Youth Building Peace and Intercultural Dialogue

"EUROPE, YOUTH AND GLOBALISATION" EVENT 2004

PRESENTATION OF THE EVENT

Status 10 December 2003

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Why "Europe, Youth and Globalisation"?

Even if until now, the theme of globalisation[1], has not been dealt with directly and even though the Directorate of Youth and Sport has to date not undertaken a specific activity or event on the theme of globalisation, as such, the work done in recent years on Intercultural Learning, Youth Participation, and Human Rights Education, can be related to the theme of globalisation. Since its foundation the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe, through its implicit co-operation with International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (some of them with a global reach) and through all the attention and work on the phenomenon of multiculturalism in contemporary societies (c.f. the Intolerance Colloquia and the RAXI Campaign), has stressed that without intercultural dialogue, without the active participation of young people in social and political life, without the development of youth policies which aim to support young people's role within each society and without solidarity that the future of Europe will not be sustainable. All of these activities have reflected on and developed the notion of how people can live together. Now, this question can no longer be – if it ever was – limited to the confines of Europe, but has to consider the condition of the whole world.

At a time when we are witnessing the emergence of a fledgling global civil society (from Porto Alegre to Larzac), at a time when the world financial architecture is at the centre of public attention and at a time when the "alter-mondialistes" are stressing potential of an alternative approach to globalisation, it is hardly surprising that the issue appears on the political agenda of the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe. Within the Council of Europe, there is a need to re-evaluate the institutions efforts to implement its values, given that human dignity is by no means respected universally in Europe or the World. If honest, we will admit that when it comes global social justice and the respect of human rights Europe is part of the problem. The Council of Europe summit of heads and states and government will take place in Poland in early spring 2005 and it will examine the role that the Council of Europe should take in the international institutional architecture, given the implications of global processes on good governance, in particular on the international level. Moreover, Europe, as a privileged region, with resources and structures in the youth field unparalleled globally, has a responsibility to develop policy approaches towards the consequences of global processes on the lives of young people. If the approach of the Council of Europe is that of openness and co-operation, then it is important that European co-operation take place in a context of global awareness and interdependence. Europe is after all in the World.

Following a proposal of the Advisory Council on Youth, the Directorate of Youth and Sport is preparing to hold a large-scale youth event in Strasbourg from 5 to 9 May 2004 (arrival and departure dates) on the theme "Europe, Youth and Globalisation" within the "Youth building Peace and Intercultural Dialogue" programme of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, in co-operation with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and other partners.

This initiative is in line with the expressed values and ongoing work of the Council of Europe. In this context, Resolution 1318 (2003) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "Globalisation and Sustainable Development", adopted on 30 January 2003, cannot be ignored. This resolution recommends, amongst other elements, that member states:

" i.   Put human beings at the centre of all development policy; (…)
viii.   Undertake to support and promote cultural and linguistic diversity as a vital factor in sustainable human development (…)

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[1] Globalisation is translated as "mondialisation" in French. It should be stressed that the terminology used in different languages provides for differing perceptions of the phenomenon.

ix.   Encourage new forms of participation in civil society by involving both citizens and non-citizens in the policy-making process, promoting dialogue at national and regional levels with communities themselves;

x.   Encourage the involvement of the opponents to globalisation in the policy-making process via peaceful means (…)

xi.   Promote global governance (…)

xii.   Promote global education to strengthen public awareness of sustainable development, bearing in mind that global education is essential for all citizens to acquire the knowledge and skills to understand, participate in and interact critically with our global society, as empowered global citizens."

It is also important to recall the results of the Forum on "New Social Responsibility in a Globalising World: The Role of the State, the Market and Civil Society" (Strasbourg, October 2002) and to the Conference on "What Lifestyles for the Third Millennium?", (Santorini, June 2001) at which the following statement was made:

> *"The new world order will be marked by the relationship between human beings and nature and by the fight against poverty. Our societies will have no future unless they are based on justice, stability and humanity[2]"*

Nevertheless, and even considering the many important initiatives and achievements of the Council of Europe and its partners in the youth field, the current state of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and therefore, the fact that a significant proportion of the world population, including large numbers of young people, continue to experience daily infringements and abuses of their human rights, raises significant questions for an international institution whose stated aim is the protection of human dignity. Core values of the Council of Europe are held up to scrutiny in a world and in a Europe where for example armed conflict and armed peace still terrorise whole populations, where discrimination for reasons of ethnicity and race continue to be widespread, where extreme poverty continues to be a reality, where HIV and AIDS continue to spread and kill and where basic human needs are not met for a large number of people. This situation begs the question of how Council of Europe values, laudable as they are, can be authentically pursued in a global reality that does not yet consider them as relevant criteria for assessment of a society. The "Europe, Youth and Globalisation" Event should be an opportunity for Europe to critically reflect on its position and relationships with the rest of the world at the same time as taking a critical look at how Europe is affected by global processes.

In sum, the theme is considered of relevance because, among others:

- Globalisation affects young people's daily lives in manifold ways and there is a need for actors in the youth field to better understand those effects and their implications for young people;

- Young people and relevant actors in the youth field at local, national and international level need to meet, network and exchange experiences on globalisation in order to be able to promote responses to its consequences, intercultural dialogue and solidarity;

- Actors in the youth sector need more opportunities to reflect on how the instruments traditionally used for the promotion and implementation of youth policies should be adapted to the new and changing context of globalisation;

- Actors in the youth field are working to promote universal values such as equality, justice, peace and respect for human dignity, as pursued by the Council of Europe among others;

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[2] Quoted from the speech of Mikhail Gorbachev, President of Green Cross International at the conference on "What Lifestyles for the Third Millennium?", (Santorini, June 2001).

- The partners of the Directorate of Youth and Sport in the youth field believe strongly that it is time for the Council of Europe to begin to develop a specific policy on globalisation, and in particular on the consequences of globalisation for young people.

Aims and Objectives of the "Europe, Youth and Globalisation" Event

It is to be recognised that while young people are often victims of the negative consequences of global processes, that through active participation in youth organisations and other civil society initiatives, they can have a significant impact in the struggle to humanise such processes, thereby becoming empowered actors of globalisation. And while much still has to be done to guarantee and protect the human rights of all people, young people and youth organisations should continue to be at the forefront of efforts to improve the current situation. For such commitment to change to be possible, support, co-operation and advocacy are necessary. With these considerations in mind, the following two-fold aim has been elaborated for the event:

i. To provide young people and representatives of youth organisations with the opportunity to enter into a critical dialogue with each other, experts and policy makers on the experiences, perceptions and consequences of life as a young person in the context of globalisation in Europe and the World;

ii. To provide young people, youth organisations, governments, international organisations and other actors of the youth sector with the opportunity to create a common platform, political messages and effective actions towards the effects of globalisation on the lives of young people, stressing the promotion of good governance and the globalisation of human dignity.

The objectives of the event are, therefore, to:

- To enable young people and representatives of youth organisations, from all over Europe and the world, and the Council of Europe to:

  a. Develop a deeper understanding of globalising processes and their effects on societies, cultures and young people's lives;

  b. Develop ideas and actions that can help young people to take advantage of the opportunities presented by globalisation and offset its negative effects;

  c. Develop their critical awareness of the functioning of the actors of global processes including international institutions and civil society, the role of such in developing the capacities of youth and their associations to function effectively in a globalised world and as potential examples of global good governance[3];

  d. Develop their understanding of the place of intercultural dialogue in the context of globalisation and of the ways in which youth, and other, non-governmental organisations and networks can work to promote it;

  e. Network the capacities, practices and approaches of young people and youth organisations in the field of youth work related to global issues.

- To gather contributions from young people and youth organisations from Europe and all over the World and to critically debate the potential content of a specific policy of the Council of Europe on global processes and how it will develop actions and approaches to addressing them.

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[3] It is noted that both the co-management system governing the functioning of the DYS and the quadrilog system governing that of the North South Centre serve as good examples.

▪ To consult and discuss with young people on the role of the Council of Europe in the international institutional architecture in relation to global phenomena and the changing context of international relations.

▪ To improve the visibility of the youth sector of the Council of Europe and of youth organisations and to provide such actors with the opportunity to network and develop partnerships with other relevant actors of global processes, within the framework of an overall approach of mainstreaming youth issues.

Date and Venue

The event will take place in Strasbourg on 6, 7 and 8 May 2004 (working days). These dates coincide with the end of the Dutch and beginning of the Norwegian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The event shall also precede and, and therefore has the possibility to contribute to, the forthcoming Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government planned for early spring 2005 in Poland, and whose theme is announced as similar to that of this event.[4]

The Palais de l'Europe and a Marquee on the lawn in front of the Palais de l'Erurope, the banks of the river Ile, as well as the European Youth Centre Strasbourg will be the main venues for the activities. Cultural activities may take place in other locations in Strasbourg.

Participants:

It is foreseen that the event will involve 400 participants from all Council of Europe member states and other continents, in particular from the global south, and developing countries within Europe. 300 participants shall be invited from Council of Europe member and Cultural Convention signatory states and 100 shall be invited from other continents.

The participants shall:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (some exceptions may be made);

- Have experience of the issues of the event or be in a position to contribute to the debate;

- Be motivated and in a position to multiply the results of the event;

- Be able to communicate actively in at least one of the four working languages of the event.

They shall be:

- Representatives of non-governmental youth organisations and networks working on issues of globalisation at local, national or international levels (such as those working on development education, human rights, sustainable development, etc.);

- Representatives of the regional youth platforms such as the European Youth Forum and other continental youth platforms;

- Young persons (not attached to an "organised" youth structure) working in youth initiatives, local, micro or peer associations and/or networks and other youth milieus which have an interest and expertise in the field of youth work around issues of globalisation;

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[4] While it is too early to know the definitive theme of the summit, it is foreseen that it will discuss and reassess the role of the Council of Europe in the new and changing global order of international relations.

- Members of relevant International Non-Governmental Organisations (with a specific expertise in a field related to the themes of the event);

- Youth researchers.

Guests

Further to the above and among the 400 participants, shall also be representatives of international and national governmental and non-governmental organisations, experts, trainers, parliamentarians and intellectuals invited to act as resource persons, leaders of training modules, to give inputs or to contribute their specific expertise in some aspect of the event's programme.

For further information concerning participation please refer to the "Call for Participation" (www.coe.int/youth).

Working languages

The working languages of the event will, in principle and subject to availability of sufficient resources to cover 4 working languages, be English, French, Russian and Spanish. The choice of these languages has been made considering that this is a European event with a global participation, the languages most commonly spoken by the majority of the target groups identified and in consideration of the financial investment that the addition of further languages would involve. It is proposed that interpretation for all 4 languages will be provided for all plenary sessions. Cluster Groups and small working units will either work with interpretation for a maximum of 2 languages or without (i.e. monolingual). Participants will be expected to have a passive knowledge of either English or French and active working knowledge of one of the 4 working languages of the event to attend.

Format of the Event

The event will take the format of a "village – forum", an interactive space, where participants will be involved in the following activities at different moments of the event:

- Inputs from experts and researchers from the academic community working on the field of globalisation and young people;
- Contacts, exchanges and open debates with representatives from International Institutions, Public Authorities, Civil Society and the Economic Sector;
- Parallel thematic working units on different dimensions of globalisation as it relates to society, politics and young people's lives;
- Exhibitions of the work of the different groups and organisations present, communities and actors of the youth and NGO field;
- The development of ideas for action and future projects;
- The development of political messages to the different relevant actors of global processes concerning the actions young people would appreciate them to undertake;
- Critical and in depth debates about issues of global concern that have very local manifestations;
- Interactive moments where participants may enter activities on an "a la carte" basis and discover new dimensions to the issues they are interested in;
- Cultural events.

Methodological Considerations:

The event should use the methods of non-formal learning, peer education and learning by doing promoted in the educational programmes of the Council of Europe. There is a need for young people to be involved in something more concrete than a simple lecture-style or round-table conference on the

theme of globalisation, which is very broad and touches almost every aspect of the lives of young people in a changing world.

Nevertheless, it will be important for the activity to have a strong theoretical foundation, necessitating the provision of a certain number of high quality guiding overviews and provocative inputs. These could take different formats than lectures, and could be presented by personalities with excellent presentation skills and charisma. In particular, such inputs should be given by persons with whom young people can and do identify (for example, the leaders of some social movements, etc.).

Special attention shall be paid to the concerns of youth from the "global – south" and FSU and CEE countries. The Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport and North-South Centre are well placed to explore this theme in light of its existing and ongoing programmes, and their strong contacts with the programmes of other sectors and other institutions. It is of importance not to lose sight of work already done and to build on experience.

Further to these entry points, the following methodological concerns were raised as important for guiding the preparation of the programme of the event:

- participants should not be expected to find solutions to the problems of globalisation (to which responsible adults have not been able to find solutions);
- the event should be participative enough in character to ensure the active involvement of young people who might not be used to international activities, or who usually do not have access to events of this kind;
- the event should focus on providing the participants with a space for experience and reflection rather than "educating" them about globalisation, although participants should also have the opportunity to learn new things and have an in depth debate.

Content of the Debates:

The Cluster Groups (around 60 participants each) shall be organised according to a maximum of seven broad cluster themes that can first be debated in general or as a complex of problems and then broken down into constituent and interconnected issues for in depth discussion in small working units (please see below for the proposed list of cluster group themes and attendant working unit themes). The Cluster Group discussions will be kicked off with an introductory debate prepared and animated by one facilitator and followed closely by a Rapporteur. This initial debate may involve speakers or experts (here referred to as panellists).

The small working units (maximum 15 participants each) will use the content of the debate in the Cluster Group as a starting point for their discussion on more specific issues falling under its broad theme. The feedback and synthesis of results from the different small working units shall also be prepared and animated by the facilitator/s. The facilitator, rapporteur and panellists will also be called upon 1. prepare content outlines and thematic orientations for the small working groups and 2. to help in the animation of the small working units, although in principle they shall be largely self-organising. The small working units might rely on participants identified in advance to ensure the introduction of the theme, its discussion and the collection of results that can be transmitted to the rapporteur of the cluster group.

A unique discussion logic that can be applied coherently across all the small working units will be essential for ensuring the synthesis, presentation and communication of the conclusions and the results of the event. The programmes of the different small working units on Day 2 of the event could be prepared considering the logic of the following interlinked questions:

- What is/are the issue/s for each person?
- What are the different politics of the issue?

- What are the different life experiences of the issue of the different kinds of young people present (e.g. the different roles of youth in globalisation, the different effects of globalisation on youth lives, the different ways in which young people use globalisation and translate it into their own cultural life, etc)?
- What are the challenges and opportunities faced by young people as a result of the issue?
- What responses are young people and youth organisations already undertaking in the field in relation to this issue?
- How can youth work and youth organisations treat this issue in an effective manner and what is the added value for them in doing so?
- What do we still need to learn or improve, what is not yet functioning to the best effect in our action and that of others in relation to this issue?
- What kind of support do youth and youth organisations need in order to be able to function to the best effect on this issue?
- What recommendations do we have for the future?

The required result of the work of the small working units and the aggregated results of the cluster groups should be conclusions that can be fed into the closing debate on the larger theme of the role and place of the Council of Europe as an actor of good global governance in the changing context of international relations in the context of globalisation.

Cluster Group and Small Working Unit Themes

Cluster group 1: ISSUES OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE:
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on global governance (transparency, accountability, effectiveness, participation);
- What are the effects of globalisation on representative democracy and on youth political participation? Is democracy becoming more participative – can it become more participative in the age of globalisation?
- given the realities of the lives of youth and other population groups worldwide, what kind of governance does the world need?
- What role should Europe and its young people play in the development of systems and approaches to global governance?
- Is a "global civil society" emerging? If so, what could be the role of civil society and in particular youth organisations in the development of global governance? As the alter-globalisation movement gains increased participation and complexity, how can plans and responses to global challenges be developed?
- What is the role of the media (global and other) in the way that governance is played out? To which extent is governance subject to media (pressure, partisanship, etc)?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:

- Reform of the international institutional architecture – towards a world government or towards the globalisation of good governance practices?
- Reform of electoral politics in national and international contexts – how can national politics better consider global processes and concerns as well as local needs?
- World and regional integration – A World Union? Can the example of European integration serve the interests of other regions or even the world?
- Youth political participation – from disengagement to new forms of citizenship in the global context?
- Citizen Diplomacy – the Geneva Accords and San Gidio – learning from the experience? Does citizen diplomacy have a place in global governance?
- The problem of corruption for governance, good practise in the field of combating corruption?

- Co-management and state / governmental institutions – can they co-exist, what are the benefits and opportunities and what are the risks?

Cluster group 2: ISSUES OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the protection of human rights worldwide?
- What trends can be observed in the field of human rights protection at the global level (institutional developments, such as the ICC and the reform of the ECHR)?
- In terms of rights, which kinds of rights need to be better assured for young people to live in full human dignity?
- Which developments might we expect in the field of the recognition of rights at world level (for example, collective rights)?
- With which dilemmas does the globalisation of rights face human rights as a body of practice?
- Rights and responsibilities – the dilemma and debate – how to conceptualise the relationship between the two?
- In which ways do certain kinds of rights clash (e.g. environmental and cultural rights). What do these clashes mean for Solidarity? What do they mean for the HR movement and actors in the field?
- Community vs. Universality – the Universality of HR in the face of particularist and community based exceptions? How to conceptualise universal human rights and responsibilities?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:
- Violence in everyday life
- Gender based violence including human trafficking
- Extreme Poverty
- Gender
- Human Rights Education
- Migration and Refugee Issues (EGTYF speaker ran refugee game – see Anne)
- Social Exclusion / Inclusion
- Universality of HR

Cluster group 3: ISSUES OF DIVERSITY
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the way in which people, and in particular young people, conceptualise diversity and live it?
- How are international events and global processes affecting the way in which policies regarding diversity are being enacted?
- How do different communities affected by the debates on diversity react to contemporary developments – echoes from the field?
- How can the notion of "culture" be placed appropriately in the debate on diversity?
- What does intercultural dialogue mean in the post-September 11th context and against the backdrop of other global processes and phenomena?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:

- Citizenship and Europe in the context of globalisation
- Inter-religious dialogue
- Intercultural education theory and practise
- Racism
- Cultural Diversity – good practices (e.g. UNESCO experience)
- Immigration

Cluster Group 4: ISSUES OF CULTURE:
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the way in which people, and in particular young people, conceptualise culture and express it?
- Does it make sense to talk about cultural homogenisation and / or fragmentation in relation to globalisation?
- In which ways is culture as a concept used and misused in the international / global political and social discourse today? And by whom?
- How are international events and global processes affecting the way in which policies regarding cultural production are being enacted at a variety of levels of governance (from local to international)?
- How do different "cultural" communities affected by the debates qualified with "culture" as an adjective react to and deal with contemporary political and social developments?
- How can the notion of "culture" be placed appropriately in the debate on globalisation – what and should be its uses?
- To which extent do debates on cultural loss, change and hybridity have in the participants's realities?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:
- New developments in cultural theory
- Culture and young people 1 – youth (sub-) cultures?
- Culture and young people 2 – young people's cultural mores, preferences and approaches to production of culture?

Cluster Group 5: ISSUES OF SUSTAINABILITY:
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the way in which sustainable development is conceptualised and practiced in Europe and the world?
- How are international events and global processes affecting the way in which policies regarding development are being enacted?
- How do and can the different communities affected by development policy react and participate in contemporary developments – echoes from the field?
- What challenges in terms of development and sustainability are particularly pressing and how do these affect young people?
- How do and can social movements such as that represented by the "anti-globalisation" faction or the "alter-mondialistes" affect the way in which sustainable development is pursued at different levels of responsibility (from individual through international)?
- How is global economic justice conceptualised by the different actors involved in the movements dealing with issues of sustainability?
- Ethical Economics – is there such a thing? How can it be promoted?
- How does the world conceptualise development? Is economic growth sustainable? What about "decroissance durable"?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:
- Ecology
- Poverty
- Technology and the digital gap
- Debt
- Global Trade Regulations – can they be reformed and become just?
- HIV/AIDS
- Millennium Development Goals and their attainment – the state of play?
- Ethical economics
- Youth Unemployment

Cluster Group 6: ISSUES OF PEACE
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the expansion of conflict potential and the outbreak of armed conflict worldwide?
- How are international events and global processes affecting the way in which international relations are being pursued? What effect does this have on the development and entrenchment of armed conflict, armed peace and ethnic unrest?
- What are the effects of armed conflict, outright war, ethnic unrest, civil war and other violent manifestations on the lives of young people? What are the effects of armed peace?
- What attitudes or approaches would foster the development of a culture of peace worldwide (in individuals but also in the political sphere)?
- What is the role, if any, of the peace movement? How can it develop a pro-active approach to its core issue? What can be learned from the past? Is protest enough to sustain the development of a culture of peace and lasting peace itself?
- What is the place of culture and religion in the debate on peace and conflict? How can the political manipulation of culture and religion for the purposes of violent ideology be avoided?
- What role does terrorism and responses to it play in the effectiveness and sustainability of efforts to make peace?
- What role does memory and concepts of past and present play in the way in which efforts to make peace are played out or in their sustainability?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:
- Conflict Transformation
- Mediation
- Reconciliation approaches with young people
- Peace education
- Intercultural learning and peace
- The Peace Movement – past, present and future?
- Prevention of terrorism?
- The role of youth in terrorism?
- Forced migration and refugee issues

Cluster Group 7: ISSUES OF EDUCATION
- What effects (positive or negative) are global processes having on the educational needs of young people today? How does that relate to the global labour market and its needs in terms of qualification?
- What about the comodification of education? How has that process been affected by global change dynamics and to which extent is it a positive / negative development?
- How are international events and global processes affecting the way in which education systems and educational methodologies are being developed? To which extent is education still a matter of national competence? and to which extent should that be the case?
- How can education maintain its position as a positive agent of socialisation in young people's lives?
- How can young people affect change according to their needs and wishes in education?
- What educational indicators are most tightly linked with the life chances of young people in different parts of the world? What can recent research in new educational fields, such as that of life long learning tell us?

Examples of potential theme for the small working units associated to this umbrella theme:
- New Information Technology – as a subject of and as a method of education
- Intercultural education in theory and practise

- Non-formal education – a growing body of research and practise
- Youth Employment and Unemployment
- The economics of education – comodification, stage allocation and access
- Reform of formal education systems – experiences and good practises (EU, and other countries world wide)
- The education – labour contract: Is it dead?

Please note this is not an exhaustive nor a definitive list and shall be elaborated further until the next preparatory group meeting at the end of January 2004.

Possible Follow-up to the Event:

In terms of possible follow-up, this event could:

- Increase the visibility and recognition of the youth sector within the Council of Europe itself;
- Open up channels of co-operation between the Council of Europe and "alter-mondialiste" organisations;
- Within a wider need identified by INGYOs, begin reflection on the development of a campaign on the questions related to globalisation and the role of young people, of any citizen within this changing world. Question: how can institutions, governments, NGOs, citizens, all be partners for solidarity and social justice?
- Contribute to the elaboration of a Council of Europe policy on global processes and their consequences;
- Contribute a youth perspective on the theme of the Council of Europe Summit of Heads of States and Government in Poland in 2005.