



UNITED FOR INTERCULTURAL ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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1. INTRODUCTION

2016 was yet another difficult year for those who strive for a united and inclusive Europe. With successes for populists all over the continent, multiple reports of rising levels of hate crime, and shrinking space for civil society groups, 2016 showed that the work of the European antiracist movement is both more challenging and more important than ever.

It was a particularly challenging year for UNITED: due to ongoing difficulties in securing funding, we took the difficult decision to move most of the operations of the UNITED secretariat from Amsterdam to a new office in Budapest, where lower costs mean we are able to employ more full-time staff and keep our vital work going. It meant a difficult start to the year, but nonetheless we managed to make 2016 an active year full of activities and campaigns.

Together with partners around Europe, we organised three Europe-wide campaigns and two international conferences. Throughout the year, UNITED also sent delegations to a number of key international events, and maintained information systems that remain among the most extensive documentations of the European antiracist movement.

Now boasting a well-established team in Budapest in addition to our office in Amsterdam, as well as an ever-growing network of activist partners all over Europe, UNITED is now looking forward to many exciting developments in 2017.



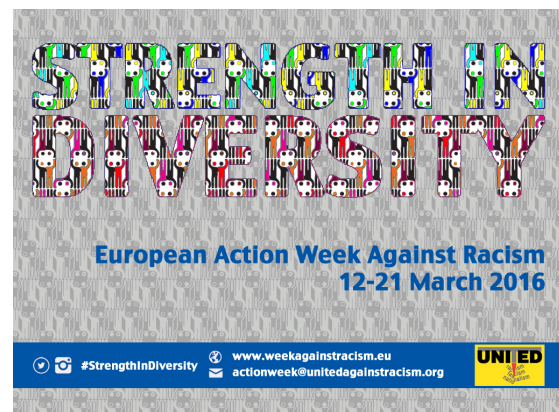
2. CAMPAIGNS

Europe-wide campaigning is one of the key pillars of UNITED's work. Each year, the UNITED secretariat coordinates a number of campaigns, where we invite network activists and other representatives from the European antiracist movement to get involved to take a stand against nationalism, racism and fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. By taking action together with a common message, grassroots organisations all over Europe can raise a strong and UNITED voice against discrimination and for an inclusive, diverse society.

For over twenty years, UNITED has coordinated three annual campaigns: the European Action Week Against Racism (around 21 March), International Refugee Day (20 June) and International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism (9 November). With three distinctive and innovative campaigns, 2016 was an active year for UNITED's campaigns team.

2.1 STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY - EUROPEAN ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM

The European Action Week Against Racism is UNITED's flagship annual campaign. Since UNITED first coordinated this campaign in 1992, hundreds of thousands of people have taken place in activities all over Europe to protest against racism and celebrate diversity around the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March.



Planning for the campaign began in 2015, with input from network activists at the two UNITED conferences. The 2015 Action Week campaign "Hand in Hand for Diversity" was evaluated by participants at the UNITED conference in Spain in May, while new slogans, graphics and campaign ideas were brainstormed at the conference in Budapest



in October. The Budapest meeting resulted in the campaign slogan “Strength in Diversity”, as well as the idea to organise a special poster competition as part of the campaign.

A call to join the campaign was sent to UNITED network contacts in advance of the campaign, informing them of the slogan and theme and inviting them to order free campaign materials: although UNITED did not print any new materials for the 2016 campaign, we did produce high-quality online materials, and were also able to send out paper materials leftover from previous years’ campaigns. A number of UNITED partners, including the Council of Europe’s No Hate Speech Movement campaign, supported with the promotion of the campaign.

The Action Week took place from 12-21 March, with hundreds of activities taking place all over Europe, from street demonstrations and flash-mobs to human libraries, theatre workshops and film screenings. As well as supporting activity organisers with materials, best practice information and by promoting their activities on social media and the Week Against Racism website, UNITED also organised a special poster competition for the 2016 campaign. Activists and budding artists were invited to submit designs on the theme “Strength in Diversity”. Overall, we received over 80 entries; the best designs were presented at a special 21 March event in Budapest, while the winning entrants received a range of prizes, including the chance for their designs to be used to promote future UNITED activities and campaigns.



Additionally, as part of the action week, UNITED coordinated the annual Cities, campaign, inviting mayors and other city representatives to get involved in the



campaign by sending a photo representing the Strength in Diversity of their city, and sharing it via social media and the UNITED website, along with a statement on why they support the campaign. The campaign was a huge success, with the mayors of major cities including Berlin, Lisbon, Geneva and Dublin joining the campaign. For this aspect of the campaign, UNITED worked in collaboration with both the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) and the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe, to ensure the campaign reached as many city representatives as possible.

Throughout the year, UNITED representatives

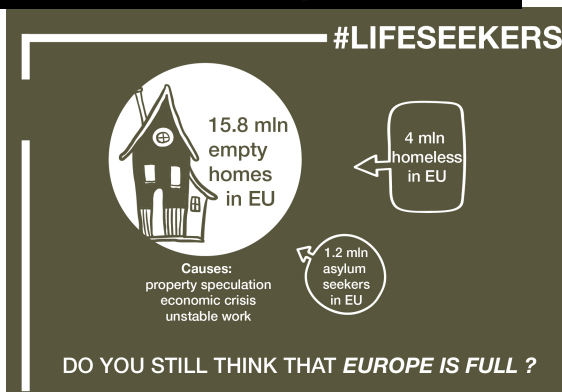
continued to promote the campaign and its success at a host of international events, ensuring the widest possible outreach for the campaign, and promising even more engagement with the campaign in future years.

2.2 #LIFESEEKERS – INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE DAY

2016 saw UNITED coordinated a special campaign to mark International Refugee Day (20 June) in partnership with the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, Associazione Trepuntozero and Foundation for Subjective Values. The #LifeSeekers campaign was an online campaign that sought to challenge the prevalent narrative on migrants and refugees in Europe by calling on policy-makers to stop blaming migrants for the problems facing European societies, and to focus on the real issues.



Designing of the campaign began at the UNITED conference in Italy in April, where conference participants, including representatives of the project partners and contributing organisations Centre for Interethnic Cooperation, SOVA Center for Information and Analysis and Youth Human Rights Movement – International Network, brainstormed campaign ideas and strategies. These were developed following the conference by staff at the UNITED secretariat in cooperation with activists from the project partners and contributing organisations. The website and graphics were created with technical assistance from a freelance web designer and students at the Albert Steiner Institute in Torino.



The campaign took the form of an online initiative, which targeted young people who fell into the “grey zone” of those who were neither active in protecting and advocating for the rights of refugees and migrants in Europe, nor actively hostile to migrants and refugees; it sought to challenge the narrative on migration by confronting members of the target audience with facts and figures about major problems for people in Europe that are commonly blamed on migration, and providing an alternative way of thinking about these problems.

This was achieved by sharing memes and infographics on social media with simple messages, which linked to in-depth articles on a dedicated

campaign website. Visitors to the website were invited to show their support for the campaign by signing the Campaign Statement, which called on European policy-makers to stop scapegoating migrants and refugees and instead focus on the real problems facing young people in Europe today.

The campaign was launched with a special event in Budapest on 20 June and was then actively promoted on social media until 1 September. UNITED, along with partners Foundation for Subjective Values and Menedék, promoted the campaign at two summer festivals in Hungary, Banki To and Sziget, while a media pack was produced and distributed with leaflet designs to help UNITED network organisations promote the campaign at their own summer events.

The design, visual impact and tone of the campaign was praised by many UNITED network contacts, with UNITED representatives invited to speak about the campaign at a number of high profile international events. The campaign was also recognised by the website h8hurts.eu as a best practice example in use of visuals on social media.

2.3 HUMAN RIGHTS SUPERHEROES - INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST FASCISM AND ANTISEMITISM

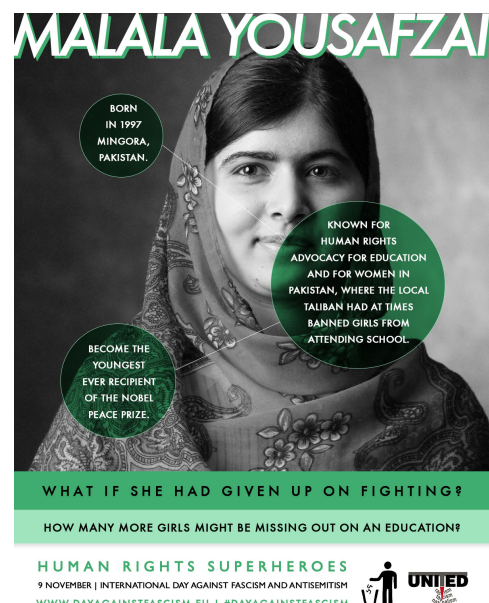


UNITED's final campaign of the year was the annual International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaign on 9 November. Commemorating the anniversary of the "Kristallnacht" pogrom of 1938, this campaign calls on the European antiracist movement to commemorate the victims of European fascism of the

past, and protest against contemporary forms of hate and discrimination.

In 2016, UNITED chose to link the Day Against Fascism campaign with 10 December – International Human Rights day, focusing the campaign on Human Rights Superheroes – people from past and present who made great contributions – and often great sacrifices – to defend the rights of others. These included individuals who had taken heroic action to save the lives of victims of 20th century fascism, such as Raoul Wallenberg, Irena Sendler and Nicholas Winton, as well as more recent examples of people who stood up against discrimination, such as Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai.

To achieve this, staff and volunteers at the

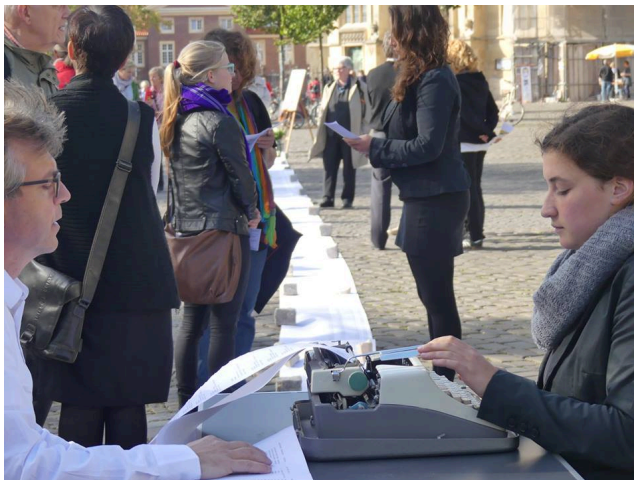


UNITED secretariat created a series of profiles of these Superheroes to be shared via the campaign website and social media. As well as giving key information about these heroic individuals, the profiles served as examples to inspire activists to create and submit profiles of their own Human Rights Superheroes, which were then published on the campaign website. UNITED worked closely with the No Hate Speech Movement, who also organised an Action Day on both 9 November and 10 December, to spread the call for participation to a wide audience.

Additionally, UNITED coordinated the normal 9 November campaign, distributing free campaign materials and stimulating organisations all over Europe to organise campaign activities to mark the Action Day, as well as involving city governments in the campaign by asking mayors and other city representatives to nominate their own Human Rights Superheroes, once again working in collaboration with ECCAR and the Intercultural Cities Programme.

2.4 THE FATAL POLICIES OF FORTRESS EUROPE

Since 1993 UNITED has been monitoring the deadly results of the building of 'Fortress Europe' by making a list of the refugees and migrants, who have died in their attempt of entering the 'Fortress' or as a result of Europe's immigration policies. As of June 2015, UNITED had collected data about the deaths of over 22,000 individuals who died trying to reach Europe.



Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding for the project, UNITED was unable to publish an updated edition of the List of Deaths in 2016, however a number of notable actions took place using the List as a powerful advocacy tool for reform of Europe's inhumane migration policies. One such action took place on 30 September in Münster, Germany,

where activists deployed a 28 meter long print of UNITED's List of Deaths, updated with newer entries from the IOM. One of the activists used a typewriter to add the names of the migrants and refugees who had died in the month between the printing of the list and the action.

A significant highlight came towards the end of the year, when the List was included as part of an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, one of the world's largest and most influential museums focusing on modern art. The exhibition "Insecurities: Tracing Displacement and Shelter explored the ways in which contemporary architecture and design have addressed notions of shelter in light of global refugee emergencies. The extract from UNITED's List of Deaths presented at the exhibition took up a whole



museum wall, offering visitors a striking view of the death that is wrought by Europe's inhumane migration policies.

2016 also saw the launch of the website [15 Years of Fortress Europe \(15years.morizbuesing.com\)](http://15years.morizbuesing.com) a dynamic infographic that maps 15 years of data from UNITED's List of Deaths, showing how death "hot-spots" shift and develop over time. This website went viral on social media, with over 9,000 engagements on Facebook.



3. CONFERENCES

Conferences form another cornerstone of UNITED's work. Through two annual conferences, each organised in a different European country by a rotating International Preparatory Group (IPG) of experienced UNITED network activists, UNITED provides a platform for the European antiracist network to meet, find new partners, plan common actions and develop strategies for future UNITED campaigns and activities.



3.1 MOVING STORIES: NARRATIVES OF MIGRATION CROSSING EUROPE

Together with our partner Trepuntozero, we organised the conference "Moving Stories: Narratives of Migration Crossing Europe" near Torino, Italy, from 22-27 April 2016. The conference aimed to tackle the issue of the prevalent negative media and political rhetoric around the so-called refugee crisis, and to equip young activists with knowledge, tools and best practices to challenge this narrative.



The IPG, featuring representatives from Movimiento contra la Intolerancia (Spain), Menedék (Hungary), APS YARD (Italy), CK13 (Serbia) and Walter Ry (Finland) began planning the conference in a meeting at the previous conference in Budapest (October 2015), while they also had an interim planning meeting in Novi Sad, Serbia, in February 2016.

The conference brought together 80 young activists representing 68 NGOs from 29 European countries. The conference flow began with informal activities where the participants got to know each other and got comfortable working together, moved on to engaging with the topic through panel discussions,



discussion groups, workshops, moving on to working on to producing concrete outcomes through best practice exchange and working groups. The conference used diverse working methods, including panel discussions, presentations, discussion groups, workshops, speed-networking, non-formal education activities, political cafes etc.

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On 22 April (conference Day I), participants arrived at the venue and got acquainted through informal, ice-breaking methods. The methods used were specifically linked to the conference's theme.

The context of the conference was given on the second day. Speakers included Torino City Council member Ilda Curti, who spoke about the situation in Italy and the region. The participants exchanged experiences on the 'danger of words' and examined the difference between facts and public perceptions on migration. OSCE-ODIHR's Christina Sell also gave a presentation on hate crime statistics. In the evening, participants showed their organisation's work and country's culture.



Day III was dedicated to the theory of narrative, and giving participants the tools and knowledge to assess and deconstruct populist narratives on migration. Speakers included EUROCLIO director Jonathan Even-Zohar and former IOM sociologist Stefano Volpicelli. There was also a panel discussion where speakers concluded with informal political café activities, where participants had the chance to organise their own discussion groups about burning issues. Selected from among the participants told their own, personal stories about the effect of discriminatory narratives. The day concluded with informal political café

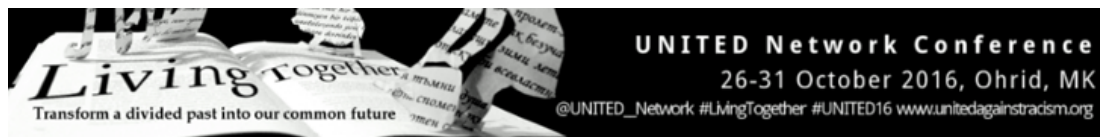
activities, where participants had the chance to organise their own discussion groups about burning issues.

Day IV started with a panel where speakers presented best practices for challenging the narrative on migration, following which participants split into 5 working groups, in which they worked for the final two days of the conference, learning about tools for campaigning on narrative, and finally evaluating previous UNITED campaigns and working on outcomes including plans for upcoming UNITED campaigns. In the afternoon, participants had the chance to meet local NGOs, and to ask questions to Monica Cerutti, Regional Minister for Equal Opportunities, Civil Rights and Migration. This was followed by informal activities such as a thematic walk and film night.



Day V opened with a panel where UNITED's Balint Josa and ENAR director Michael Privot talked about how the popular narrative in Europe developed and how it can be challenged, after which participants continued in their working groups from the previous day, evaluating former UNITED campaigns and working on plans for the upcoming campaign that UNITED will organise in partnership with the EU-Russia Civil

Society Forum on narrative. The conference concluded with an open space for participants to give feedback, and a formal closing, while participants organised a farewell intercultural party in the final evening.



3.2 LIVING TOGETHER: TRANSFORM A DIVIDED PAST INTO OUR COMMON FUTURE

From 26-31 October, around 73 activists representing 60 civil society organisations from 29 European countries met at a venue near Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia for the UNITED conference “Living Together: Transform a divided past into our common future”. Focusing on the topic of national reconciliation and nation-building, the conference offered participants the opportunity to learn about and discuss the topic, exchange ideas and best practices, and to network with other like-minded activists from all over Europe. Participants worked together to produce a manual outlining a best practice for work on national reconciliation, and also worked on plans for future UNITED network campaigns

The IPG, composed of representatives from ASSAM-Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (Turkey), KISA – Action for Equality, Support, Anti-racism (Cyprus), Refugees Welcome Greece, STUBE – Ost. Das Studienbegleitprogramm für Internationale Studierende in Mitteldeutschland

(Germany) and Útilapu Hálózat – SCI Hungary, met to plan the conference programme at the previous conference in Italy and continued working together in the intervening months using online communication tools.



The conference began on 26 October 2016 (Day I), when participants arrived at the venue, registered and got to know each other over informal icebreaker activities. Day II began with a welcome session in plenary, where UNITED programme coordinator Balint Josa gave a short introduction to the UNITED network and CID president Milosh Ristovski introduced the work of CID, and participants were also given the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves and their organisations.

This was followed by the conference's first panel discussion "On Good Terms", where participants were introduced to the concept of national reconciliation from different perspectives. In the afternoon, participants worked in discussion groups on the Danger of Words. In the first part of the session, they looked at a variety of different examples of hate speech, analysing how words can be damaging when misused. In the second part of the session, they are taking part in discussion groups to find out what unites them as a group, and to hear more about the work of the different organisations represented at the conference. The day's formal programme concluded with a plenary session where participants were able to discuss the issues that came up in the working groups, including a very deep discussion about the nature of political correctness and whether words should be considered as dangerous. In the evening, conference participants took part in a speed-networking activity where they got to know more about each other's work and best practices. They also had the chance to share and try different international snacks and drinks they brought from all over Europe.



In the morning of Day III, after a brief introduction in the plenary, participants took part in different working groups to discuss the Lessons Learnt from different conflicts. Following this, participants took part in different workshops to learn about various tools that can be used in the reconciliation process. After the workshops, participants heard a presentation on UNITED campaigns given by UNITED media & communications coordinator Jonathan Karstadt, alongside Turkish artist Banu Cennetoglu, who talked about the work she has done over the last 10 years using UNITED's List of Deaths. The day's final session was "Tell Us Your Story", where participants shared personal testimonies and stories about their experience with discrimination, conflict and reconciliation. This

session was followed in the evening by a film screening and political cafes, where participants were free to choose burning topics for informal debates.



On days IV and V, participants worked on producing a manual for civil society organisations in how to engage in reconciliation programmes. Each group looked at a different aspect of the reconciliation process, from researching conflicts to selling reconciliation to the public. They began with brainstorming

general ideas and discussing different strategies on the first day of the working groups, and then went on to formulate concrete proposals, which they presented to the rest of the participants. Together they produced outlines to five chapters on the reconciliation process: Research, Building up Reactions, Education, Selling it to the Public and Justice.

On the afternoon of Day IV, participants had the opportunity to visit local NGOs in Struga, and to visit the historic city of Ohrid and learn about the history of the city through a thematic tour.

After the morning of Day V was dedicated to concluding work on the manual, in the afternoon, Serena Pescatore and Francois Deleu of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) addressed the conference on the under-recorded and under-reported hate crimes in Europe, and the work that ODIHR is doing on collecting hate crime data and training different stakeholders in how to react to hate crimes. This presentation preceded a training workshop that the pair delivered to around 30 of the conference participants over the two days directly following the conference.



The final part of the formal conference programme was working on ideas for the different UNITED campaigns. One group worked on coming up with new ideas to be implemented in the European Action Week Against Racism 2017 and evaluating the 2016 campaign, while another group evaluated the recent activities in the frame of the Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe campaign and the #LifeSeekers campaign, while a third group worked on strategies for this year's 9 November International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaign, which was launched shortly after the conference. After discussions in working groups, participants shared the outcome of their discussions in plenary.

This was followed by the formal closing of the conference. After some final remarks and words of thanks from the organisers, participants had the chance to share their thoughts on the conference and their relationship with UNITED.

Some participants also made a delegation to a local photo exhibition about Anne Frank, which was attended by the Dutch ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia. He came to the conference venue to address some closing remarks to the conference. Such a visit to the conference by a high-profile figure such as this demonstrates the well-established reputation of UNITED throughout Europe. The conference ended with an informal intercultural party.



4. DELEGATIONS

Representatives of UNITED frequently represent the UNITED network and the broader antiracist movement at high-profile international events organised by international NGOs and intergovernmental organisations. In 2016, UNITED sent delegates to meetings and conferences all over Europe to advocate for the interests of the European antiracist movement.

An important intergovernmental organisation that UNITED focused on in 2016 was the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). UNITED already has a good relationship with the OSCE, in particular its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), having in previous years co-published publications as well as working together on organising trainings, usually focused on hate crime responses and reporting. In 2016 we once again cooperated with ODIHR to organise a training for civil society organisations on hate crime following our conference in Republic of Macedonia (see 3.2), while UNITED representatives also took part in key international events organised by the OSCE.



One of these was the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw in September, where UNITED convened

a side event entitled “The Refugee Crisis: a Key OSCE Matter”. At the meeting chaired by UNITED spokesperson Ralph du Long, UNITED programme coordinator Balint Josa spoke about the growing polarisation in European societies regarding attitudes to refugees and the impact of the negative narrative around refugees that is routinely spread by populist media and politicians, as well as giving an introduction to UNITED’s #LifeSeekers campaign (see 2.3).

Another key OSCE event UNITED participated in was the Ministerial Council and Parallel Civil Society Conference in Hamburg in December. Along with other members of the Civil Solidarity Platform (CSP), UNITED presented a set of recommendations to member states highlighting the need for protection and expansion of civil society space in Europe, as well as reaffirming the need to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and minorities. Mr Josa again represented UNITED at the Parallel Civil Society Conference and gave a presentation on the lack of solidarity between European states in their reaction to the refugee crisis.



UNITED also participated in a number of international meetings organised in the frame of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum. As an NGO network with one of the largest presences in the post-Soviet countries, UNITED sees this as an important strategic relationship. UNITED sent delegates to important meetings of the Forum, such as the Eurolab – Forum for Young Professionals in Zagreb in August, as well as a key NGO meeting in London in October. UNITED also played a key role in establishing the Forum's new Working Group on Migration, which was officially established at an event in Torino in November attended by UNITED representatives Balint Josa and Ralph du Long. UNITED also worked with in cooperation with the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum and several other Forum members on the #LifeSeekers campaign (see 2.3).

Another highlight of 2016 came in November, when UNITED representatives Balint Josa and Geert Ates addressed the General Assembly of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR). They talked to the assembled representatives of city governments and NGOs on UNITED's annual campaigns and how city representatives can get involved, and ended the meeting with an agreement with ECCAR to work more closely on future campaigns, starting with the European Action Week Against Racism 2017. UNITED also worked with ECCAR to engage city governments in the European Action Week Against Racism



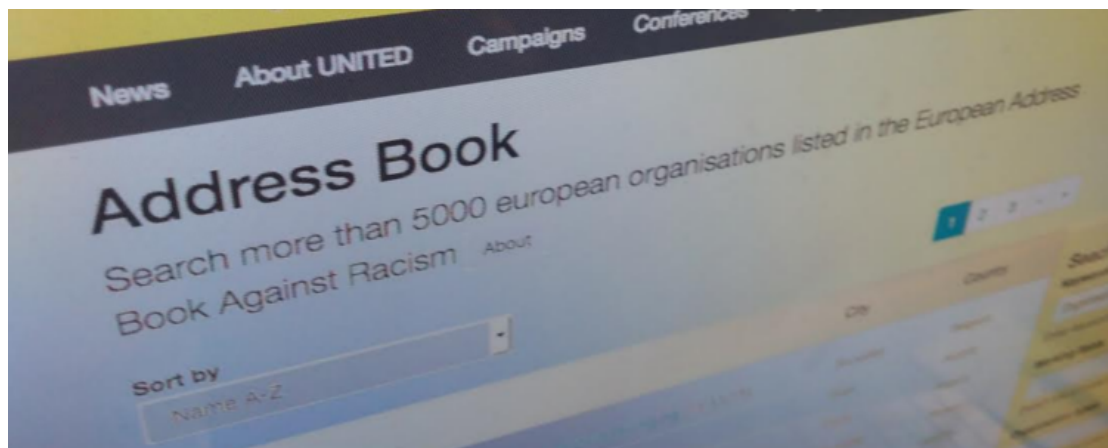
and International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaigns (see 2.1 and 2.3).

UNITED also continued to participate actively in the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech Movement campaign. UNITED representatives were key in establishing the campaign in 2012, and UNITED delegates continued to play an influential role at a number of

campaign events in 2016, including the 4th Coordination meeting of the NHSM

campaign in Tirana in September. The No Hate Speech Movement also worked with UNITED on promotion of the European Action Week Against Racism and International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaigns (see 2.1 and 2.3).

Additionally, UNITED was represented at meetings convened by a wide range of organisations, including the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the International Federation of Resistance Fighters (FIR), Cities for Europe, Diem 25, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and a host of other organisations.



5. INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Throughout the year, UNITED continued to maintain information systems that remain among the most detailed sources of information about the European antiracist movement. This is centred around the UNITED database; kept on a server at a secure location in the Netherlands, the UNITED database includes details of over 8,000 organisations and activists all over Europe. It forms the basis of the UNITED Address Book Against Racism, a regularly-updated online address book that includes details of over 6,000 organisations active in the fight against nationalism, racism and fascism in Europe. 2016 saw a significant update to the Address Book, as well as regular updates to the online Calendar of Internationalism, a calendar detailing antiracist events and meetings taking place all over Europe.

The database also forms the basis of our mailing list, which currently features over 12,000 contacts. This facilitates a regular E-News service, in which we update the network about our campaigns and events, as well as other important news updates from the European antiracist movement. In 2016, we updated the format of our E-News, creating monthly e-mail newsletter with news from UNITED, news from the network, and highlights from the UNITED website.

Our website also provides an archive of two decades of UNITED publications and projects, the value of which came to light in 2016. In the wake of spikes in numbers of hate crime incidents that followed the Brexit referendum result in the United Kingdom, and again following the presidential election in the United States, our information leaflet “Who if not you? How you can intervene when witnessing racist assaults” went viral on social media. Our analysis shows that the link to the text of the information leaflet was shared over 14,000 times on Facebook, while it was also tweeted hundreds of times on Twitter throughout the year.

February

06/02/16

UAF Conference : Unite Against Fascism and Racism

Organised by Unite Against Fascism

Language: English

Topics: Antifascism, migrant and refugee rights

Across Europe racist and fascist parties, such as the Front National in France, are seizing on the refugee crisis as well as the climate of Islamophobia in mainstream politics. UAF has been at the forefront of driving back fascism for over a decade, organising the broadest and most effective campaigns to defeat them.

The UAF conference this year will incorporate workshops on the “Refugees Welcome Here” campaign that Stand Up to Racism has been co-ordinating. As well as sessions on how we combat Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and resisting the resurgence of the far-right. Solidarity and unity against racism and fascism is more important than ever. Join the UAF National conference to make a stand against racism and fascism.

Time: 10am to 4:30pm

Venue: NUT HQ

Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD, United Kingdom

Facebook

06/02/16

No One is Illegal/ Aurora -3 Migszol

Organised by Migszol Csoport

Topics: migration, refugees

After a summer that witnessed huge changes in the demographic distribution of refugees and asylum seekers all over Europe, constant changes of the refugee laws, most of us were busy following the news and trying to help people in their journey to reach their final destination. There are some asylum seekers, refugees who are left in Hungary mainly in the camps and they are waiting for their papers to be processed as Hungary became their final destination. Migszol is happy to invite you to a social event with refugees from Bicske camp, so you can meet and hang out with them, talk to them and give them some tips and guidance about the city.

Venue: Aurora

Aurora u. 11, H-1084, Budapest, Hungary

Facebook

16/02/16

The refugee crisis: an insider's view for outsiders

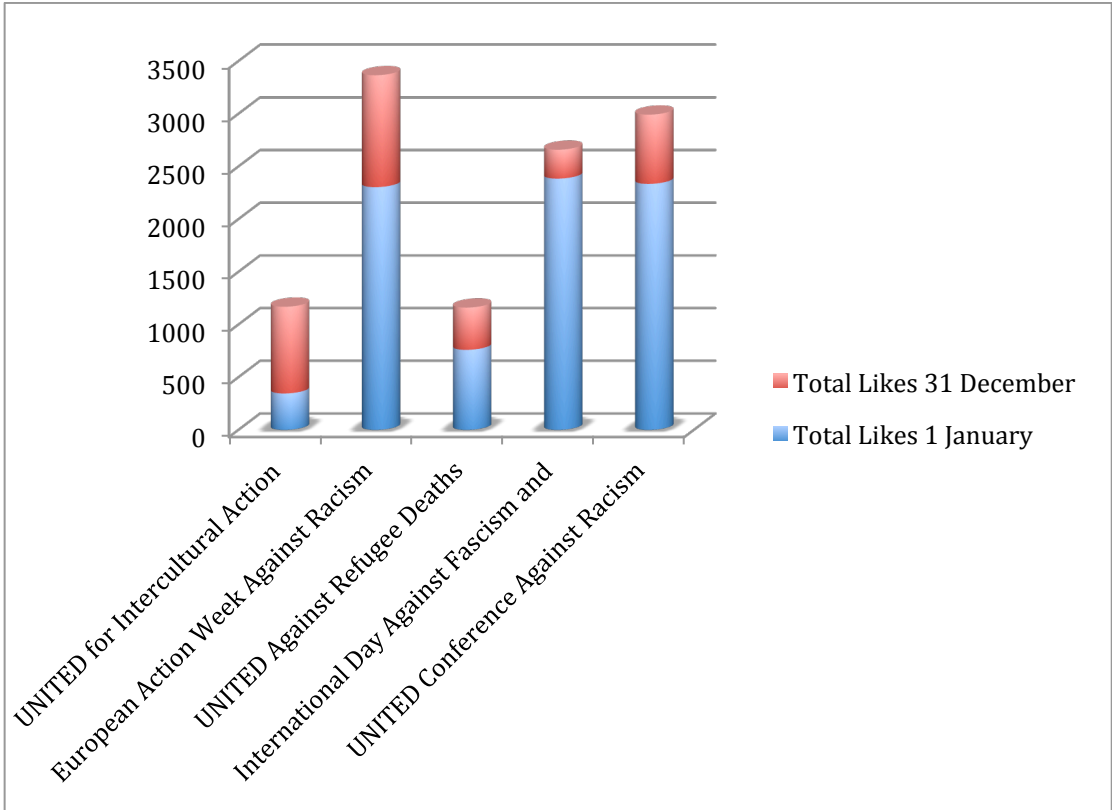
Organised by European Policy Centre

Topic: refugees

Language: English

Under the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union, which started in July 2015, one of the biggest refugee crises the EU has experienced since World War II erupted and almost overnight became the top priority for EU leaders. With the sense of urgency increasing every

We greatly enhanced our social media outreach over the course of 2016. We particularly improved our use of Twitter, with an increased engagement with the platform leading our number of followers to double over the course of the year. This paid dividends, as our tweets made over 340,000 impressions in 2016, a massive increase on the total of 41,000 for 2015. We also grew our audience on all five of our Facebook pages [see graph]. Additionally, we expanded our presence on social media by establishing accounts on several platforms, including LinkedIn, Instagram and VKontakte.



6. CONCLUSION

Despite the difficulties posed by a lack of finance a difficult environment for the European NGO sector, UNITED enjoyed an active 2016 with a number of key highlights. Our establishment of a new office in Budapest has broadened our prospects for new projects and partnerships, and ensured the continuity of the UNITED network. With our network continuing to grow, we are looking forward to another active year in 2017.

7. SUPPORTED BY...

UNITED is supported by:

- more than 550 organisations from all European countries
- many prominent individuals
- private supporters
- long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service and the EVS, Grundtvig and Leonardo Programmes of the European Union.

Since 1992 financial support was received from various sponsors such as: European Commission (General Budget/Socrates/Grundtvig/Youth in Action/Erasmus+/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, Rechtstextremismus 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, 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, Youth Board of Cyprus, Jewish Humanitarian Fund, Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future, Minority Rights Group Europe, OSCE – Mission to Skopje, Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Provincie Noord-Brabant, Open Society Foundations, Children and Youth Development Fund Georgia, Final Frontiers Internet, Dijkman Print, the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum and others.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This publication has been funded with support of the Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation) and the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

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8. WE ARE UNITED

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants, refugees and minorities. Together with over 560 supporter organisations all around Europe, ranging from local grassroots associations to national and international NGOs, UNITED coordinates campaigns, organises conferences, takes part in projects, produces publications and undertakes advocacy work to protest against discrimination and promote our shared vision for a diverse and inclusive society.

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