



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

(Deadline for applications, 23 June 2012)

3th UNAOC SUMMER SCHOOL

“Bridging Hearts, Opening Minds and Doing Things Together”

04 – 12 August 2012

University of COIMBRA, PORTUGAL

Co-organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the
UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA (PORTUGAL)

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In cooperation with a wide range of partners, namely:



With the special support of the Brazilian Government:



1. Background of the UNAOC Summer School

The Alliance of Civilizations (www.unaoc.org) is a United Nations' initiative that aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism.

It covers four main fields of action: education, youth, media and migration.

For the third time the Alliance is organizing, in cooperation with other partners, its Summer School, to be held from 04 to 12 August 2012 at the University of Coimbra and in Braga (PORTUGAL).

The aim of this Summer School is to bring together young people (from 18 to 30 years old) from various regions and different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, academic and professional profiles, walks of life and interests.

During the course participants will acquire knowledge and tools to strengthen their ability to communicate across difference, interact with the "Other" and look at diversity as an asset for cross-fertilization and inter-cultural exchange from which mutual trust, better understanding and an innovative mindset can emerge and proliferate.

Furthermore, the course is a unique moment of practical follow up and implementation of some of the outcomes of the Global Forums of the Alliance held in 2008 (Madrid), 2009 (Istanbul), 2010 (Rio de Janeiro) and 2011 (Doha) in particular of its Youth Program.

The course will also provide an excellent space for strategic networking and finding partners; this dimension will be most strongly encouraged by the team of trainers as well as for intercultural dialogue and intercultural learning.

The week-long course will gather close to 100 participants. It is designed using a process of mutual learning, being the participants' experiences the starting point of the training-learning process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are key methodologies used in the course. Participants will compare their approaches to youth work, youth participation and youth role in our increasingly diverse societies as agents of change, engaging in the preparation of concrete projects to be carried out once back home.

This Course is an opportunity given to youth leaders to share, better understand and integrate the objectives settled by the Alliance of Civilizations at the international level and better contribute to their achievement. Some of these objectives help enable youth to take an active part in implementing the Alliance's goals and objectives at the national and regional level and be further equipped to participate in cooperation projects:

1. Promoting the empowerment of youth by strengthening intercultural skills and competences
2. Strengthening young people's capacity to get involved in the preparation and implementation of cooperative action across divides
3. Facilitate moments of encounter and exchange between young people
4. Developing a network of participants in the Alliance summer schools

Framework and partnerships

The 2012 Summer School will be hosted by the University of COIMBRA (Portugal- www.uc.pt). Furthermore it will comprise an extension to "Braga EYC 2012 – European Youth Capital" for the celebration of the International Youth Day.

The European Youth Capital (EYC) is an annual title awarded by the European Youth Forum to a European city. During this year, the city will have the opportunity to display all sorts of cultural developments, and also social, political and economic affairs related to young people.

The Braga 2012: European Youth Capital is based on three main areas of programming: the Integral Development of Young, the Youth Reflection on the future of cities on their Quality of Life and Social Inclusion, the European and international dimension of the event and the integration of issues related to multiculturalism, the Heritage, the European Youth Policy, the mobility of young people, the Non-Formal Education, etc.

2. Aims of the Course

The course aims to strengthen the role of youth in building tolerant and inclusive societies, youth ability to organize and take action and engage in civic participation, as well as identify educational principles to promote a "glocal civil intercultural citizenship".

3. Objectives of the Course

The concrete objectives of the course are to enable participants:

- to strengthen individual and organisational capacities and skills for youth participation in intercultural dialogue and cooperation and youth leadership in promoting peace and defusing tensions;
- to develop a common understanding of the situations and challenges faced by young people in our increasingly cultural diverse but one world;
- to get acquainted with the framework of the Alliance initiative and ongoing projects ;
- to act as a consultation towards the development of the global network of Dialogue Cafés as a unique opportunity that makes a difference for youth;
- to reinforce the possibilities for co-operation and dialogue between societies of the countries members of the Alliance;
- to acquire know-how on concepts and challenges of intercultural dialogue and cooperation
- to reflect upon topics of importance to strengthen active citizenship (e.g. culture and

identity, human rights, democracy, participation, exclusion and integration, development, education, globalisation, MDGs);

- to co-operate in a network with other participants and their projects;
- to create operational tools and act as multipliers by passing on the training and knowledge acquired;
- to live through an intercultural experience with the opportunity to develop expertise and know-how on intercultural learning.

4. Methodology

The course is designed as a process of mutual learning, with the participants' experiences and realities as the starting point of the training process. Active participation and in-depth reflection are the keys to the success of this course. Participants will compare their approaches to youth work and participate in the implementation and evaluation of the programme with the team of trainers.

The training methodology is based on a number of successful experiences of training for youth workers and youth leaders developed by a number of partners.

The team of experienced trainers, facilitators, project builders, experts and academicians will be responsible to further design and implement the methodology of the course. Invited guests and experts will provide proposals for reflection in a process based on formal and non-formal education and participant-centred methodologies. Thus, the course will be also a mutual learning situation, where participants can compare their approaches and concerns in a dialogical intercultural approach and environment. The use of experiential methods and workshops will strengthen the practical side of the course.

The course is a week-long programme using a variety of educational methodologies such as: thematic, methodological and political inputs and discussions, new technologies, guides and reference documents, simulation exercises, groups dynamics, interactive role plays, examples of good practices, etc.

The educational team for this course is composed of four trainers with relevant experience in youth work. The trainers have specific and complementary experience and will be recruited specifically to further design and implement this course. It should be expected that the trainers' team also reflect gender balance and the cultural, political and geographical diversity of the regions.

5. Working Languages

The different sessions of the Course will be in English.

6. Expected Results

- Building capacity of multipliers in youth organisations with the necessary skills to develop and run co-operation programmes;
- An informal network of youth leaders and organizations with interest in developing co-operation and actively committed to the strengthening of civil society;
- An increase in understanding and dialogue between young people, and their organizations, in Alliance member countries;
- An increase in the understanding of the cultural, social, economical and political context of international relations;

7. Profile of Participants

The participants in this course are mainly students and representatives or members of youth organizations and movements notably partners to the Alliance. The course is open for nationals or residents in member States of the Group of Friends of Alliance and for members of its partner organizations.

Participants are invited to submit their candidatures and youth organizations are invited to propose candidates for this course. The selection will be carried out by the Alliance of Civilizations in cooperation with its partners.

Geographical, cultural and gender balance will be ensured in the selection process of the participants, as well as the balance between the type and/or nature of organizations. Priority will be given to organizations partners to the Alliance.

Concerning participants and their profile:

- should be a key multiplier playing an active role within a youth organization, network or service at local, national or regional level, and plan to continue this work in the near future;
- seeking gender balance;
- diverse social, cultural and geographical background (including disadvantaged and minority groups);
- aged between 18 and 30;
- have already some qualification or experience in terms of international youth work and project work;
- be committed to attend the full duration of the course and to develop a project as a follow up to the Alliance Summer School that is likely to be supported by a youth organisation or service;
- be able to present the context of their work, their way of tackling problems, the challenges they meet and identify;
- be able to work and communicate in English.

8. Support for travel and course fee

A number of grants to support travel, accommodation and tuition expenses of participants are available. Priority will be given to participants showing a solid past civic engagement and presenting a project to be developed as a follow up to the Summer School that clearly supports the Alliance's objectives aimed at increasing exchanges or mutual understanding and collaboration between people of different cultural and religious backgrounds.

9. Course Fee

The course will have a participation fee of 250 euros covering tuition, accommodation, meals and visits included in the programme.

10. Deadline for Applications

Those fulfilling the criteria and interested to participate should send the enclosed application form to aureliamartins@netcabo.pt and dalia.alliance@gmail.com by 23 June 2012.