

Annual Report 2018



UNITED for Intercultural Action
The European Network Against
Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in
Support of Migrants and Refugees

Who We Are

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

Together with 546 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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Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of December 2018. Nevertheless, UNITED cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

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Introduction

2018 was a very turbulent year for UNITED and for Europe. Ongoing trends involving attacks against NGOs and the media, the so-called shrinking public space, continue to pose a threat to democratic values, which is complemented by a continuing fight between populism and traditional parties resulting in electoral wins and losses in the Netherlands, Slovenia, Hungary and Germany. Europe is experiencing a rise in xenophobia, anti-semitism and hate crimes, as reports of institutions such as OSCE or FRA testify. This rise in hate crimes also struck UNITED personally as it resulted in a death of one of our own – Vitali Safarov, whose memory we will cherish forever.

Despite the hardships of the year, we could also see signs of hope. UNITED's List of Refugee Deaths received intense media attention in 2018, having been published in the Guardian and portrayed at several exhibitions and street actions across the world, raising public attention to the fatalities of European migration policies. Despite the rising tide of intolerance and hatred in 2018, Europe showed the power of solidarity in demonstrations, protests, and gatherings – such as in the aftermath of the horrific attacks in Chemnitz. We stand UNITED for 2019, before the European Parliamentary Elections that will decide the political direction of Europe for the next five (or twenty) years to come, and we encourage the European civil society community and European citizens to join us.

New Developments in 2018 in UNITED

In 2018, our campaigns were designed and coordinated by UNITED's first Campaign Preparatory Group (CPG), involving experienced international activists who ensured the harmonisation of the campaign highlights. Establishing the CPG is part of our efforts to ensure a higher level of involvement of network activists in designing campaign content and its implementation. 2018 also marks the first year of our Youth Advisory Board, established to set a strategic direction for the UNITED network, based on the network organisations' needs and objectives, as well as to further improve our accountability and transparency.

Balint Josa, Project Coordinator, UNITED For Intercultural Action
19 December 2018

2018 Highlights



The UNITED network currently counts **546 network organisations** in Europe

UNITED for Intercultural Action was mentioned in news media **over 100 times**



Our newsletter goes out to **over 12,000** addresses

In 2018, our combined Facebook and Twitter outreach was **370,125**, and our website was viewed **46,625** times



The UNITED Network was represented at **24 events in 13 countries** across Europe

Campaigns



**European Action Week
Against Racism**

**International Day Against
Fascism and Anti-semitism**

Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe

Europe-wide campaigning is one of the key pillars of UNITED's work. Each year, the UNITED Secretariat coordinates a number of campaigns, inspiring and encouraging network organisations and activists to promote the value of diversity and a hate-free culture in European societies, as well as to raise awareness of the dangers that threaten traditional European values of solidarity and democracy, such as the increasing populism, extreme nationalism, fascism and hate speech.

European Action Week Against Racism

Diversity - Never enough!

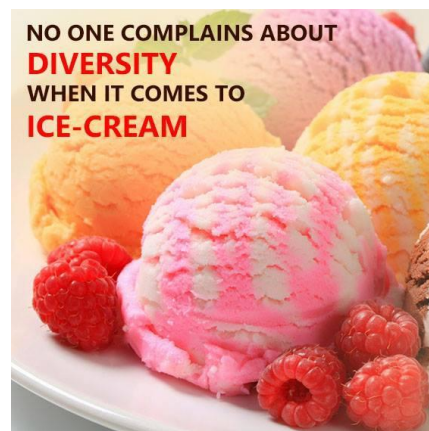
17-25 March 2018

Every year, UNITED coordinates a weeklong Europe-wide campaign around 21 March to protest against all forms of racism and discrimination and to celebrate the diversity that enriches European societies.

The European Action Week Against Racism 2018 took place between 17-25 March under the slogan "Diversity - never enough!" UNITED strongly values its diverse and eclectic network of people and activists around Europe. We called on everyone to celebrate the cultural diversity of Europe – while racist and right-wing forces feed on our differences and want societies to be divided, we focus on what we have in common rather than what separates us.

This year we had five suggested activities that we encouraged civil society organisations to organise to mark the Action Week: Movie night with a list of movie ideas on the website, Diversity Party with a song list on Spotify, Walkathon/Bikeathon/Marathon, Antiracist Picnic, Human Library.

In this year's European Action Week Against Racism, more than 200 hundred events were reported and added to our Interactive Activity Map. More than 350.000 people were reached with our online campaign, while around 300 organisations have been personally contacted and encouraged to take part in the movement.



200+ events
organised!

Campaign Highlights

March Against Racism

Europe-wide

On March 17, Stand Up to Racism coordinated marches around Europe to protest against racism and all other forms of discrimination as well as against international policies on migration. Demonstrations have been organized in Greece, UK, Ireland, Turkey, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, France, Germany, Austria and Denmark.

Diversity! Never Enough!

Malta

Another campaign highlight by SOS Malta, where a human chain was organised with a group of NGOs and the general public at and around the Triton Fountain in Valletta, calling on the Government of Malta to take comprehensive, concrete and coherent action to tackle racial discrimination in Malta.

Antiracist Picnic

Greece

We also really enjoyed being part of an antiracist picnic to say 'stop' to all racist approaches around the world and to get united through good food and fun games, which was followed by movie nights in the following week, organized by Balkan Hotspot and United Society of Balkans volunteers.

Together for a Better World

Romania

The Romanian Institute for Human Rights organized a series of dialogues entitled 'Together for a better world' Caravan with students on the topic of antidiscrimination in several schools in Ploiesti, Romania.



International Day Against Fascism and Anti-semitism

Speak up Now! 9th November

9 November 2018 marked the 80th anniversary of the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom in 1938 in Germany and Austria. Today, racist, fascist and Neo-Nazi movements are on the rise all over Europe.

For this year's International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaign, UNITED mobilized civil society to raise their voice and to get active through our campaign under the slogan 'Speak up now! Fighting fascism is not radical, it is necessary!' Through the campaign, UNITED empowered many NGOs, initiatives and associations in Europe to take action in this year's campaign to take a firm stand against Neo-Nazis and fascists.



**66,802 people
reached on
social media!**

Campaign Highlights

Omladinska organizacija Svitac (Firefly) in Bosnia celebrated the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism on the 9th of November. The day consisted of activities for three different age groups, including a puppet theatre about discrimination and racism, workshops and film screenings as well as a recording of the song 'Bella Ciao'.

Human Constanta organized the festival Розныя-Роўныя (Different-Equal) taking place in 6 different cities in Belarus with 14 events. They organized seminars, workshops, a concert, a football festival and film screenings with follow-up discussions against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia.

The Center of social legal and environmental initiatives in Saratov, Russia, held a picket and posted 50 posters on 9 November.



Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe

The List of Refugee Deaths - All-year

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. By the end of 2018, more than **35,597 deaths** have been documented in the UNITED List of Refugee Deaths. Since its inception, the list has grown to become an important tool for activism around the world – it is free for anyone to download from our website. In 2018, the List of Refugee Deaths was used in ever-more creative and inspiring ways.

Highlights of the List of Refugee Deaths

The List was installed for the Liverpool Biennial - and consequently vandalised three times in the process.



On World Refugee Day 21st June, the List was published in the Guardian and II Manifesto, gathering great media attention.



It became an 80-meter long installation in Leuwaarden (NL), the European Capital of Culture 2018.



It was used as a tool of activism at a in Palermo, Italy, against Salvini's decision to close the ports to ships rescuing migrants at sea.



It was digitalised, broadcasting names from the list on Twitter every 4 hours.

Network Meetings



**Building Shared Space -
Best Practices in Integration**

**Modern-day Activism -
Listen to the Voice of Migrants**

In 2018, UNITED organised an international conference in Hungary for our Network members on the subject of Integration of migrants and refugees, and co-organised an International Partnership Event in Lithuania on changing negative narratives around migration. These meetings enable effective exchange of best practices and provide a space for NGOs from all over Europe to learn from each other and connect across borders. Through these gatherings, we planned and discussed European-wide action weeks, campaigns, and collaborations on new ideas and projects.

Building Shared Space - Best Practices in Integration

22-25 May 2018 - Budapest, Hungary

The 'Building Shared Space – Best Practices in Integration' UNITED conference took place in Budapest between 22-25 May 2018 with the aim of discussing the most important challenges as well as possible solutions within the field of migrant integration in Hungary and in the European Union.



The difference of local contexts of migrant integration in several European countries, such as Hungary, Italy and Turkey, and the difficulties migrants face were reported and discussed. The problems mentioned ranged from cultural differences, educational disadvantages and psychological aspects to the lack of access to healthcare and social services.

Presentations introduced best practices of supporting integration and helping migrants through concrete examples in various cities all over Europe, such as in Bologna, Gdansk and Budapest, and discussions between participants were encouraged to tackle those problems. The discussions showed that racial prejudice can be reduced and integration can be supported if locals and migrants participate in activities together, highlighting the importance of community engagement in local projects. Especially the role of civil society in the migrant integration process was addressed by lectures and a panel discussion. Football as a common activity was mentioned several times to spread awareness of and reduce racial prejudice.

Among others, the Facing Facts project of CEJI Jewish organisation was presented as a good practice, whose aim is to tackle hate speech and hate crimes by offering online courses for civil society as well as police officers and decision-makers. Their 'Bias-indicators course' assists police officers, decision-makers as well as civil society workers to map the wide range of indicators behind hate crimes in order to better understand and thus better tackles hate crimes.

The UNITED conference finished with a study visit to three migrant support organisations in Budapest, highlighting issues that the organisations face in terms of migrant integration under the current political situation in the country.

Modern-day Activism - Listen to the Voice of Migrants

14-18 September 2018 - Vilnius, Lithuania

UNITED for Intercultural Action, in cooperation with the National Institute for Social Integration, Lithuania, connected 40 NGO representatives at an international Partnership Event on innovative methods in promoting active citizenship, entitled 'Modern-day Activism - Listen to the Voice of Migrants', between 14-18 September 2018.



The event focused on presenting and transferring successful and innovative methods on engaging young people in civic life and increase their participation in the antiracist movement, and to enable European citizens to develop counter-narratives to hate speech.

Through this international event, the aim was to empower NGYOs to boost youth participation in the antiracist movement, build capacity of NGOs by sharing best practices on changing narratives and the perception of migration through youth activism, and developing methodologies to improve the Internet and media literacy of youth.

Participants developed the content, graphic design and technical solution for a traveling exhibition of headlines. An international team of experts from different educational backgrounds gathered headlines of articles that were published in their countries, in which content is based on bias and generalizations about migrants and refugees. Then headlines were rewritten to draw attention on how media represent different groups of society.

Participants developed the design and implementation process of two large-scale events in Hungary and Lithuania in 2019 that will use an innovative methodology of Migrant Library. The Migrant Library gives an opportunity to migrants to enter the parliament buildings and discuss with politicians about their stories and struggles with politicians, as an unconventional approach to lobbying.

During the partnership event, training course was also developed for journalists, in which participants will be expected to identify hate speech and neutralize it. Moreover, journalists and experts designed journalistic experiments and creative content to reflect the situation in each participatory country. Significant importance was given to journalism ethics, and the privacy of those individuals involved in experiments.



Other Activities



UNITED regularly cooperates in projects together with partners all over Europe. Furthermore, UNITED delegates represent the network at international meetings, conferences and events on our topics of interest. Their reports help us widen our horizon on different levels and skills. Additionally, the cooperation in projects such as 'Voice4Migrants' or 'STAR E' represents another key component of our work.

Delegations

In 2018, the UNITED Network sent delegates to a total of **24 international conferences, meetings, and events in 13 countries across Europe**. During these events, UNITED representatives made new connections with key stakeholders, strengthened the networks' visibility, and were key advocates for the European anti-racist movement.

The main themes discussed this year were tied to the shrinking civil society space in Europe, with UNITED joining with other NGOs in Milano to protest their exclusion from the OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting this December. Other important themes discussed were hate speech, both online and face-to-face, the situation of the Roma, and the role of youth work in fostering peace and tolerance. UNITED also attended the famous Sziget Festival in Hungary to explain our work to hundreds of visitors, thereby challenging their knowledge on migration.



Events with UNITED Network Representation 2018

- **Assembly of Resistances for Central and Eastern European Countries** by Transform Network (Budapest, Hungary; April)
- **Civil Courage against Discrimination** by AFSAI (Rome, Italy; April)
- **EU Serbia delegation, presentation to teachers and students** by OSCE (Budapest, Hungary; May)
- **The International Conference on Discrimination** by AMER/KODA (Istanbul, Turkey; May)
- **CSP Retreat** by CSP (Vienna, Austria; May)
- **EuroDIG 2018** by EuroDIG/ Council of Europe (Tbilisi, Georgia; June)
- **ENAR celebrating 20 years of anti-racist movement in Europe** by ENAR (Lisbon, Portugal; June)
- **Dikh He Na Bister (Look and don't forget), Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative** by Council of Europe (Krakow, Poland; August)
- **Conference on Youth Radicalization** by Subjective Values Foundation (Budapest, Hungary; September)
- **Generation Europe Method Workshop** by IBB (Weimar, Germany; September)
- **From Education to Employment - a key step in Roma inclusion** by Council of Europe (Brijuni, Croatia; September)
- **Freedom from hate: Empowering civil society to counter cyberhate against Roma** by MRG (Budapest, Hungary; October)
- **SHDM** by OSCE (Vienna, Austria; October)
- **Volunteering as a tool for peace?** by Grenzenlos (Vienna, Austria; October)
- **39th meeting of the Joint Council of Youth** by Council of Europe (Vienna, Austria; October) **"Brain Drain or Brain Gain?"** by Council of Europe/European Youth Card Association (Zagreb, Croatia; October)
- **Roma genocide education with young people in Lithuania** by Council of Europe (Vilnius, Lithuania; November)
- **Seminar on the Role of Roma Youth in Policy and decision-making bodies and structures** by Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France; November)
- **World Forum for Democracy** by Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France; November)
- **Global Science, Technology & Innovation Conference** by VITO (Brussels, Belgium; November)
- **"When the war comes" Movie Screening - Panel Discussion** by The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna, Austria; December)
- **Inclusion of Migrants & Refugees Conference** by Amsterdam City (Amsterdam, Netherlands; December)
- **OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference 2018** by Coordination Committee of the Civic Solidarity Platform (Milano, Italy; December)
- **40th meeting of the Programming Committee on Youth** by Council of Europe (Budapest, Hungary; December)

Voice4Migrants

European Citizen Project

The Voice4Migrants project aims to foster dialogue of migrant integration and the reception of refugees across European countries, and to enable European citizens to develop counter-narratives to hate speech. Furthermore, the project will provide migrants with the opportunity to share their personal testimonies and experiences of integration policies with the public. UNITED for Intercultural Action is involved in the project together with seven partner organisations from the network.

As the first international expert event of the project, in September 2018, delegates from eight organisations took part in the Voice4Migrants Strategic Partnership Event in Lithuania where experts exchanged knowledge and practices in changing public perception on migration and the role of media in forming public perception. A short video can be watched [here](#) about this event.

At the Partnership Event, UNITED delegates worked with other 40 other 'changemakers' from all over Europe. Apart from exchanging knowledge and practices, the partnership planned the upcoming events of the Voice4Migrants project. In the course of 2019, two large-scale events will be organised in Lithuania and Hungary, including a special methodology of Migrant Library; a training course will be organised for journalists in spring 2019; and a travelling exhibition and a series of journalistic experiments will be implemented by journalists all over Europe to challenge citizens about their perception towards migrants. Implementation of the activities planned at this Partnership Event will happen in the course of 2019.



STAR E – Standing Together Against Racism in Europe

Strategic Partnership Project 2017-2020

STAR E has been established in the context of the current challenges of increasing racism and intolerance towards refugees. The aim of the strategic partnership project “STAR E” is to strengthen the role and profile of youth NGOs in combating racism, becoming facilitators of dialogue and inclusion and empowering young people of colour, refugees and migrants at European level.



The STAR E project brings together nine partner organizations to develop innovative educational concepts and management strategies in order to enable youth organizations to realize and confront the realities of racism in their own working contexts and environment. The partnership is composed of seven youth NGOs from Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Slovakia and UK, all of them running youth exchange and voluntary service activities at national and international level.

Within the project, **UNITED for Intercultural Action** provides expertise in the anti-racism field in delivering sensitivity-trainings and taking part in the editorial team of the publication to be produced as an output of the project.

In 2019, UNITED experts consulted the partnership on a monthly basis as part of the editorial team of the publication. The toolkit to be produced will be used by partner organisations to prepare volunteers and trainers of international exchanges, and to review and adapt their structures and educational programs in order to shape them to be more accessible and sensitive to the needs and situation of migrants, refugees and people of colour (PoC).

In November 2019, UNITED experts delivered a sensitivity training to trainers of the partner organisations of STAR E in London. The transnational meeting was attended by Dansk ICYE Maaillmanvaihto, Jeunesse et Reconstruction, AUS, ICYE UK, KERIC, ICJA, Subjective Values Foundation and UNITED and resulted in fruitful discussions and decisions regarding the future of the project.

Supported By

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, OBEY Clothing, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth – Demokratie Leben! and others.



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Stay UNITED!

UNITED would like to thank all staff members, volunteers, interns, Network members, NGOs, associations, organisations, and friends who have helped make this year a success.