

UNITED IN 2011



ANNUAL REPORT



UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION

EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST NATIONALISM, RACISM, FASCISM

AND IN SUPPORT OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



> UNITED

We believe that racism can only be combated united. Since 1993, 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 antiracist and antidiscrimination 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 work 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 is the key to de



UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION

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ol by ammap.com

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the largest pan-European network of diverse non-governmental organisations and it continues to expand – with 550 partner organisations in 48 European countries - bringing together the European anti-discrimination movement in all its diversity.

Despite the fact that topics of focus, political views and organisational structures differentiate across 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 anti-racist European youth seminars in Strasbourg (F) recognised the need for a European-wide tool and platform to strengthen and link up grassroots organisations and their actions against racism, fascism, and nationalism and in support of migrants and refugees. In 1992 the most violent and large-scale xenophobic riots after the Second World War took place in Germany - against this backdrop the need for a structured info- and networking system became clear and since 1993 the basic working principle “**UNITED WE ARE STRONGER**” has been spreading across the whole of 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, constant stimulation and the free provision of (net)working tools are integral to serve the needs of the very diverse organisations and groups throughout Europe and strengthen the European anti-discrimination movement. The well-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, politicians, 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(WORK)

It needs a lot of work, patience and organisation to keep an international big-scale network alive. Although the constantly expanding “net” of UNITED is huge, the “spider” that is weaving it is small. In 2011, only 4 staff members and 4-5 full-time volunteers worked in the secretariat of UNITED, based in Amsterdam. Together, staff and volunteers comprised an international team of experts and activists from Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia and Spain.

UNITED is able to work with international volunteers thanks to partnership with a vocational training program of the *United Euro Bridge, Österreichischer Auslandsdienst* (Leonardo da Vinci exchange), cooperation with *Action Reconciliation Service for Peace* (Germany) and EVS (European Voluntary Service) projects granted by the *European Commission*.

UNITED coordinates, supports and strengthens a network of over 550 organisations from 48 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 main responsibilities of the intercultural team working in the UNITED secretariat are:

- Maintenance and development of the UNITED networking tools and information system
- Stimulation and coordination of annual pan-European campaigns
- Preparation and organisation of annual international conferences against discrimination
- Planning and creation of publications and effective dissemination of this material Europe-wide
- Monitoring and documentation of the European anti-racist movement
- Handling requests for 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

“Discrimination and Racism are issues that need to be addressed in different ways. Organizations like UNITED make addressing these problems a more fruitful task”.

[Argyris and Diana, System and G (GR)]

“We would love to briefly speak with you [...] on the emergence of far-right populist parties across Europe. I would be very grateful if I could ... conduct a phone interview as we know that readers would really appreciate hearing your perspective on the subject... and practical action that you’re taking”.

[K Biswas, New internationalist (GB)]



FUNDING

“Money makes the world go around” - it is a terrible truth and especially valid for non-profit organisations. UNITED is an ambitious project with no stable income – year after year UNITED needs to fight for funding and the last years have been an uphill struggle for the network.

UNITED depends on the financial support that comes from network organisations who commit themselves as supporters, however we worry about essential additional funding for the upcoming period. While it is possible to partly fund projects, campaigns and conferences with financial support from the sponsors we still need to cover our administrative costs with minimal amounts in relation to the necessary individual effort and working force.

The participation in UNITED campaigns is cost-free, organisational and administrative support is given for free to NGOs, 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.

*“We saw on one of the brochures that we can become supporters of UNITED. Since we are more less a “new” organisation and our aims are also connected with the UNITED goals, it will be great if we can also join in”
[Minority Leaders for Society (MK)].*



COMMUNICATION HARDWARE

THE TOOLS OF THE UNITED NETWORK

UNITED has developed networking-tools that serve the needs of the very diverse organisations and groups throughout Europe. The proven and reliable networking-tools are well established in Europe and enable professional networking on European level and enable a steady and smooth flow of information among all active groups in Europe.

The below explained networking-tools are constantly improved and updated by the UNITED Secretariat.

DATABASE – THE FIRST BRICK IN THE WALL

The internal UNITED database maintains details on over 8.500 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.

*"I am contacting you to any kind of information to help an Egyptian who is held in a Greek prison [...]
Can you give us contact details of NGOs in Greece in order to help him out?"
[activist]*

ARCHIVE – PRESERVE THE PAST AND BUILD THE FUTURE

The archive forms the backbone of the UNITED information service. With documentation on 2.780 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 IISU 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 postal mailing-system to more than 2.200 grass-roots organisations, youth groups, educational institutes, journalists, media, ministers and members of European parliament. Mailings are sent out four times a year. The other way around UNITED receives information and publications from over 2.500 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 10.000 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 from the Council of Europe, the OSCE-ODIHR etc.).

Unfortunately in 2011 we had to reduce the number of NGOs in our mailing list due to lack of funds.

Mailings and E-mailings conducted in 2011:

- **Post mailing** > 4 times to over 2.200 contacts
- **E-news** > 35 times to over 10.000 contacts



"We are a self-managed social centre and we have had social and left-wing political activities in Florence since 1999. We have a library and a file with magazines from Italy and from abroad. During past year(s) we got issues of your magazine(s) and we are interested in renewing our subscription(s)".

[Centro Popolare Autogestito Firenze Sud (I)]

CAMPAIGN & EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

IMPROVING CAMPAIGNS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

UNITED has a 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, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Spanish and Swedish.

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 upon request. All UNITED material is free of copyrights, however when copied the source or the information needs to be mentioned. All UNITED publications can be found and downloaded from the UNITED website www.unitedagainstracism.org.

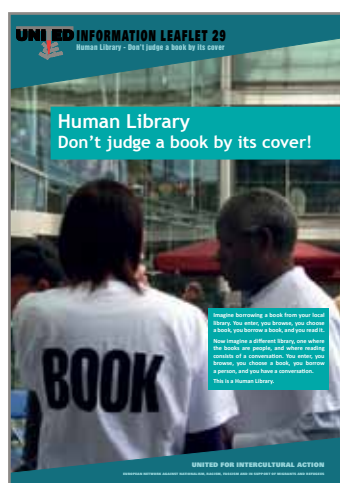
Information and Thematic Leaflets

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 more than 30 information and thematic leaflets about various topics and concepts used in anti-discrimination work have been produced and are still distributed on request:

- 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?"*

Information and thematic leaflets 2011:

- *Human Library - Don't Judge a Book By its Cover!* (in Russian language)
- *Who, If Not You? - How You Can Intervene When Witnessing Racist Assaults* (in English language)



*"A big thank you for your work! I really like this leaflet - fancy!
It is a great initiative of UNITED to publish a text on this issue and believe that it is important for activists too".
[Maria, Network Democracy Courage (D)]*

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 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.



Campaign material 2011:

- **Be Loud Against Fascism, 9 November 2011**
 - 1 Newspaper-poster (in English language)
 - 1 Newspaper-poster (in Russian language)
 - 2 Postcard (in English language)
 - Special order-leaflet (in English language)
 - Order form (in Russian language)
- **The Racist is the Other, 13 - 27 March 2011**
 - 1 Newspaper-posters (in English language)
 - 1 Newspaper-posters (in Russian language)
 - Postcard (in English and Russian language)
 - Special order-leaflet (in English and Russian language)

*"Indeed, we received this week the post mail from UNITED and we wanted to ask you some material if possible!
We are expecting a maximum of 50 participants, so I would very much appreciate if you could send me what it's possible for free. We really like your last "the racist is the other" material so we would like to receive posters and postcards. Stickers if possible as well. And leaflets we think the most appropriated to our workshops if it could be possible as well. We thank you very much for your proposal and cooperation in our Seminar".
[Ana, MIJARC Europe (B)]*



"I am writing to you to enquire as to whether you could send us some resources against racism. We are currently raising awareness about equality in our school and we are trying to focus on equality and equal rights for all. We would appreciate it very much if you could provide us with some resources".
[Newport High School (GB)]

Reports Distributed in 2011

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 NGOs 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 the anti-discrimination movement in Europe.



Campaign Reports:

- **Wipe Out Hate** - International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, 9 November 2010 (*in English language*)
- **The Racist is the Other** - European-wide Action Week Against Racism 2011 (*in English language*)

Conference Reports:

- **What Can You(th) Do? Networking on Intercultural Dialogue**
 International UNITED Conference, 21 - 26 November 2010 in Moscow, RU (*in English and Russian language*)
- **From Theory to Practice: Creative Action Towards Social Change**
 International UNITED Conference, 16 - 21 May 2011 in Bratislava, SK (*in English language*)
- **Merging Parallel Societies: Toolkit to Unite**
 International UNITED Conference, 15 - 20 October 2011 in Struga, MK (*in English language*)

"Could you also send us 20 copies of the conference report 'Creative Action towards Social Change: From Theory to Practice' (May 2011)? Some of my colleagues & myself have read it now and really like the questions asked. We would like more copies for the rest of our staff to read and for us to use with young people to stimulate a similar debate here in the South West of England.

Thank you for your help & support once again!"
[Dion, Somerset Racial Inclusion Project (GB)]



EUROPEAN ADDRESS BOOK AGAINST RACISM: THE YELLOW PAGES OF THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION MOVEMENT

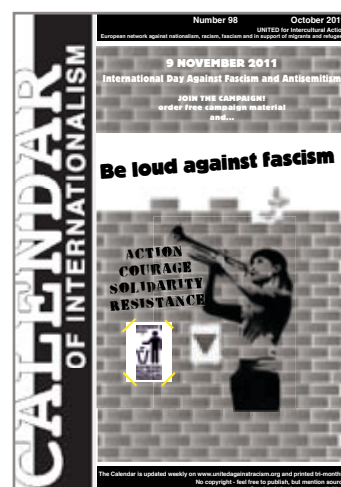
The European Address Book Against Racism is one of the best-known and most widely used reference books in the anti-discrimination movement throughout Europe. It provides detailed contact data and information about active groups, institutions and NGOs in Europe and their operative fields. Thanks to the Address Book organisations have an elementary instrument to get in touch with each other to exchange information and to initiate collaboration.

The Address Book is an invaluable networking-tool with 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 4500 active groups, NGOs, funding institutions, media, etc.

The updated printed edition, **European Address Book Against Racism 2011**, contained the addresses of about 2500 organisations and magazines active in the field and 161 funding institutions.

“We would be very very glad if you can send us some of your address books and maybe some postcards and stickers. We are using your address books very often. It gives people who are becoming deported or transferred under the Dublin II appointment back to other European countries the chance to look for any kind of support. So you are doing a very important job by publishing these address books and you can do us and these people a big favour by sending the address books to us. Thanks a lot, and keep on fighting against racism!”
[Irene, Hilfe für Menschen in Abschiebehaft, Büren e.V (D)]



CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONALISM – ROAD MAP TO DIVERSITY

The *Calendar of Internationalism* is an ongoing project of 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 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.

Beside the weekly-updated online version of the Calendar, UNITED published 3 printed editions in 2011 (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.

Additionally special listings of events (List of Activities) that took place in the frame of UNITED’s annual campaigns were published on the occasion of:

- European-wide Action Week Against Racism (around 21 March)
- International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism (around 9 November)

“Thank you for your initiative regarding the calendar. I believe it is tremendously important to connect organizations and initiatives against racism around the globe. It is indeed very interesting to find out quite quickly what other organizations are doing in this field, with who and how they do it. We are indeed very interested in being mentioned in your data base and in the calendar”.

[Paul, European Grassroots Antiracist Movement – EGAM (F)]

CYBER RESISTANCE – GLOBALISE THE MOVEMENT

Through the UNITED website www.unitedagainstracism.org all UNITED networking tools, publications, background information on campaigns, projects and international conferences are easily accessible for public use and download. The website provides public access to the online searchable *Address Book Against Racism* and to all listings of the *Calendar of Internationalism* since 2004. The secretariat in Amsterdam is responsible for maintenance, advancing and up dating of the website.

“You do very good work - was on your site and have seen your material. Ironical, strong, clear - bravo!”

[Patricia, European Sociological Association (CH)]



THE UNITED CAMPAIGNS THINK GLOBALLY - ACT LOCALLY

The campaigns UNITED for Intercultural Action co-ordinates 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.

THE RACIST IS THE OTHER

EUROPEAN-WIDE ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM 14-27 MARCH 2011

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.

Population in Europe is becoming more and more diverse. Internal and external migration processes are making it a place where people of many different backgrounds share their existence. We see exclusion and separation all around us; fear, suspicion and ignorance slicing communities apart. The aim of this campaign was to reflect the causes and the subtle forms of racism present in our societies. It is not only the racist policies of the right-wing, racist violence and abuse that matter, but also the ways that prejudiced views and stereotypes we all have –maybe even unconsciously- can have a damaging effect on our communities. The slogan “the Racist is the Other” drew attention to our habit of pointing the finger of blame at everyone except our-selves and encouraged people all over Europe to look within themselves and really think about the prejudices they hold.



The Action Week Against Racism was an inclusive campaign and stimulated European-wide campaign activities, networking and experience exchange. NGO platforms, institutes, schools etc. implemented **hundreds of activities in 49 European countries and mobilised together more than 260.000 participants** to take an active stand against racism. Different contents and core topics were individually applied due to the local, national and international situations.

Both, planning and preparation brought into play the UNITED network structure. During the international UNITED conference in Russia "What Can You(th) Do? Networking for Intercultural Dialogue!" (November 2010) a special working group prepared the framework for this European-wide campaign. This campaign also benefited directly of the evaluation-outcomes and follow-ups of previous annual UNITED campaigns.

UNITED collected many examples of good practice during the *Action Week Against Racism* and documented them in a special "Campaign Report" and the "Calendar of Internationalism". Some examples of good practices are:

- CNER Alumni in Romania used the images from the UNITED poster (people from different world cultures pointing the finger at each other) to create a circle – or vicious cycle – of people blaming each other. They found creative ways to adapt UNITED material to produce an eye-catching and thought-provoking visual piece.
- Also inspired by the poster, Youth Centre Corinthia in Greece used the platform of the Korinthos Carnival to spread the campaign message. They dressed as characters from the UNITED poster and informed carnival-goers about their planned activities for the rest of the action week.
- National Institute for Social Integration in Lithuania held a Forum Theatre; an interactive form of theatre that relies on audience participation to stop and alter the direction of a performance in order to explore different ways of dealing with a problem.
- Youth Human Rights Movement in Russia involved over 100 teachers in Voronezh by not only offering out anti-racist educational material, but giving them the opportunity to put together their own packages of antiracist material, mixing and matching the most relevant publications for their work.
- In Rostock, Germany, Migra e.V. curated a photography exhibition that asked migrants to take photos of their favourite places in their new home and city. In the eyes of the local community, this simple idea created bonds between themselves and the migrants. The action was so successful it soon turned into a travelling exhibition on show for almost a year.
- Future Leaders Exchange in Kazakhstan found many ways to involve university students in their actions without requiring their effort and commitment. They took students photos around campus and added them to posters, which were then displayed on a "stop racism" wall, and over lunchtime they held a flash mob and took over the loudspeakers with their antiracist statements and slogans.
- "Plug in for Diversity" was a campaign run by Centre for Interethnic cooperation in Macedonia, which gathered musicians of different ethnicities to record an album in different languages and traditions, with a series of concerts to promote it.
- Show Racism the Red Card used football to get people thinking about racism across Britain with tournaments, free training, discussions and contests. These gave participants practical tips for combating racism in sport, as well as highlighting the similarity with teamwork and solidarity in society.

The produced campaign material for the *Action Week Against Racism 2011*, the complete listing of all actions and participating groups as well as the complete campaign report can be found and downloaded on the on the special campaign websites under www.unitedagainstracism.org (see: *campaigns / Action Week Against Racism*)

"We must say that the materials we had from UNITED gave additional value to our activity. It was good and positive to give another materials to the participants and show that there are organizations and people that really do care about these actions and value our activities and our time spent on organizing these kind of raising awareness activities. So THANK YOU for making us part of it.

We find that the poster RACIST IS THE OTHER is very creative one of all UNITED materials".

[Andrijana, Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying, PEL (MK)]



*"On behalf of Armenian Progressive Youth NGO I would like to thank you for great job.
I think it was very fruitful cooperation".
[Grigor, Armenian Progressive Youth (ARM)]*

*"The poster is brilliant, simple and telling, and I think our movie team will have no problems coming up with a
screen play, given this information".
[Steinunn (RUS)]*

*"Attached you will find the "adapted" version of your poster that we used, alongside the 2011 and 2010
UNITED ones.... it helped tremendously. I can also tell you that people loved your "The racist is the other"
poster and we even gave some out as rewards for the best questions during discussion".
[Silvia, COS Gelderland (NL)]*

*"Thanks for inspiring us - that was a great idea to organize an Action Week Against Racism in Mykolayiv,
Ukraine! Though people are not really open to new ideas, we managed to get them interested in the topic! We
look forward to working with you in future!!!".
[Anastasia, Congress of National Minorities, (UA)]*

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE DAY – 20TH JUNE 2011

On the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Convention in 2001, the United Nations declared the 20th of June the International Refugee Day. Every year around this date, UNITED celebrates the International Refugee Day by coordinating a European-wide campaign where hundreds of organisations speak out against the intolerable human cost of building "Fortress Europe" and to keep up the rights of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Convention so it was an ideal opportunity to reflect on the (lack of) progress made in the field of refugee rights.

Each year, hundreds of migrants and asylum seekers reach Europe fleeing from war, persecution or poverty. In the last years the number of migrants seeking refuge has grown considerably, due to several ongoing wars, the increasing intolerance toward minorities in many countries and the global economical crisis.

In 2011, due to the Arab Spring thousands of migrants fled from Tunisia and Libya, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and Europe. According to UNHCR statistics for 2011, there are currently 43.7 million people forcibly displaced in the world, the highest figure in 15 years. However, public attitudes and perceptions of asylum-seekers and migrants continues to worsen, alongside policies which discriminate against them.

UNITED fervently believes that this attitude cannot be accepted and that civil society needs to work harder than ever to challenge xenophobic and damaging myths within Europe about migration. There are many untold truths about the lives and experiences of asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and refugees and NGOs need to make sure they are heard. By joining forces in the frame of International Refugee Day, thousands worked together to give a voice to the voiceless and campaign to give migrants the care and support they need.

Under the common slogan "Will You Play Ignorant? No Excuses", UNITED stimulated activities and **events in 42 European countries** and thus mobilised **more than 37.700 people** in the struggle for equal rights for refugees, fairer policies and against the fortifying of Fortress Europe.

All over Europe awareness-raising and solidarity actions took place, many with the cooperation of refugee communities. Human libraries, conferences and seminars, movie screenings, picnics and barbeques, festivals, concerts, children's story-telling, protests at airports and detention centres and street action sent a loud and clear messages that refugee rights and protection are still at the



top of the European agenda. What made the 2011 International Refugee Day so unique was not only the pan-European scale, but also the variety of NGOs willing to create one European voice to claim more humane immigration and asylum policies.

The complete listing of all actions and participating groups as well as related diverse campaign material can be found and downloaded on the on the special campaign websites under www.unitedagainstracism.org (see *campaigns / RefugeeDay*)

"Thank you for giving us the chance to be part of the European wide campaign supporting refugees and migrants. This topic is in particular interest of our organization since we already work on the topic of migration and inclusion and we have already organized different activities to tackle this issue".
[Association for progress, education and lobbying, PEL (MK)]

"We have found your network and are especially interested in your campaign about the International Refugee Day! We would like to ask you if there is a possibility of you sending us some information material on this subject? This would be a great visual addition to our presentation of your work. We strongly support your work and would like to raise more awareness towards your project".
[Hochschule Fulda, University of Applied Science (D)]

DEATH BY POLICY - THE FATAL REALITIES OF "FORTRESS EUROPE"

ALREADY 15.704 MIGRANT DEATHS DOCUMENTED BY UNITED

The shocking number of 15.704 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who died due to European migration policies were documented in the UNITED "List of Deaths" till the year 2011. The UNITED secretariat has been monitoring the fatal consequences of "Fortress Europe" since 1993. Although the experts say it is impossible to know the real number, which is likely to be three times higher, the UNITED "List of Deaths" is compiled through the rigorous method of comparing and consolidating sources, from NGO and government reports, journalists' research, migrants' accounts and testimonies and more. Furthermore, we conduct constant media monitoring and cooperate with network organisations in exchanging information. With these cases UNITED continues to make a powerful lobby and awareness-raising tool to be used in campaign actions all over Europe. These deaths are not isolated incidents but are the direct consequence of ever-tightening EU immigration policy. In the face of civil war, conflict, global political unrest and the deepening impact of climate change, Europe responds by adopting exclusionary practices and policies, and turning a blind eye to the underlying causes of migration. The List draws unwelcome attention to the role of our societies in protecting those who flee from war, persecution and poverty. The document is made extremely user-friendly and flexible so that its data can be used creatively, as a lobbying tool and as a starting point for further research. We believe that by working together in this way, we can reach a wider audience and draw attention to the serious flaws in our asylum and immigration systems that routinely threaten human dignity.

Projects in 2011 which made use of the data UNITED collects include commemoration events by church groups, such as the *Catholic Worker Amsterdam* on All Souls Day; academic papers; a series of poster exhibitions in train stations in Basel (by Banu Cannetoglu); a short film project (by *Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa with Film and Video Umbrella*); diagrams and other graphic visualisations (*Manhack/OWNI*); newspaper and magazine articles (*Al-Jazeera, Greenpeace*), a radio feature (*London Turkish Radio*). An interactive web program developed by OWNi was published and also made available on the UNITED website, featuring a map that conveys each case in the List, graphs showing trends in the nature of deaths and summaries of each case.

"Thanks so much for doing this for almost 3 decades now, this is an incredibly important project & you have the best data. Your work is very, very much appreciated by many people around the continent".
[Ted, Migration and Diversity Centre (NL)]



"We are about to use your list of deaths for an activity of commemoration on the caravan for freedom of movement and just development to the wsf in Dakar. we want to print it on kind of plastic and need a format which is not pdf. can you send us this? this would be really nice".

[NoLager Bremen (D)]

"I get to know the interactive map you elaborate. Very interesting initiative. Congratulations!"

[CIP-Ecosocial (E)]

"Thanks so much for all your hard work and help! It does make a huge difference to have an idea of the numbers who have tried and failed to make it over to Italy".[Eleanor, Agency France Press (F)]

"I found on page 18, date 04/02/2002 a NN, "frozen trying to cross the snow covered border between Bulgaria-Northern Greece (source MNS). It could be that this unknown victim is: Fatemeholsadat (Saghi). She crossed with her mother and brother the border between Bulgaria and Turkey. She was frozen trying to cross the snow covered border. In the other way it is a new name for your list".

[Kees, on behalf of the parents from Saghi (TR)]

"We're discussing with Le Monde Diplomatique in order to create some interactive visualisations of some of the topics they deal with, and we would really like to create a map of the documented refugee deaths through "Fortress Europe" you recently published... thanks for having done this tragic database".

[Jean-Marc, OWNI (F)]

BE LOUD AGAINST FASCISM

9TH NOVEMBER - INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST FASCISM AND ANTISEMITISM

The 9th November 1938, the "Kristallnacht" pogrom, was the first step to the extermination of the Jewish Europeans by the nazis. Today it is seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, the policy of the systematic murdering of millions of people. It reminds us that such terrible things did not start with deportations and concentration camps, but developed step by step. Nazi propaganda and hate speech against Jews and laws depriving Jewish citizens of their rights – as happened with the "Nuremberg Laws" which, among other things, stripped German Jews of their citizenship – were the first steps which eventually culminated in violence and pogroms.

The Holocaust, as every other genocide, taught us a lesson of an extreme importance: silence kills.

The way in which xenophobic politics, discourses and individual actions become part of our everyday life mainly results from our mute passivity. The "Kristallnacht" pogrom symbolizes this lesson, and its commemoration is a reminder that we cannot remain mere witnesses to any spread of xenophobic arguments. In order to shake people's positions and stress the importance of being active and loud in the anti-fascist struggle, UNITED seized the opportunity of the 2011 *International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism – Be Loud Against Fascism* to echo the voices of the activists of the network.

In a context of economic crisis, fertile ground for fascist ideas, the hardening of European migration policy, the rise in Islamophobic and 'Romaphobic' discourses, as well as the constancy of racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic prejudice contribute to deprive people in vulnerable situations of their voices, of their ability to be heard and protest. Having a voice is a privilege, and being loud against fascism is a duty. Resistance is not and cannot be quiet; that is why UNITED decided to collect and spread resistant voices from within the movement.

What does it mean to be an Antifascist today? Why is resistance important? Why do we need to campaign against fascism?



These are some of the questions we raised, and although the motives may differ, the core argument remain the same: “we must collectively ensure that fascism, propelled by a racist view of the world, must never, ever, be allowed to wield power again in any way, shape or form.

As in the previous years, hundreds of organisations and informal groups have joined this anti-fascist chorus to commemorate the Holocaust and fight for a just and peaceful future in an inclusive world. **About 300 awareness activities, organised in 49 European countries**, made this campaign widely audible and inspirational all over Europe.

The produced campaign material for the *International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism 2011*, the complete listing of all actions and participating groups as well as the complete campaign report can be found and downloaded on the on the special campaign and publication websites under www.unitedagainstracism.org (see campaigns / International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism)

“Our organisation is usually supported by UNITED International and we are very thankful to you for your great support! We would like to ask you to send as much material as possible as the activity is going to involve many people in the streets, and we will spread those materials among them! We really want to use them during our huge activity!”

[Elene, Union of Kurdish Youth of Georgia (GE)]

“My boss is very excited what I brought from Amsterdam, but also from the package we got in the meanwhile. Thanks again! Half of the material was sent to leaders of various Jewish organisations through whole Ukraine – quite possible that some of them are contacting you soon. If not then they are for sure happy about the info material”.

[Michael, Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service (A)]

“Organisations like UNITED play an exemplary role in providing an ongoing forum that educates and enlightens people about the dangers posed by racism and fascism. It creates a, warm, friendly, democratic atmosphere of mutual respect in which the lessons and experiences of the past can be set out and the challenges of the present and future can be faced. Our commitment has to be serious, but it can also be really enjoyable and great fun!”

[Graeme Hope Not Hate (GB)]



INTERNATIONAL UNITED NETWORK CONFERENCES

Every year UNITED organises international network conferences, bringing together around 60-80 NGO activists, experts from all over Europe. With these conferences UNITED provides a training-, exchange- and working platform for NGO activists and experts. UNITED is a broad network comprised of much diversity, so special attention is given to ensure all needs, interests and perspectives are taken into account when developing the programme content. 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, and the country selected for as the host changes with each one.

UNITED has an open invitation policy for its network conferences and every individual belonging to a NGO or active informal group within Europe is welcome to apply. The selection of participants is made according to their profile, as demonstrated on the application form, which is evaluated by the IPG. Care is given to maintain a gender and geographical balance alongside a fair representation of minorities.

Network conferences work on the principle of non-formal intercultural learning. Organisations and activists take part in activities in changing roles each time; for example young activists gain experience from an educator-perspective by being given the opportunity to facilitate a practical workshop – all participants make an active contribution at UNITED conferences and are encouraged to take a lead role on some aspect of the programme. This methodology has been developed in close co-operation with the youth directorate of the Council of Europe.

Education takes multiple forms at conferences; *emotional learning* is stimulated through working with people in a safe environment; *cognitive learning* is stimulated by presentations and lectures as well as published material to take home and study later; *behavioural learning* takes 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 in a UNITED conference is a unique experience that is rarely forgotten.

There are diverse methods used during the conference to enable these forms of learning; panel discussions, working groups, debates, lectures, plenary sessions, political cafes, intercultural activities, video-presentations, study visits to local projects, information market and many more. On the day of arrival, participants are better acquainted with each other through “ice-breaking games”.

Beyond the working sessions, there are plenty of opportunities to socialise, to network informally, to get inspired in one-to-one discussions, explore new perspectives and approaches or to lay the foundations for future cooperation. Using difference as a strength and intercultural learning to connect the dots underpins all social interaction at conferences, nowhere more so than at the info-market. Participants were asked to present and exchange their good practices, make contacts and also share their cultures with each other through bringing international snacks and music.

The UNITED secretariat organises conferences as a crucial element of the network’s overall function; they serve as a catalyst and discussion platform within a longer, fluid process. Conferences link to other work and projects such as the campaigns and publications as it is here that the network decides together on the direction and topics of focus for its activities, and how to translate these topics into concrete tools such as published campaign material.



CREATIVE ACTION TOWARDS SOCIAL CHANGE: FROM THEORY TO ACTION

International UNITED Network Conference in Bratislava (SK), 16 - 21 May 2011

Elections across Europe have seen a steady growth in popularity of far-right parties, yet a major concern is that the rhetoric, agenda and policies peddled by these parties is becoming steadily adopted by mainstream political parties, such as the French government's systematic deportation of Roma communities. This conference created a platform for developing new ideas and strategies for the European antidiscrimination movement to combat trends such as this by challenging the steady growth of far-right groups, exposing populist thinking and offering Europe an alternative.

The location of each UNITED conference plays a central role in the themes and topics explored; the advances of the far-right in Slovakia provided many points for discussion and was a fitting case study to look at the rise of nationalism and racism against the backdrop of the global financial crisis.

From 16 – 21 May 2011, 78 participants and experts from 30 countries came together to participate in this UNITED conference in Bratislava (SK), to address these issues through learning, debate and collaboration through activities such as the working group “(Anti) Fascism: Do we Need it?”, and workshops “Cyberhate”, “Get Active Against Fascism” and presentation “Challenging Populist Propaganda”. Developing strategies to empower and campaign for the rights of marginalised groups was also on the agenda, identifying barriers for undocumented migrant health in “Healthcare in NowHereland”, the political café “Hate Crime: Challenges for Activists” and LGBT rights in the “Homophobia” workshop. An active civil society is essential in tackling the challenges faced so many sessions also equipped participants with skills for successful and sustainable activism, from “The Basics of NGO Work” to more specialised “Fundraising for NGOs”.

The issues addressed at UNITED conferences reflect the evolving interests and strategies of all those active within the network, always exploring emerging topics and responding to growing needs. As NGOs are competing more and more with other stories to catch journalists' attention, and the tools activists use are increasingly online, participants were trained to be more media-savvy and alert to privacy and security on the Internet.

This conference was made possible through the combined efforts of a number of organisations, individuals and sponsors. The organisations below, along with UNITED were responsible for facilitating working groups and realising the programme:

- People Against Racism (Slovakia)
- Enough (Slovakia)
- Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi (Finland)
- Austrian Students Union Klagenfurt (Austria) • Folksagen - Worthy Life for Asylum Seekers (Denmark)
- Young Mountaineers - Mladi Planinari (Macedonia)

“It is an excellent opportunity to get an overview of the situation throughout Europe and develop ideas for interesting activities. The most exciting is that the conference is a unique place to meet many similar-minded people and encourage each other in what we strive to achieve. Having in mind the current political environment in Europe, we are particularly challenged now-days and we have huge responsibility to act now!”.

[Alexsandra, Initiative for Social Change (MK)]

“The conference rendered me energised and I am very keen to do more work in/for voluntary sector. And certainly will do my best to support the UNITED throughout my work. Tnx for everything! The conference was really an unforgettable experience!!!”.

[Renata, The Children's Society (GB)]



MERGING PARALLEL SOCIETIES: TOOLKIT TO UNITE

International UNITED Network Conference in Struga (MK), 15 - 20 October 2011

The topic of this conference was chosen with Macedonia's particular situation in mind, because it is a country where different communities live without coming into contact with each other. Interethnic tension is rife and smaller communities such as Roma are neglected amidst tension between larger groups. During 5 days of networking, learning, brainstorming and strategising, participants from 83 organisations across 30 countries worked together to find ways European societies can make the imperative step from multicultural (communities living side by side) to intercultural (interacting and living together); to join the parallels.

The conference looked at the complex history of post-conflict regions, the consequences of parallel societies and participation of minority communities whilst identifying the best steps forward through inter-ethnic dialogue and peace conciliation. While local challenges and experiences were explored through presentations on the recent census, elections and a testimonial from a young Kosovar who came to Macedonia as a refugee for example, responses and approaches were developed within an international framework. Involving youth in anti-racism was the focus of the working group "Speak Out for Diversity" "Schools Against Racism" project, whilst media literacy was the main goal of "Critical Thinking About Media" and a creative advertising workshop. Participants took some concrete steps in building the capacity of disadvantaged communities by mapping out how exactly to set up a pan-European Minority Rights Network, and identify sustainable socio-economic development past the Roma Decade, ending in 2015.

UNITED conferences are not only about activists networking with each other, but finding means and gaining opportunities to lobby at an international level. The info-market was opened by Richard Howitt MEP and European Parliament Rapporteur who is involved in the process of Macedonia's EU candidature. Howitt, a follower of UNITED's work for many years, was keen to attend in person to express his support for NGOs defending human rights, and stressing that doing so is a responsibility and obligation. He stated that human rights underline all efforts to merge parallel societies and was eager to build relations with the Macedonian activists present, in order to gain a deeper understanding of their lived realities in such a society. Connecting knowledge, efforts and resources across all levels, from local grassroots to European Parliament, is what UNITED is about. A working group "Networking: Connecting People" identified ways to effectively employ practical tools, especially information and communication technologies, to bridge vast geographic and social distances. The info-market was proof that through interaction and cooperation, all parties can mutually benefit and gain wider insight and influence.

This conference was made possible only through the dedication and combined efforts of many NGOs and individuals who worked alongside UNITED, either as part of the IPG, as facilitators or on technical aspects, to realise the programme. These were:

- Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (Macedonia)
- Multikulti Youth Centre (Macedonia)
- Initiative for Social Change (Macedonia)
- Concordia (Spain)
- Human Rights Monitoring Institute (Lithuania)
- Institute Globalisation and Social Movements (Russia)



"Thank you for inviting me! Thank you for organising this great seminar! Thank you for this great experience! I already talked with my boss, and we see great opportunities of further cooperation with some participants... your network really works! It would be a great pleasure to join the next UNITED conference as well!"

[Matt, Anne Frank House (NL)]

"For me, personally, UNITED conference inspired me in ways i can't even describe. Thank you for that."

Stella, Croatian Debating Society (HR)]

"You may say this is enthusiasm of a new-comer, but right now I think that UNITED conferences contribute not only to a capacity building of small local organizations. They also not only provide time and space for open-minded discussions on the keenest issues. They are even more than a powerful "engine" of partners finding. They invest directly to social development of many countries. Non-governmental organizations strengthened by knowledge and skills obtained by participants during the conferences and from cooperation with their confederates soon become a significant social capital that affects both local communities and decision-makers at the state level. These organizations constitute the civil society and serve as channels of information broadcasting about intentions and needs of people leading to democratization and, hopefully, humanization of our life".

[Nataliia, Pedagogical Centre Academia (UA)]



UNITED PARTNERSHIPS PROJECTS

FROM THEORY TO ACTION

UNITED continuously engages in partnership projects with local network organisations throughout Europe. These projects serve specific aims on regional levels 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 the valuable field-experience necessary to further develop methods and improve strategies.

In 2011 UNITED coordinated 2 main partnership projects:

UTILISING THE NETWORK OF ETHNIC ASSOCIATIONS IN RUSSIA TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN RUSSIA

UNITED and the *Center for Interethnic Cooperation* joined forces in a two year-long partnership within the project "Utilising the Network of Ethnic Associations in Russia to provide support for Youth Organisations in Russia" during the period 2009-2010. In 2011 we have organised the last event of this project.

The project was realised with financial support of the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia and aimed to train and enable leaders of youth and student organisations to spread antidiscrimination values and to reduce xenophobic attitudes in Russian society. Thus, the target group consisted of leaders of student and ethnic organisations from different regions of the Russian Federation as well as regional authorities.

It was particularly important to address students because this group is the most active and potentially influential on its peers. Besides, it is young people who most frequently fall under the influence of nationalist and racist rhetoric.

We believe that it is impossible to struggle against xenophobic attitudes in our society only by means of law enforcement structures. Young people have the opportunity to shape our communities but need to be informed on how to take preventive measures of interethnic conflicts and spread ideas of human rights for all. Therefore, it is obvious that cooperation between authorities, law-enforcement agencies and youth NGOs is also an essential step.

At the start, the project covered seven regions of the Russian Federation: Krasnodar, Astrakhan, Samara, Sverdlovsk, Irkutsk, Yaroslavl regions and the Republic of Karelia; during the project implementation Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Orenburg and Novosibirsk were also added to the list at the request of local organisations.

Our strategy was to target members of organisations from big cities of Russia because they tend to have the highest number of interethnic conflicts. Special attention was given to Kondopoga where in 2006, ethnic riots lead to murders, chaos and violence, as it was important to support local youth and prevent a repetition of the past. Throughout the 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 together with representatives of OSCE-ODIHR, regional authorities, general prosecutors' office and Ministries. We have organised two study visits to the Netherlands for members of youth organisations from 13 regions. Selected participants also took part in international UNITED conferences in Hungary, Ukraine and Great Britain. The project concluded with a big final event held in the Moscow Region.

Related project activities in 2011:

- 02-03 April 2011 - **"Beyond Tolerance - The Fight Against Xenophobia in Russia"**
Training in Piatigorsk (RUS)



CIVIL ORGANISATIONS SERVING SOCIETY: YOUTH ACTIONS AGAINST RACISM, NATIONALISM AND XENOPHOBIA AND FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

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

The goal of this 3-year project, which started in 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 professionalism 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 relevant and appealing 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 change; stimulating a shift in responsibility towards the state in order to advance 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).

Unfortunately, the political situation around the project thematic has become very sensitive and even more complex since December 2010, when authorities were found unprepared with a relevant and efficient response to the mass action and attacks of neo-Nazis in Central Russia. One consequence of this winter right-wing "uprising" is the increased suspicion directed at initiatives in the antifascist-antiracist field, due to the whole agenda becoming very politically affiliated. The situation has worsened during the presidential election campaign, where the "national question" was a key issue.

On the other hand, following recent events on Manezhnaya square, awareness of the problems of racism and xenophobia rose amongst youth and also became more prominent within politics, where institutions regard anti-racist and tolerance work with more relevance. Interest in NGO initiatives and programmes has increased drastically and this type of work became a priority of youth departments and educational institutions even though there is not yet a special national programme or policy paper in this field. Our project is therefore timely as it addresses the challenges, as well as responding to the needs, of Russian civil society today.

Example of related project activities in 2011:

- 6-7 March 2011 - **"Human Rights and Students Rights in the Northern Caucasus"**
Basic Seminar in Nazran (RUS)
- 6-8 April 2011 - **"Training of Trainers for Civil Society Representatives on Preventing and Responding to Hate Crime"**
Training Course in Moscow in cooperation with OSCE-ODIHR (RUS)
- 7-8 April 2011 - **"Development of Institutions to Defend Human Rights in Russia - Strengthening of Cooperation Between State and Human Rights Activists"**
Round Table in Voronezh (RUS)
- 4-5 June 2011, 25-26 June 2011 & 22-23 October 2011 - **"Antifascism and Human Rights"**
Basic Seminar in Moscow and Voronezh (RUS)
- 13-15 August 2011 - **"Non-racism as Principle in Non-formal Education"**
Training Course in Voronezh (RUS)
- 17-21 September 2011 - **Study Trip for Russian Antiracism Activist to The Netherlands**
- 8 November 2011 - **"Cooperation of NGOs, Educational Institutions, Libraries and Educational Authorities in the Field of Preventing Xenophobia among Youth"**
Round Table in Moscow (RUS)
- 12-13 November 2011 - **"Sunday School of Human Rights"**
Basic Seminar in Moscow (RUS)
- 27-30 November 2011 - **"Development of International Civil Initiatives against Racism and Violence in Russia and Russian-speaking Countries"**
Mid-term Conference in Voronezh (RUS)



"It was a very nice and interesting meeting with the Russian activists last Monday. I was very impressed by the group. What a good idea to invite them here and take them to different NGOs. I hope it also brought a lot to them. Also for my work as a freelance journalist this meeting was very interesting and if i go in the future to Russia I will get in contact with them [...] I'm very curious about UNITED's activities in Russia, maybe there will be a chance for cooperation in the future".

[Paul, XminY (NL)]

PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND NON DISCRIMINATION ACTIVITIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE OSCE REGION

This project took place in 2011, thanks to the support of the *OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights* aimed at increase the visibility of the Tolerance and non Discrimination activities among Civil Society Organisations; involve more civil society organisations in the *ODIHR* activities on combating intolerance, discrimination and hate crimes; increase cooperation with organisations monitoring racism, extremism and hate motivated violence; increase the involvement of Civil Society Organisations in providing data on hate crimes and hate motivated incidents that are important for *ODIHR* compilation of Hate Crime Report; provide Civil Society Organisations to contribute in the elaboration of suggestions and recommendations for participating States and the *OSCE*; optimize the use of funds and resources in increasing the number of civil society organisations benefiting from the co-operation with the *ODIHR*.

THE INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP

As an outcome of the UNITED Conference in Bratislava, a group of committed activists that has been involved in the Network since many years, had decided to create an Initiative Group (IG). The groups seeks to provide a new platform of participation, were experienced ("outgrown") members who have been involved in UNITED in different contexts and have developed expertise can participate on different levels. As a platform of participation the IG will aim to maintain and develop UNITED as well as the individual organizations that are represented through its members. In summary, the purpose of the IG is to:

- Create a platform for participation for members who have "outgrown" the UNITED network.
- Strengthen *UNITED* through the expertise the IG has to offer
- Enable members to benefit from each others expertise, eg. through peer-to-peer training within the network.

The first outcome of the IG meeting will be the preparation of a study session at the Council of Europe Youth Centre in Strasbourg (F) on the topic of strategies to tackle Hate Speech (in December 2012).

CREATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Sport can help Europe to address some of the challenges related to the integration of people from less privileged groups, such as migrants and persons of foreign origin.

"Creating a Level Playing Field" is a project coordinated by the *European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO)*, involving *UNITED* with the role of "specialist organisation".

The project aims to support sports and specialized organisations to facilitate access to sport for people from different backgrounds. Partners of the project touch on different approaches to social inclusion of immigrants and persons of foreign origin.



A TRAVELLING SOCIAL CUISINE

Next to these, *UNITED* took the role of a junior partner in the one-year project “A Travelling Social Cuisine” (start July 2010) that was initiated under the lead of the National Institute of Social Integration in Lithuania. The project aim is to enable the post-Soviet countries Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, to effectively combat 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. The project therefore wants to bring together different social (interest) groups to work 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” for action.



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. The growth of the UNITED network is guaranteed by its representation at international and local meetings, conferences and events all over Europe. Moreover, UNITED's presence in media helps the establishment and growth of the Network all over Europe. Throughout 2011 UNITED, parts of publications, results of projects and campaigns, enews etc. are referenced and reported about in newspapers, magazines, blogs and books; while articles from UNITED were published by well-known news and information hubs such as ENAR, MUGAK, ERIO, Institute for Race Relations, Icare and many more.

During 2011 UNITED delegates were invited to many different events and occasions all over Europe. Thanks to UNITED delegates the voice of the network became stronger, more visible and accessible in 2011. 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 UNITED material related to the topic of the meeting, but also the "book of contacts" in which all the new contacts that the delegates made during their delegation are documented.

Experts of the UNITED Network provided advice and shared strategies and know-how during several meetings and conferences such as Vilnius (LT), Berlin (D), Brussels (B), Strasbourg (F), London (GB), Warsaw (PL) and Kiev (UA). Aims of these expertise exchanges were among others: setting up a Solidarity Platform for creating a coalition for tolerance and anti-discrimination; addressing xenophobia; setting up an international campaign "Reclaim Solidarity"; strategies to fight against discrimination.

In 2011 UNITED enjoyed a fruitful cooperation with the *OSCE - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, based in Warsaw (PL)*: a representative of the UNITED Network was invited to OSCE meetings in Vilnius (LT). Furthermore a delegate from the Network was invited to the Fourth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance and Civilizations in Qatar to present the work of UNITED on changing the narratives on Migrants.

Several UNITED delegates were actively involved in the Meeting of the Foundation "Solidarity, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ) Stop Hate Crime! NGO Approaches to Victim Assistance and Monitoring in Europe, where UNITED's contribution was highly valued.

Several members of the European Parliaments are directly supporting the UNITED Network. For example, in 2011, the official European Parliament rapporteur on Macedonia, Richard Howitt, attended the UNITED Conference held in October. The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and the Fundamental Right Agency (FRA) have regular contacts with representatives of the UNITED network.

UNITED has special consultative status with the United Nations - Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Excellent connections exist with Council of Europe and European Commission. Within the Council of Europe, UNITED has a consultative and participative status in Advisory Council on Youth. Our active contribution in several meetings of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth in Strasbourg (F), Budapest (H) was highly appreciated, as well as our participation in the meeting of the "Pool of European Youth Researchers" together with researchers in the field of youth to explore how we can improve our policy-making process based on evidences and good practices from the youth field.



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 2011 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 Europe.

At this point, a special thank is due to the participants at UNITED conferences in Slovakia and Macedonia, who helped to make with private donations a future publication of the European Address Book Against Racism possible.

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 and its political independence.

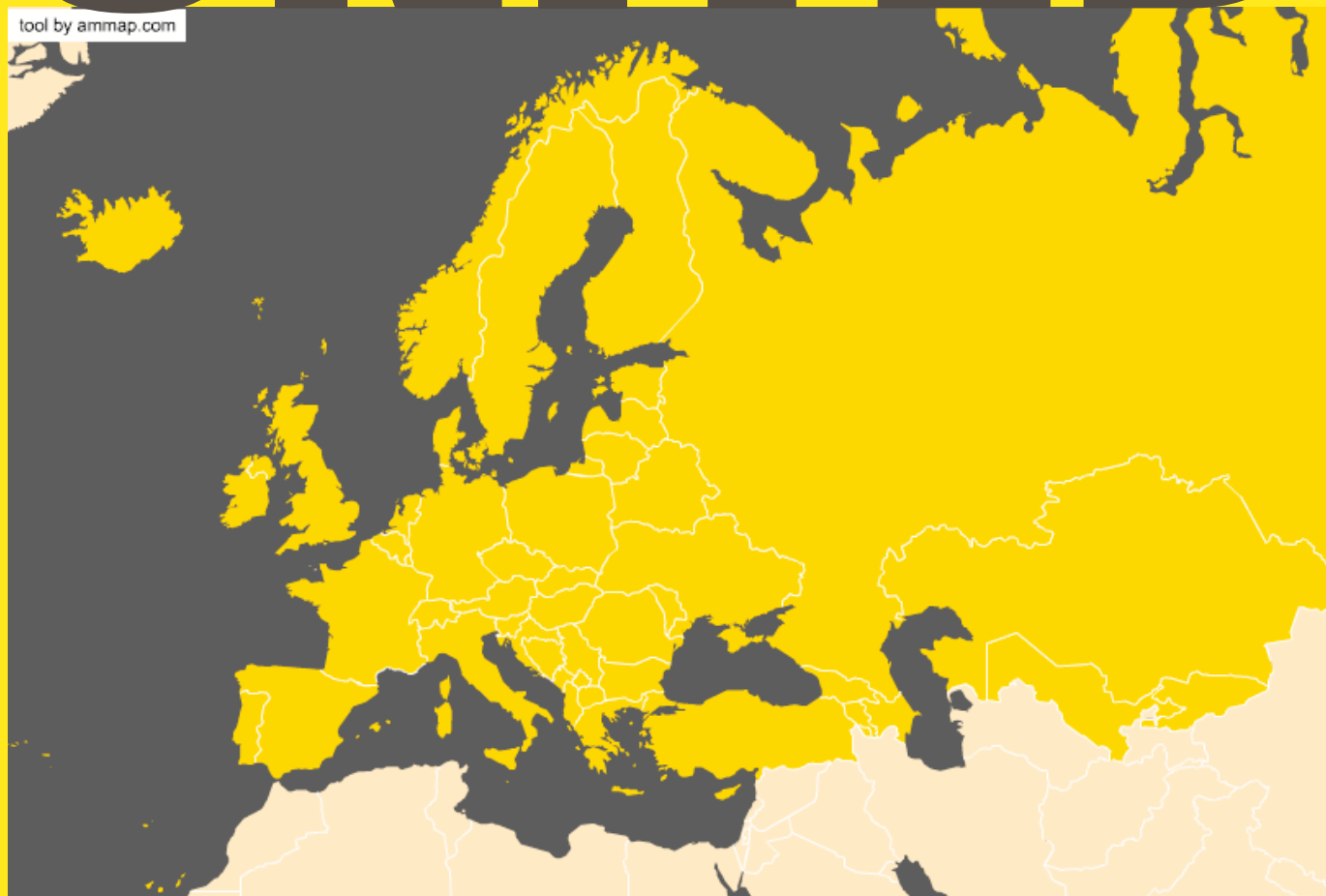
UNITED IS SUPPORTED BY...

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.

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

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