This project aims to involve youth workers from the two basins of the Mediterranean Sea to discuss on the role that youth organisations and youth councils can play to counteract discrimination, xenophobic and racist uprisings given the more recent events and migratory trends.

In order to launch this project, the Catalan National Youth Council (CNJC) has obtained Erasmus+ support (round 1st of October), Key Action 1, for the Mobility of Youth Workers.
JUSTIFICATION AND BACKGROUND - The events occurred along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea over the past months, in already sadly famous scenarios such as Lampedusa, the Straits of Gibraltar or the Greek coasts, depict over again the Mediterranean Basin as one of the main migratory and most border-controlled areas in the world.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in 2014 maritime arrivals to Europe across the Mediterranean stood at over 218,000 people, three times the number of arrivals registered in 2011, at the height of the Arab Spring. While an ongoing civil war in Syria and Libya is taking place, aside from other conflicts and challenges to the civilian’s security along North African and Middle Eastern countries, the EU Member States have overwhelmingly responded with inaction. The borders between the Northern and Southern coasts of the Mediterranean have been sealed by the European institutions, by disregarding the unprecedented flow of asylum seekers and migrants crowding together by the seaside.

As several social movements and platforms for human rights have pointed out, the Mediterranean has become a graveyard where the daily genocide of thousands of civilians is largely ignored. On the contrary, the Mediterranean should be a place for mutual understanding, acknowledged interconnectedness and cooperation. Indeed, as the International Organisation for Migration has estimated, in 2015 it is foreseen that 30,000 people will die while trying to reach the European coastline. Yet the securitisation approach of the EU still depicts this scenario as a vulneration of the European borders, rather than a humanitarian crisis which needs to be tackled from a human rights based approach that ensures migrants’ dignity.

Unsurprisingly, this security approach to migration has gone hand-in-hand with the rise of populist political parties and movements based on the rejection of immigration. Such are the examples of the electoral growth of the National Front in France, the FPÖ in Austria, Golden Dawn in Greece or Plataforma per Catalunya (PxC) in Catalonia. In particular, the annual report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) from the Council of Europe, has identified a dramatic increase in antisemitism, islamophobia, online hate speech and xenophobic political discourse as main trends in 2014. Indeed, these portrayals of migrants as a threat to national security commonly draw on particular images of “the Other”, based on gender equality standards, age group or religion ascription,
to categorise them as essentially different and from cultural backgrounds hardly reconcilable with so-called “Western” values and societies.

**CNJC’S INTERNATIONAL WORK: WHY THE MEDITERRANEAN?** It has to be noted that this course is part of CNJC’s broader international strategy to build bridges of dialogue and understanding between youth councils, international organisations and youth associations based in the Euromed Region. In this context, CNJC would like to sincerely thank the support received from the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) throughout these years; and also emphasise the commitment of agencies such as the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre or the League of Arab States. All these organisations have been key promoters of these type of training activities and exchange within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

3rd Edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (June 2015), group picture.

The first edition of the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (MedUni) in 2013 was the result of the action of several stakeholders to promote youth cooperation in the region. In this context, CNJC co-organised with the Youth Council of Italy (FNG) a meeting with youth leaders and youth workers from European youth councils, international organisations and organisations from the South of the Mediterranean. In the second and third editions of MedUni (June 2014 and 2015), CNJC has further promoted stakeholders meetings, participated in
courses and self-organised activities where the key priorities for youth cooperation in the region have been identified and agreed amongst the involved organisations, in order to guide future activities of partners and participants.

This project you are reading right now is in line with the key priorities identified in these spaces, together with its own member organisations’ priorities, which gathered together at the last International Commission meeting, and also the work that CNJC does in its area of interculturality, equality and non-discrimination.

THE OVERALL PROJECT - In this context, youth organisations must stand up for human rights and align themselves to reject these increasing xenophobic uprisings, therefore contributing with their daily work towards reaching fully inclusive, diverse societies. There are already solidarity campaigns and movements that can bring insightful examples to organised and non-organised youth in these fields, such as United for Intercultural Action European Network Against Racism, Fascism, Nationalism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees or the Refugee Welcome initiatives all along European municipalities.

As a response to the outlined context, as well as from its priorities in the field of international cooperation and intercultural work, CNJC seeks to frame its annual EuroMed project on interculturality, so as to share with other youth organisations advocacy strategies, proposals and pedagogical approaches in order to counteract the extreme and right-wing discourses emerging all along the Euro-Mediterranean area.

To sum up, the goals of the overall project respond to two ongoing challenges in the EuroMed area, which have arisen recently due to the latest events in the region:

- To meet the current political crisis in the management of migration and asylum flows in our societies by exchanging key practices at the advocacy level to face racism and xenophobia, launched by youth organisations and youth councils.

- To meet the ongoing challenge in the management of “diversity” in the EuroMed area by building the capacities of youth organisations through a
training of trainers on intercultural issues and enlarging the use of Non Formal Education in the Region.

Two core activities are foreseen within the project in order to tackle the challenges outlined above:

- **ACTIVITY 1** - Young leaders meeting “Mediterranean youth together: building bridges for understanding” (foreseen 14-20th February 2016 in Barcelona, including arrival and departure days).

- **ACTIVITY 2** - Euro-Mediterranean Training of Trainers: “Capacity building in front of racism and xenophobia” (expected 2-9th May 2016, in the framework of the 4th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship, in Hammamet, Tunisia).

**FIRST ACTIVITY: YOUNG LEADERS’ MEETING (Barcelona, February 2016)** - The first activity is planned to be held from the 14th to the 20th February 2016 including arrival and departure days (venue to be confirmed near Barcelona).

NGO-Fair exchange space among partners and local youth organisations (Youth Centre La Fontana, Barcelona, Catalonia), part of last year’s edition training course.
The meeting will be designed as a residential training course, which will gather together roughly 30 young leaders from youth organisations working in the Euro-Mediterranean area, ready to act as multipliers and able to fully participate in English language.

Participants should be willing to reflect upon key questions on the political and human rights situation across the Mediterranean, with a particular emphasis on discrimination on the basis of age, gender identity, nationality or religion. Also they should be ready to discuss on the identities, images of the “Self”/“Other” and sense of belonging throughout the Mediterranean, as well as on migration and obstacles to free movement along the Mediterranean. Finally, participants should be ready to exchange best practices in the advocacy and activism level to confront racism and xenophobia.

The course will be a unique opportunity to meet the Euro-Mediterranean diversity in all its aspects, as well as to address and come up with creative, cooperative initiatives at the advocacy level to face xenophobia, islamophobia, anti-Semitism, sexism and further forms of discrimination based on religious and/or so-called cultural differences.

Specific goals of the Young Leaders’ Meeting - The specific goals that the sessions of the meeting will pursue are the following:

- To explore Euro-Mediterranean diversity by the promotion of intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among youth leaders active in youth associations and national youth councils.

- To reflect on the human rights situation and the recent rise of racism and xenophobia in the Euro-Mediterranean area in the light of recent migratory trends.

- To exchange and provide participants with tools and best advocacy experiences that tackle from a youth, intercultural perspective, those sexist, xenophobic and racist attitudes in the region.

- To promote networking and think about cooperation strategies amongst youth councils and organisations in the region in order to counteract existing discriminatory attitudes among Mediterranean young people.
Moreover, throughout all the sessions of the course, the following goals will be mainstreamed:

- To promote non formal education as a working tool in the training course itself and in further activities of the partner organisations.

- To bring an intersectional analysis along the pedagogical contents undertaken throughout the course, by understanding that multiple axis of discrimination (i.e gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, ability, religion and age group) reinforce each other in a cumulative basis.

**Methodology of the activity** – This course has been designed to enable participants to experience and reflect upon activities and concepts central to a human rights-based education, youth participation and youth organisations. Since it is based on experiential learning approaches, reflections and metareflections on the methodological aspects will be specifically addressed as a key aim of the meeting.

The course has been conceptualised as a space for mutual learning, where participants do exchange their approaches to training and share best practices across the Mediterranean Area within a dialogical intercultural environment. The previous experience of participants in formal and non-formal educational sectors will be the starting point of the learning process.

The training course will be fully implemented in English. Please note that the entire course will be facilitated in English and CNJC cannot assure interpretation services. Participants are expected to have a good command of oral and written English. Therefore, those candidates who are not fluid in English will not be eligible for the course.

**Profile of participants** – For activity 1, the profile of required participants is young leaders in charge of human rights / intercultural issues within the board of their own organisations, who will be in charge of exchanging best practices in the advocacy and activism level to confront racism and xenophobia. Needless to say,
participants are expected to come both from Formal and Non Formal education sector.

They should be ready to act as multipliers and are requested to be able to fully participate in English language. Participants will range from 20 to 35 years old. However, occasional exceptions can be done in specific cases.

Closing meeting of last year’s EuroMed Project, in the framework of the 3rd Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (Hammamet, Tunisia).

The preparatory team will ensure a balanced group with regards to gender, geographical, organisation of origin and cultural background criteria. Participants will come from Euro-Mediterranean countries such as Spain, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Israel, Palestine, Morocco, Jordan, Western Sahara, Romania, Greece, Syria, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Belgium. Likewise, representatives from political and social organisations from the Euro-Mediterranean region will attend the course.

Participants are expected to be ready for a meaningful intercultural learning experience, as well as to display a high degree of tolerance, respect and empathy with each other.
Youth Pass recognition – Youthpass is a newly developed tool of validation and recognition of non-formal learning within the Youth in Action Programme framework. Participants of Activity 1 are therefore eligible to receive a Youthpass Certificate.

Follow-up and coordination between activities – After having hold the first activity, a Training of Trainers (ToT) is envisioned, based on the needs detected throughout the last three years amongst the organisers and youth organisations present at the Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (the “MedUni”).

Please note that one of the main roles of each partner organisation in the project will be to make sure that their representatives in both activities are coordinated and know from each others’ contributions. As planned, while activity 1 will lead to cooperation projects in the field of advocacy and political mobilisation, activity 2 will focus instead in training as a mobilisation tool, in the framework of the political priorities discussed in activity 1. Therefore, partner organisations must be the coordinating liaison in between the two activities, while participants must have also a proactive role in order to obtain coherent projects as a result of the process.

Application procedure and selection of participants – Please find the enclosed Application Form to apply. Applications should be sent to the mentioned address (at international@cnjc.cat) together with their Commitment Form and the support of their sending organisation or institution (Endorsement Letter document). The later has to confirm the added value of its candidate’s application to participate in the course.

The application documents must be sent by e-mail to the National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC) until Sunday the 17th January 2015 the latest (for further details please see the application form).

The preparatory team will select the participants on the basis of the profile outlined in the application form. The team will ensure a balanced group with
regards to gender, geographical, organisation of origin and cultural background criteria. Occasionally, a waiting list may be established. Candidates will be notified whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list at mid-January 2015. Afterwards, course documentation and further technical and educational information will be sent to the accepted candidates by the organisers (the so-called Info-Pack and preparatory materials).

Last, the CNJC would like to emphasise that candidates **must not book their flight until their participation is confirmed by CNJC.** The Council will explicitly let them know when they can do it.

**Financial and practical conditions of participation** – Travel expenses will be reimbursed following the travel distances parameters included in the funding rules of Erasmus+ (conditional on the presentation of the relevant receipts).

Participants must choose the cheapest travel option – Under 500 km: 2nd class train; Over 500 km: 1st class train (provided it is cheaper than economy class plane ticket) or plane (APEX, PEX fares). **The organisation only reimburses public transport costs. No taxis will be reimbursed.**

Visa costs will be fully covered conditional on the presentation of the relevant receipts. Only the travel costs of those participants who attend the entire training course will be reimbursed. Board and lodging will be provided and paid by the Host Organisation.
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED:

EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR INTERCULTURAL LEARNING – Belgium
Egypt Foundation for Youth and Development – Egypt
The Mediterranean Forum for Youth – Morocco
Refugees .. Not captives – Syria
CLUB CULTUREL ALI BELHOUANE – Tunisia
Rönesans Enstitüsü – Turkey
MREZA MLADIH HRVATSKE UDRUG – Croatia
Sojuz Nacionalen Mladinski Sovet na Makedonija Kumanovo – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
AFRICAN DIASPORA YOUTH NETWORK IN EUROPE – Belgium
Forum For Development Culture and Dialogue – Lebanon
MLADINSKI SVET SLOVENIJE – Slovenia
Krovna organizacija mladih Srbije – Serbia
Independence youth union – Palestine
Women for Cultural Development – Namaa – Jordan
Hashomer Hatzair – Israel
FORUM OF EUROPEAN MUSLIM YOUTH AND STUDENT – Belgium
ORGANISATIONS ASBL – Belgium
FORUM NAZIONALE DEI GIOVANI ASSOCIAZIONE – Italy
FEDERATION DES JEUNES ECOLOGISTES EUROPEENS – Belgium
CONSELHO NACIONAL DE JUVENTUDE ASSOCIACAO – Portugal
ASBL - BUREAU EUROPEEN DU SCOUTISME – Belgium

Host Organisation: The National Youth Council of Catalonia

The National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC) is a platform made up of 95 national youth associations and local councils of the youth. In particular, the National Youth Council of Catalonia is a public institution born in 1979 which enjoys its own legal status. Its main goal is to promote the youngster’s interests and needs in front of the public administration, and more broadly, in the Spanish and European policy spheres. More than 175,000 Catalan youngsters participate in the organisations which in turn are members of the Council. These are, among others, educative associations; students’ and workers’ unions; cultural, exchange and/or social associations; political youth organisations and local councils of the youth. The
National Youth Council of Catalonia is a full-rights member of the European Youth Forum since 1985.

The National Youth Council of Catalonia is a non-governmental, plural and democratically-based organisation. Among its key goals, the CNJC:

1. Promotes associativism and democratic participation among the youth,

2. Promotes partnerships and coordination among the Catalan youth organisations and also with Euro-Mediterranean youth associations,

3. Establishes a channel of communication between the youngsters and public administrations and promotes the interests of the former in front of the later,

4. Stands up for the rights of the young people,

5. Fosters reports and studies about the youth and/or related subjects,

6. Disseminates and spreads internationally the activities undertaken by Catalan associations and the Council itself.

For additional information, please contact us at:

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