

UNITED for Intercultural Action



STRATEGIC APPROACH 2024 - 2027



UNITED STRATEGIC APPROACH

In response to the growing nationalism, mistrust, anger and frustration about perceived powerlessness among European citizens that undermine social cohesion and pose a threat to the vision of an inclusive Europe, UNITED has set the following objectives.

CONTENT-RELATED OBJECTIVES:

Strategic objective 1:

Raising awareness of young people on human rights

- Promoting young people's active citizenship and their participation in grassroots civil organisations that stand for an inclusive, democratic, peaceful and hate-free Europe
- Identifying and promoting tools and methods in order to improve the Internet and media literacy of young people, to improve their critical thinking and the recognition of fake news related to current European tendencies
- Promotion of the importance of citizenship education in order to ensure the access of rights of young people from disadvantaged groups
- Promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue among young people
- Awareness raising of youth on the negative narratives of topics related to migration
- Promoting respect for cultural diversity and fight against racism, fascism, extreme nationalism, hate crime and hate speech (incl. online), right-wing extremism, antisemitism, romaphobia, xenophobia, gender based discrimination, anti-Muslim populism and related forms of discrimination and violence
- Reflecting on European citizenship, promoting the values of the European Convention of Human Rights and palliating violence and isolation inflicted by strong nationalistic and/or separatist movements
- Empowering and promoting inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities (especially young people facing social obstacles, cultural differences, geographic obstacles, economic obstacles and young people from post-conflict areas)
- Focusing on regions where the need to strengthen and empower youth grassroots initiatives is urgent (including the MENA region)
- Monitoring of far right and right-wing populist political movements in Europe, within the European Parliament and also on respective national levels, in order to raise awareness of the young people on current trends and news
- Develop and promote the European Hate Crime Map.

Strategic objective 2:

Improving the quality of youth work in the field of anti-discrimination

- Capacity building of (youth) NGOs and to be able to involve more young people to take an active role in society and participate in democratic processes
- Developing new strategies and enhancing the exchange of best practices and methods for tackling and preventing phenomena such as nationalist populism, racism, fascism, violent right-wing extremism, antisemitism, islamophobia, romaphobia, xenophobia, anti-migrant populism and related forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence; revising the existing tools and make them more accessible for the new generations
- Inspiring different actors (NGOs, youth workers, activists, media, local authorities, etc.) to work together on both the national and international level to share information and promote dialogue and intercultural and interfaith communication, based on the ideas of respect, solidarity, equal opportunities and human rights
- Continuing our focus on making our content more interactive and adaptable, both to the European antiracist movement, and to mainstream media and society, with the involvement of young activists
- Creating and using non-formal learning strategies and working methods

Strategic objective 3:

Contribute to the implementation of EU policies, with special emphasis on youth

- Stimulate and empower NGOs to be able to build up pressure on decision makers for the implementation of EU policies in their respective countries
- Enhancing the reporting and response mechanisms given to hate crimes and hate violence as well as the empowerment of various actors to provide victim support, by maintaining close cooperation with stakeholders (NGOs in Europe and ODIHR)
- Monitoring the situation of migrants and refugees in Europe and document reports and circumstances of migrant and refugee death cases within Europe, at Fortress Europe borders and during detention, in order to feed relevant awareness-raising and/or advocacy actions
- Promotion and facilitation of cooperation among various sectors (civil, media, sport, art, decision-makers, academics etc.) to prevent violent extremism within European societies
- Lobby to improve the situation of Human Rights defenders to protect their private space
- Lobby to improve freedom of association, assembly and press especially in the former Soviet states

STRUCTURAL OBJECTIVES:

Strategic objective 1:

Improving the functioning of the network structure and ensuring sustainability of the network

- Maintaining and enhancing the operational capacities of the network as well as implementing fruitful cooperation between the Amsterdam and Budapest secretariats
- Provide training and mentoring for the international Advisory Board (7 members)
- Opening the discussion on the possible establishment of thematic Working Groups on specific topics (media strategy, migration policy, education, community building, fundraising, youth empowerment, climate justice and gender issues)
- Set up a Fund Raising Group of young volunteers.
- Publishing an open call for conference host organisation to ensure possibility to all network organisations to build their capacities by hosting a UNITED conference
- Creation of a secure online platform for network organisations to support exchange of knowledge and expertise, strengthen cooperation and follow-up activities of UNITED conferences
- Maintain and improve the system of cooperation with young volunteers (Campaign Preparatory Group, International Preparatory Group) and youth delegates
- Update the database of UNITED

Strategic objective 2:

Improving outreach

- Implementing the comprehensive social media strategy made in 2021 to improve outreach and thus strengthen campaigns and information flow
- Broaden the UNITED network and its outreach to INGYOs
- Fostering new joint partnerships based on regional similarities to combat historical prejudices (i.e. Balkan region, Caucasus, East Europe, the MENA region etc.)

- Deepening of the already existing basis of cooperation with relevant intergovernmental institutes on the European level:
 - Council of Europe Youth Directorate; ECRI; Democracy and Human Rights Department;
 - Congress of Local Authorities; Parliamentary Assembly etc.
 - OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR)
 - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
 - National Agencies of Youth in Action and SALTO-YOUTH
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
 - United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Deepening of the already existing basis of cooperation with other international Networks at the European level:
 - European Coalition of the Cities Against Racism
 - OSCE-ODIHR
 - Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe
 - Platform International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants - PICUM
 - European Network Against Racism - ENAR
 - FARE
 - EU-Russia Civil Society Forum Russia-Civic Solidarity Platform
 - Civic Solidarity Platform
 - Amnesty International
 - International Lesbian and Gay (Youth) Association
 - No Hate Speech movement
 - Euroclio
 - European Youth Press
 - Human Rights Education Youth Network
 - Voice of Young Refugees in Europe

TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS

Youth is actively involved in the creation of all the below-listed tools and instruments in order to ensure a bottom-up approach in the network

- Organize **expert conferences** to facilitate European cooperation in the field of youth (regarding the working topics of UNITED) to promote mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and peace-building among young people with different national, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Initiating and coordinating strong **Europe-wide campaigns** that involve youth at every stage of their development, reach out to media and policy-makers, and provide sustainable civil society responses to the negative phenomena mentioned above
- **Creation and sharing of tools, methods and educational / informational materials** to raise young people's awareness on the past and present of Europe and promote their active participation in the establishment of the social cohesion in Europe
- Using our extensive **online presence** to share news and updates from the European antiracist movement, including news from our network organisations, detailed reports on the situation in different countries and best practice information.
- Providing action tools, expertise and access to the **good practices** and information of the UNITED Network

OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

Reaching out to the movement (communication)

- 5 Press statements per year
- 12 E-news per year, directly reaching 12,000 stakeholders
- 5 campaign slogans for action, decided by the network and Campaign Preparatory Group (21 March, 20 June, 9 November, 10 December, as well as any other days that the network finds relevant in the future, e.g. International Romani Day)

Supporting the movement

Biannual International UNITED Conferences

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2024: Scheduled to take place in Reggio Emilia (IT)

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Educational Materials

On a regular basis, UNITED publishes Information and Thematic Leaflets that enable NGOs, activists, educators etc. to find hints, best-practice and specific know-how about topics relevant for every day antidiscrimination work.

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Reaching out to society

Europe Wide Campaigning – All year campaign with four main highlights:

21 March (Action Week Against Racism)

Hundreds of actions promoting diversity, organized by CSOs and municipalities all over Europe

Outreach: 100,000 people

20 June (Refugee Day) and Campaign Fortress Europe No More Deaths

Actions to raise awareness about human rights and general circumstances of refugees in Europe

Outreach: 50,000

22 July (European Action Day for Victims of Hate Crime)

Online campaign to raise awareness in terms of the dangers of hate speech and the importance of monitoring and reporting on it

9 November (Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism)

Hundreds of actions raising awareness of fascism and Antisemitism of today, commemorating victims of the Holocaust, organized by CSOs and municipalities all over Europe (12-month long from November 9th 2019 until November 9th 2020)

Outreach: 100,000 people

Representation of the interest of the movement (delegation, advocacy)

Delegates from the UNITED network will also be present in the most important international meetings, hearings and advisory bodies taking place throughout Europe.

- Creating a pool of delegates that regularly represent UNITED at international events
- Organizing 1 delegation training per year for young delegates
- Delegates represent UNITED in a minimum of 10 international events per year

