it is an excellent first point of reference throughout the movement. An extended version of the Addressbook was made available on the UNITED website.

Calendar of Internationalism

The *Calendar of Internationalism* is an ongoing project of the UNITED and constantly overseen 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 promotional 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 has been implemented in 1992 and proved 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.



Beside the weekly-updated online version of the Calendar, UNITED published 4 printed editions in 2010 (each containing about 140-160 announcements). With the printed editions of the *Calendar of Internationalism* UNITED also mapped out more detailed documented 'Good Practice' cases that took place within the anti-racist movement in Europe. These short documentations of special activities aim to show innovative and also unconventional ideas of resistance, protest and intervention. Beside the pure information about: What? Why? Where? How? A good practice always targets to motivate individuals or groups to start acting themselves.

Delegations

UNITED sustains good links with the most important agencies and institution at European and international level and the growth of the UNITED network is guaranteed by its representation at international and local meetings, conferences and events all over Europe: it is thanks to the UNITED delegates that the voice of the network became stronger, more visible and accessible over the year.

Experts of the UNITED Network provided advice and shared strategies and know-how during several meetings and conferences. For example in Germany in occasion of the preparatory meeting of the national Action Week Against Racism coordinated by *Interkultureller Rat*, in Brussels at the meeting organised by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies - Tackling Multiple Discrimination of Migrants Towards Greater Diversities in Europe*, or in Turkey at the *Istanbul Hrant Dink Foundation - Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Conference*, just to mention some.

In 2010 UNITED strengthened its cooperation with the *OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights*, based in Warsaw (Poland), representatives of the *UNITED Network* were invited to the *OSCE "High Level Conference on Tolerance and Non-discrimination"* meetings in Astana (Kazakhstan) to give inputs from a NGO perspective while *OSCE* delegates participated in the UNITED conferences in Hungary and Russia, furthermore new ties were created with the *Foundation "Remembrance Responsibility and Future"* (Germany).

UNITED has consultative status with the *United Nations - Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*. Excellent connections exist with both, *Council of Europe* and *European Commission*. Within the *Council of Europe*, UNITED is a member of the *Advisory Council on Youth*. Our active contribution in several meetings of the *Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth* in Strasbourg (France), Budapest (Hungary) was highly appreciated, as well as our participation in the expert meeting at the "3rd Meeting of the Monitoring Group Africa-Europe Youth Summit" of the *Council of Europe* and the *European Commission* in Molilla (Spain).

Free-Information Policy

UNITED has a vast collection of already over 300 publications. These publications are developed within the co-operating network organisations and designed, produced and disseminated by the UNITED secretariat. 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. Many translations were realised through voluntary help of individuals and network organisations.

All materials published by UNITED are distributed through the reliable mailing system, at delegations, at activities (e.g. street actions), at international conferences and provided (in larger amounts) to organisations and events on request. All UNITED material is free of copyrights, however when copied the source or the information needs to be mentioned. All UNITED publications are free of copyright (just the source needs to be mentioned) and can be found and downloaded from the UNITED webpage www.unitedagainstracism.org.

Funding

UNITED depends on the financial support that comes from network organisations and individual supporters, however we worry about essential additional funding for the upcoming period. While it is possible to partly fund projects, campaigns and conferences with granted sponsorships we still need to cover our administrative costs with minimal amounts in relation to the necessary individual effort and working force. Thus, the reason why also in 2010 UNITED could do its work is due to the self-less commitment of international volunteers.

Although financial support is sought from a wide range of funds, UNITED remains independent of any political party, governmental institute or state.

SPECIAL 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 the 2010 conferences an extraordinary experience.

Thanks to the dedicated UNITED volunteers and delegates without them the UNITED Network would not be able to contribute to a more open-minded society.

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

And last but not least **“Thanks!”** to the diverse financial supporters of UNITED. Without them it would not be possible to keep up the UNITED Network structure.





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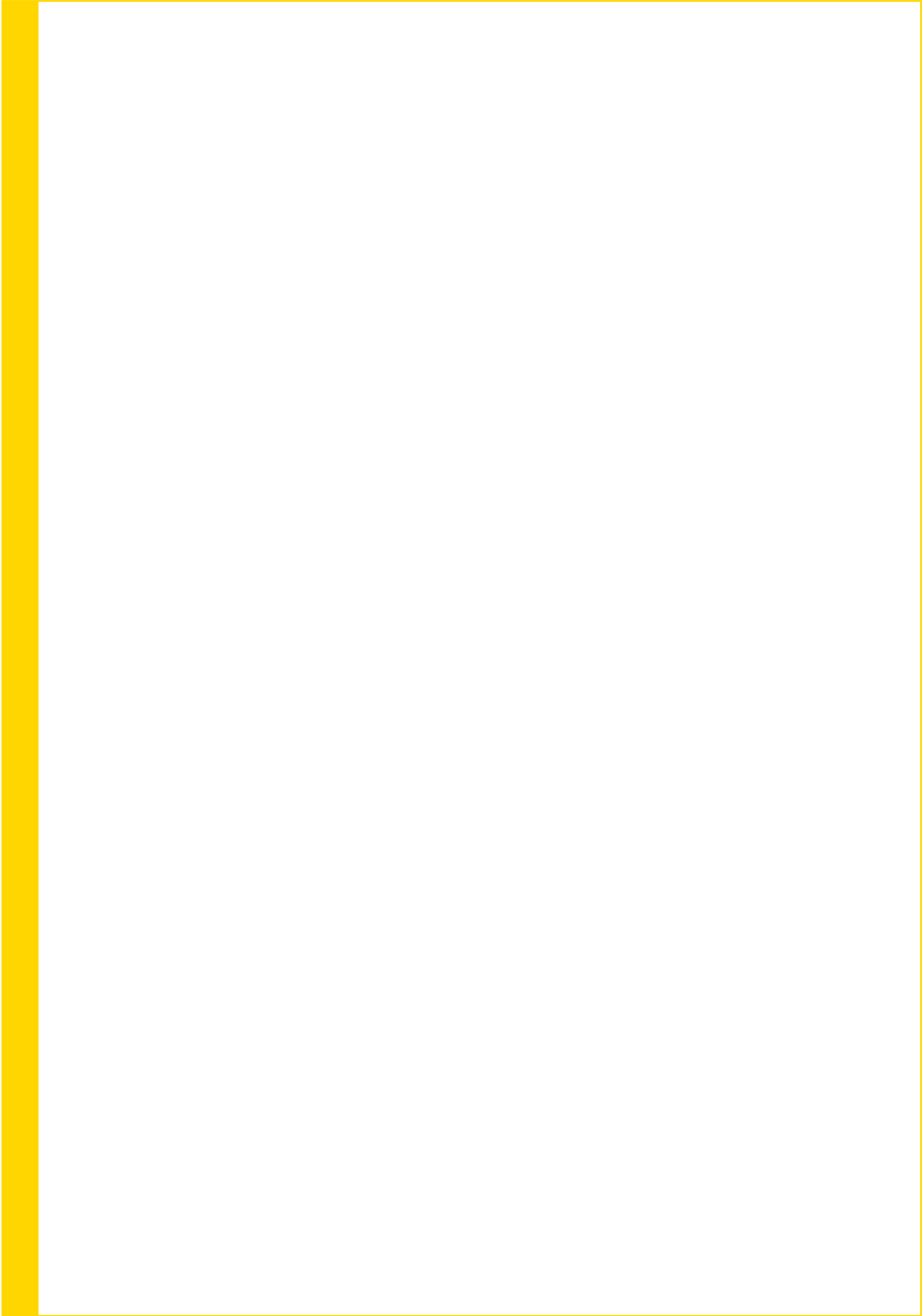
more than 550 organisations from 48 European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, the European Voluntary Service- and Leonardo Programme and Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service.

Since 1992 financial support was received from various sponsors such as: European Commission (General Budget/Socrates/Grundtvig/Youth in Action Programme/DG Employment Social Affairs/ TACIS IBPP), Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation/European Youth Centres), OSCE-ODIHR, 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, Rechtextremismus und Fremdenfeindlichkeit Brandenburg, Home Office UK, Ministry of Interior-BZK NL, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs CH, the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 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, 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, The Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs, Rothschild Foundation, Local Municipality of Budapest, Open Society Institute, Youth Board of Cyprus, Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future, Open Society Foundation - Bratislava, Final Frontiers Internet, Dijkman Offset and others.

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UNITED in 2010

ANNUAL REPORT



UNITED for Intercultural Action
European network against nationalism, racism, fascism
and in support of migrants and refugees