



Crossing Borders

2020

ANNUAL REPORT





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In a sea of challenges, there is always a boat of opportunity.

Like everyone and everything else in 2020, Crossing Borders has been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It reduced our vibrant community gatherings in the Ubuntu House in the heart of Copenhagen to the minimum. Most of the face-to-face meetings, interactions and events moved to online. However, the Ubuntu spirit of “I am because we are” stayed alive and growing in our multicultural, multi-professional and multi-generational team of 25 persons from 20 countries.

Thus, we sustained the passionate discussions among the team members and with our global partners. For example, every Monday, we met online, checked in about the health and wellbeing of our team members and their beloved ones before we launched the weekly work. We reflected on and found a bright side of the corona. This was the fountain of hope, a source of motivation that created spaces in our minds and hearts to sustain our work, write many articles, make online videos and podcasts. We disseminated those products through our online platforms and shared them with the world. We also invited our partners from across the globe to share their reflections on and coping strategies with the Corona seige. Together with those fellow partners, we organised many webinars on the other key current pandemics of inequalities, systemic racism, exclusion, climate change and political violence.

Thanks to that spirit of togetherness, we were able both to sustain our programme activities and expand our human and material resources as well strengthen our strategic partnerships both locally and globally. Just to mention a few examples, in addition to our current strategic partnerships in Denmark, Africa, EU Programme countries, Caucasus and Eastern Europe, we developed new partnerships with Promentum, CaonopyLab, Generation Y, Sustainify, Afro Danish Collective, Onebowl, Transaction and Trampoline House in Denmark. Internationally, we secured new strategic partnerships with the Norwegian Folk High Association, Moelve folk high school, the Global Institute in Maine, US, Association for Cultural Relations in Finland, Strauss APS in Italy, Project Saor in Morocco, Novo Mundo in Portugal and two municipalities in Turkey, including Ankara. This demonstrated that in spite of the Corona lockdowns, we continued to cross more borders and that CB does not know enough is enough when it comes to making more friends. This expanding partnership shows that unity in diversity and partnership are our DNA.



In Memory Of **Zindzi N. Mandela** 1960 - 2020

CB Patron passed on

One of the very sad events of 2020 was the untimely passing away of our beloved Patron Zindzi N. Mandela on July 13, 2020. Informed by her spirit of love, lifelong struggle for equal rights, justice and freedom for all, we believe that the timeless values of which she lived for will live on and spread across the globe for a better world for all. We pledged to keep her light shining over humanity. Having that in mind, we hosted a befitting memorial event to celebrate Zindzi Mandela's LIFE and LEGACY on 4 August in the same very church the memorial of her father Nelson Mandela was held in Copenhagen, when he moved on in 2013. The event was held in partnership with the South African embassy and attended by over 150 persons including the Dean of the African diplomatic group and representatives from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the African community and solidarity organisations in Denmark with strong contribution by African artists in Denmark.

Acknowledgements

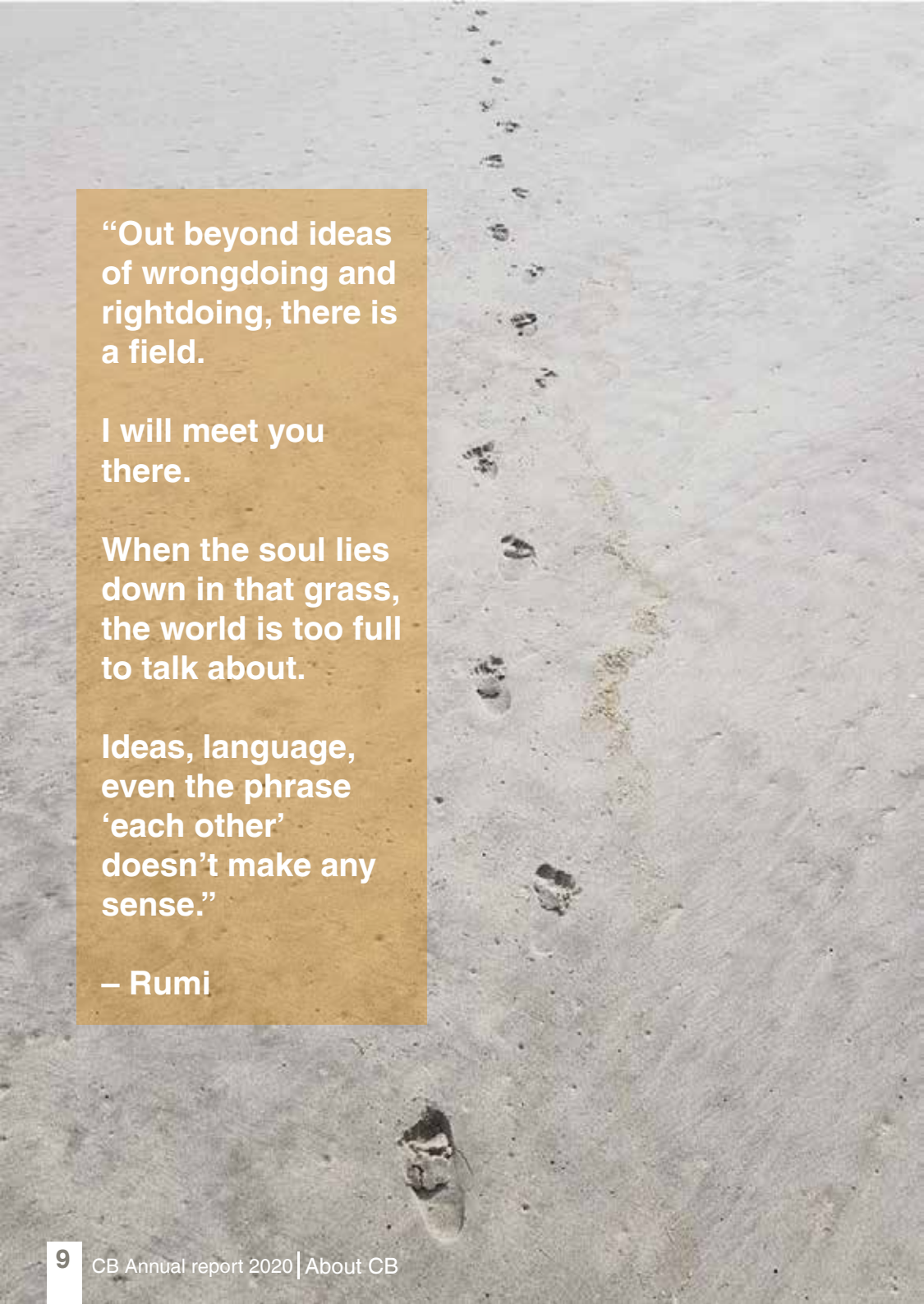
Fortunately, CB was not only able to cope with the sea of challenges wrought by the COVID-19. In fact, CB was able to turn those challenges into a boat of opportunities. Thus, CB sailed securely over the storms towards its goals of bringing more people across cultures, ideologies and generations together in the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration on equal terms. That was possible a million thank you to our dedicated Team, Board, Advisory Board, Members, National coordinators, Strategic project and funding partners both in Denmark and around the world. Special thanks to our Ubuntu Chief Jacob Holdt for his generosity and warm hospitality. Special thanks also go to our grant funding partners CISU, EU Erasmus Plus, Nordic Council, Anna Lindh Foundation and Tuborg Foundation.

For details, please read about the specific programmes and events of the year in the following pages.

With love, respect and best wish for a healthy and happy 2021
Garba Diallo
Crossing Borders Director

ABOUT CROSSING BORDERS





“Out beyond ideas
of wrongdoing and
rightdoing, there is
a field.

I will meet you
there.

When the soul lies
down in that grass,
the world is too full
to talk about.

Ideas, language,
even the phrase
‘each other’
doesn’t make any
sense.”

– Rumi

In our interpretation, Rumi’s poem is about the place inside us where no judgment exists. This is the real space Crossing Borders strives to create. A place, where our shared humanity is the ground upon which we meet, a place where the idea of separation makes little sense because we are interconnected, and a place where personality, culture, color and background come second to the privilege of exploring each other’s differences and similarities.

Whether through projects, collaborations, events, food, learning and dialogue, we strive for balance. No subject is too difficult and none is too lighthearted. Let us not forget that laughter is the greatest connector and breaking bread is the best way to make a stranger a friend.

It is on this foundation we greet and welcome each other.

We approach change with the four C's:

Curiosity

Because the greatest adventure is in learning about ourselves and the other.

Competence

Because creating real change requires real know-how.



Because we care about people, climate and future generations.

Care

Because this is our most important tool in creating change.

Communication

Crossing Borders is a non-profit, civil society organization. Crossing Borders educates and empowers young people to become active global citizens.

Across cultures and professions, we provide platforms for young people to cross-fertilise ideas and form global associations, networks, and communities worldwide. In a learning environment where all participants are encouraged to grow and learn from one another, we enable youth to share their best ideas, best products, and best practices.

In 1999, Crossing Borders started out as a project to support dialogue in the Middle East and in 2004 it was registered as an NGO. The same year, Crossing Borders became an official partner with UNESCO. In 2013, Dr. Mariano A. Davies became Chairman of the Advisory Board and in 2016 the Danish Photographer and author of the American Pictures Jacob Holdt joined the Advisory board too. In 2017 Crossing Borders moved to the center of Copenhagen. In the same year HE. the late Ambassador Zindzi N. Mandela became the Patron of Crossing Borders. In 2019, the Danish-Kurdish bestselling Author Sara Omar became Life Ambassador of Crossing Borders.

vision

We envision a world where young people see themselves and are seen by society as active global citizens whose human, civic and social rights are integrated and mainstreamed in the development policies of their home countries.

mission

Our mission is to educate global citizens and raise awareness of educators on global issues with the aim to contribute to build a peaceful and sustainable world. This is done by providing capacity building and space for youth to take action and create space for dialogue.

Meet the Crossing Borders team - 2020

Crossing Borders is lucky for having great diversity in its team. Diversity is something that we live by and encourage. This is very much reflected in the people that are part of the daily life in our office. Besides our diverse team, Crossing Borders has access to global network of around 50 national coordinators. Those coordinators work with our organization to implement projects in their local communities. They carry on the message that we believe in and lived by, which is creating a space for dialogue for authentic local voices.





Garba Diallo
Mauritania



Andrew Bende
Uganda



Tatjana Stefanovic
Serbia



Silvia Grandi
Italy



Evan Hayden
USA



Aisha Tambajang
Denmark/Gambia



Marina Marin
Spain



Omar Al Sayed
Palestine/Lebanon



Rasmus Holm
Denmark



Gabriela Kaplan
USA



Martina Popadakova
Slovakia



Divya Shrestha
Nepal



Vani Shanmugam
India



Pareeksha Chadaga
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Georgia Pinto
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Rebecca Jensen
Denmark



Andre Jotle
UK



Yuka Fujii
Japan



Nathalie Hollede
Denmark



Marianna Scaggiante
Italy



Luna Valgaard
Denmark



Yeasna Haasan
Bangladesh



Chiara Sammito
Italy



Simone Rom
Germany



Masa Zupcic
Croatia



Catalina Salas
Spain/chile



Christos Lefkidis
Cyprus

My experience in CB as intern has been really edifying, first of all for the opportunity to meet with prepared, passionate people in the field of development and international aid. I had the chance to grow as a person, becoming part of a diverse team group and also as a student of Global Studies, trying to help out the staff members of the NGO with different tasks.

Chiara Sammito, Intern

CROSSING BORDERS BOARD MEMBERS



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CHAIRPERSON,
DANIDA FELLOWSHIP
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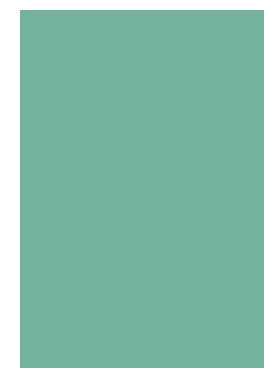
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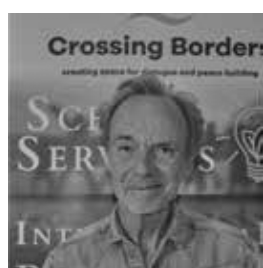
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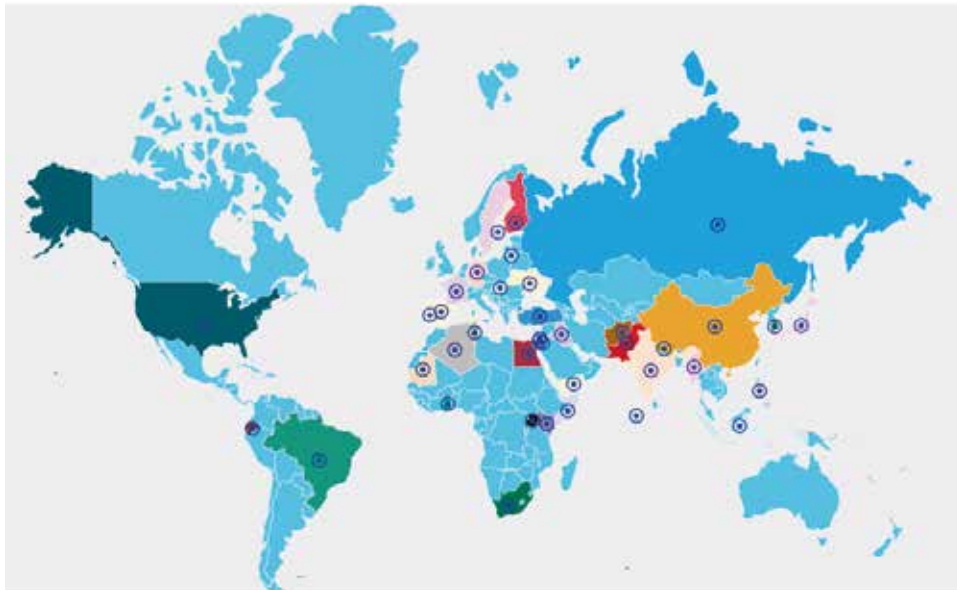
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CB Mentor

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CROSSING BORDERS ADVISORY BOARD

OUR NATIONAL CORDINATORS AROUND THE WORLD





Masa Zupcic

A European Solidarity Corps Volunteer in Denmark

Some reflections From Masa's time at Crossing Borders



I first found out about the European Solidarity Corps exactly one year ago. I am a person who likes to move around a lot, so jumping into the world of long-term volunteering abroad, especially with my educational background in Political Science, seemed like a logical step. Yet, having in mind that most of my previous work experience comes from hospitality, it scared me a bit whenever I would think about my competition among other candidates that were applying for the same positions I did. On the other hand, luckily, I am also the kind of person who isn't easily discouraged, and those thoughts actually motivated me even more to find a place where I would feel like I belong, where I can bring my knowledge and skills to the table.

Sadly, sometimes timing is everything and, in this case, it just so happened that the first applications I sent through the ESC platform went either unnoticed or, in cases that organisations did want me to join their team, the whole thing couldn't work out. Because, in that exact period, Europe became another part of the world caught in the pandemic of the Covid-19 virus. Countries started to close down the borders, lockdowns were introduced and it seemed like the whole world just – stopped. I have to admit, looking back at that time I admire myself for how much energy and motivation I had to go on with search for new options – not even global pandemic could stop me.

I continued to explore my possibilities and narrow down my interests, which one day resulted in finding out about Crossing Borders. I saw that the organisation is located in Copenhagen and thought to myself how Denmark wasn't really in any of my possible plans, but there was no reason for it not to become one of the options. I remember thinking to myself – Crossing Borders, I like that name, and I have nothing to lose, I will send the application, expect the worst, but hope for the best.

Some time passed, I made peace with being at home and jumped into a routine of a retired grandma.

Every day I would go for a swim in the early morning with my mom, read in the sun and work in the garden every afternoon, and have dinner and beers on the balcony in the evening with my dad. Then, few quiet weeks later, I got an email - it was from Marina at Crossing Borders, asking me if I have time for a short informative online meeting in which we can meet each other and telling me to let them know if I am still interested in the position. My first thought was – Wait, when did I apply to live in Copenhagen for one year? My second thought was – Do I have time, they ask. Time is all I have currently. The interview went great, I met Marina who created lovely first impression of the whole organisation (except for the fact that she didn't send me an official confirmation same day, or even next one as she promised, which of course made me think that I lost the position before even getting a chance) – and the rest is history, or present. As she casually mentioned in the email, I had two weeks to get ready to start my new life. I had 15 days to pack my bags, emotions and goodbyes from my family and friends, and fly away to the new city, where new workplace and apartment were waiting for me. You know, not a big deal.

Until five minutes before boarding started, I didn't really expect that the flight will happen, with me sitting in the plane. Yet, it did, and I landed in Copenhagen on the sunny morning of early September. The fact that there was sun in the sky that day maybe doesn't mean much to the regular reader, but to the people living here, it means a lot. As soon as I landed my first step was a literal step outside of the airport towards the parking lot, where temporary medical tent for Covid-19 testing was set, not very romantic first thing to do in a new country, I know. I positioned myself in line of people waiting for their throats to be scratched in a very short but very itchy manner, and was done with the test within ten minutes. Next station was a metro station, which I used then and never again. Not that I had a bad experience or anything, I am sure Copenhagen metro line is very lovely, but just as 99,9% people living here, I too ride a bike wherever I go. It is just more convenient, and yes, even with the strong wind and rain in my face.



Once again, Marina was the first person to welcome me upon my arrival to my new neighbourhood, with the keys of the apartment that I am going to move in. She also immediately went to buy all the groceries necessary for me to survive the next 72 hours which I had to spend in my room, not leaving it until I know the results of my test. So, I did what everyone else would do in my situation – I spent the next three days cooking, eating, watching cartoons and sleeping, a lot.

After I was luckily ignored by the doctors and the call from the tent of doom didn't happen, I was ready to go out and explore our neighbourhood – mix of quiet family houses and colourful diversity of the Christiania. My first impression was simply “wow”; I immediately felt comfortable on the streets of this city. Same feeling came when I visited the office for the first time, our lovely Ubuntu House. Even though I found the address of the building easily, from the outside I could only see a burger restaurant and random objects store in that number. Luckily, one of my then future colleagues was just arriving to the office so he let me into the building. At that moment Marina's smiley face popped out of the office door saying “Hi!” and “Welcome!” and “Sorry for not seeing the message!”, you know, the usual from our Marina. I walked into the office and thought to myself – Wow, so, I just made a mistake because it can't be possible that this is the office where people actually go to work. I almost even said my goodbye when it dawned on me – this is not a mistake, I am home.

There were few people sitting by the desk, all looking at me and smiling, offering coffee, asking how I am, telling me their names and just in general being nice welcoming bunch. I remember meeting Silvia with her warmest welcoming smile ever; Rasmus with his snarky remark of “no hugs policy” (sometimes I wish that was still active because my body hurts every time that guy hugs me); Omar bragging about his coffee and telling me I should try it; Marina just standing there quietly, looking at me and smiling and barely believing I actually managed to arrive. Trust me, I wasn’t so sure myself that I am there too. Once it became a fact, I took off my shoes, felt the softness of the carpet under my feet and the people welcoming me, and I was ready to receive the tour of the House. I got it from Tatjana, who was just happy to be able to talk to somebody in her mother language. It was nice to see that I made her happy just by saying things! So, there we were, hanging out like old friends, catching up and telling each other how we are doing. It was literally just that. Old friends who just happen to meet each other, happy to start working together.

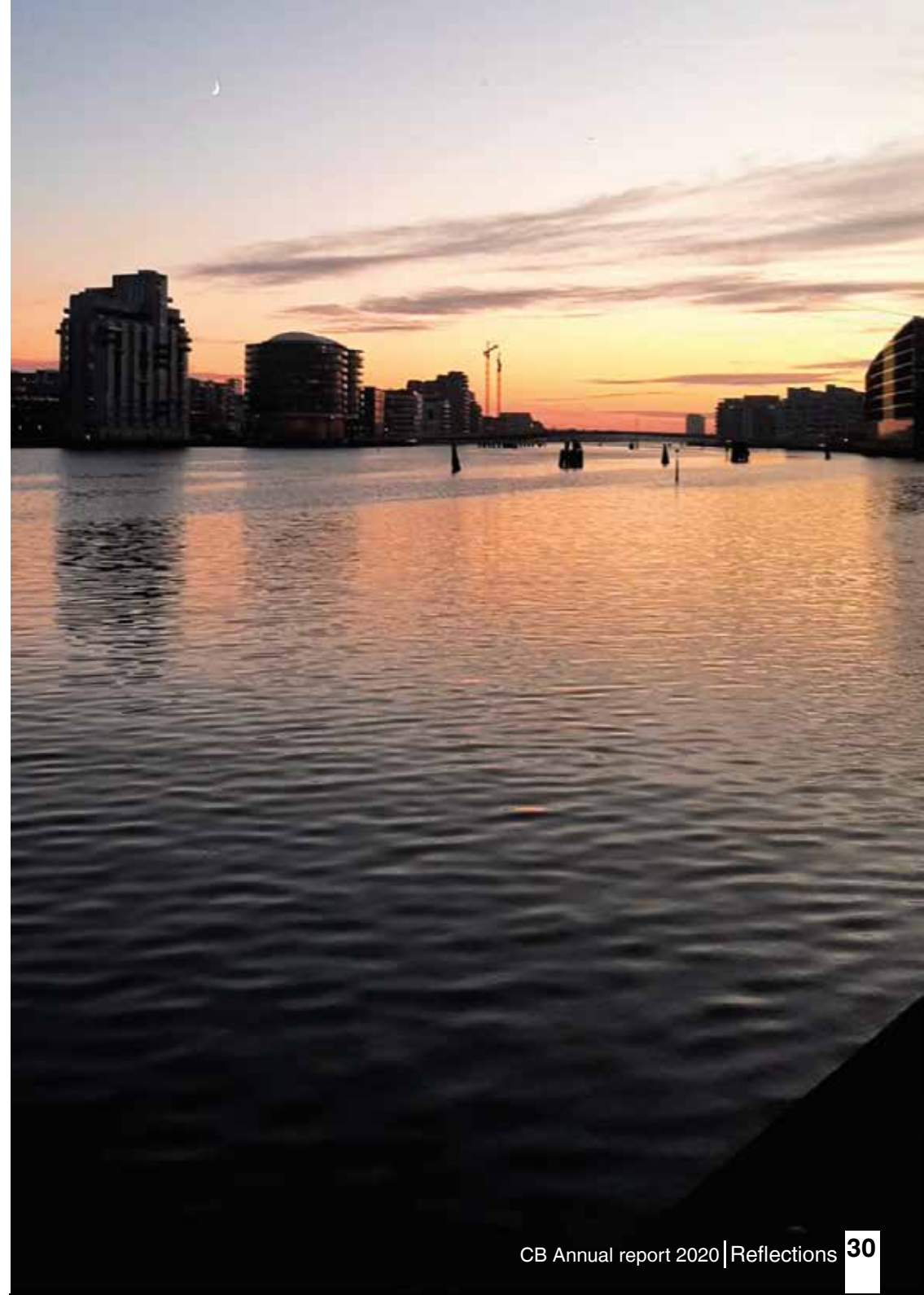
That’s why, when the time came for us to officially meet Garba, the director, first among equal in Crossing Borders. I wasn’t as nervous as I normally would be knowing that I am about to meet somebody that I have to leave with good first impression. The meeting was as I expected, very relaxed, just as Garba himself. We talked about a lot of different things and he introduced us to the Ubuntu philosophy – I Am, Therefore We Are. Our beginning in the Crossing Borders can easily be described with that one sentence; in order to recognize where we fit in, we were advised to talk to our new colleagues about the projects they are currently part of, to understand their roles and responsibilities. They were all very welcoming and willing to help us with the fitting in, by telling us all the necessary information we needed to recognise our interests and find our way around. I personally didn’t have a clear vision in my head about what would I like to do once I arrive here, but talking to people and reading about the work they do, I found my place(s) in the beautiful mess that Crossing Borders is. I had one plan for sure – to learn as much as possible. Soon, with time I knew what my responsibilities are and my routine began to shape.

In the past three months, because of the circumstances, we also had the opportunity of working from outside of the office a lot – whether that means working from home, libraries or cafes around the city. Visiting those places, I learned that no matter if people are coming to just drink coffee, have a brunch with their friends, read a book while drinking the tea, or work on their tasks – all of them have one thing in common – they are extremely cosy. Creating a warm atmosphere is very important part of life here and it can be described with one, now already famous word, Hygge. Hygge can be anything, from having a nice meal with your friend to putting a new plant into your room. Sometimes it is just a hug or a really good coffee, other times it is the feeling of pride you get when you see that your new plant survived another day. Those kinds of small things start to represent moments of happiness you need to feel during the long and oftentimes dark cold days. I am told I was very lucky with the weather when I arrived, as my first month here was mostly sunny, so I had plenty of time to explore the city. I think that was crucial for my easy adaptation; with the sun in the sky it is easier to fulfil the desire to meet new people and discover new places. My roommate and colleagues, that I am lucky to call them my friends, were very helpful in that process, as they were my first bridge into the new environment, and I am very thankful to be surrounded with such amazing and kind people. It is international team from all over the world who makes Crossing Borders, which means that all of us are far from our homes and families, but we are happy to be together in this city, creating a home away from home.



Nevertheless, there is one thing that I would recommend to everyone who thinks about moving abroad to have a fresh start in the new city – and that is involving yourself in different activities in your free time. It can be whatever makes you happy, because it is just nice to put yourself out there to meet new people with similar interests. In the circumstances I arrived to Copenhagen, with all the social distancing restrictions, this was more than necessary. Even though life here is not as interrupted as in some other countries, it is still not that easy to become a part of completely new society. That is why I decided to spend some of my free time volunteering in shelters that provide free food and accommodation for those who need it. It was a step ahead for me personally, but also a step into another dimension of this society. Since I arrived, I've been surrounded with people that luckily mostly lead comfortable lives, and even though everybody is struggling in their own way, we can still afford roof over our heads every night and food to eat in the morning. We can also afford to spend some of our free time meeting each other in bars or playing music and games in parks, instead of constantly finding different ways of providing for ourselves. Copenhagen has rich culture and night life, vivid neighbourhoods and good food. But not all of us are fortunate enough to happily explore all of those amenities. By activating myself in the local community that gives back, I managed to gain another perspective of this city, the one that gives you the full picture instead of just happy people living in a happy city. Yet, the fact that there are people out there willing to help and spend their free time providing company to those who rely on other people's kindness, is comforting. I was so warmly welcomed when I arrived here, but that doesn't mean everyone is, that's why I never want to take this opportunity for granted and I will always remember to show my gratitude.

Even though this is just the start, and there are still many more months ahead of me in this adventure, I cannot recommend more to everyone willing to take this step to use this opportunity and make the most of it. If my life here continues to be like it is currently, I will be more than happy, and that's all I need.





Catalina Salas

A European Solidarity Corps Volunteer in Denmark

Some reflections From Catalina's time at Crossing Borders



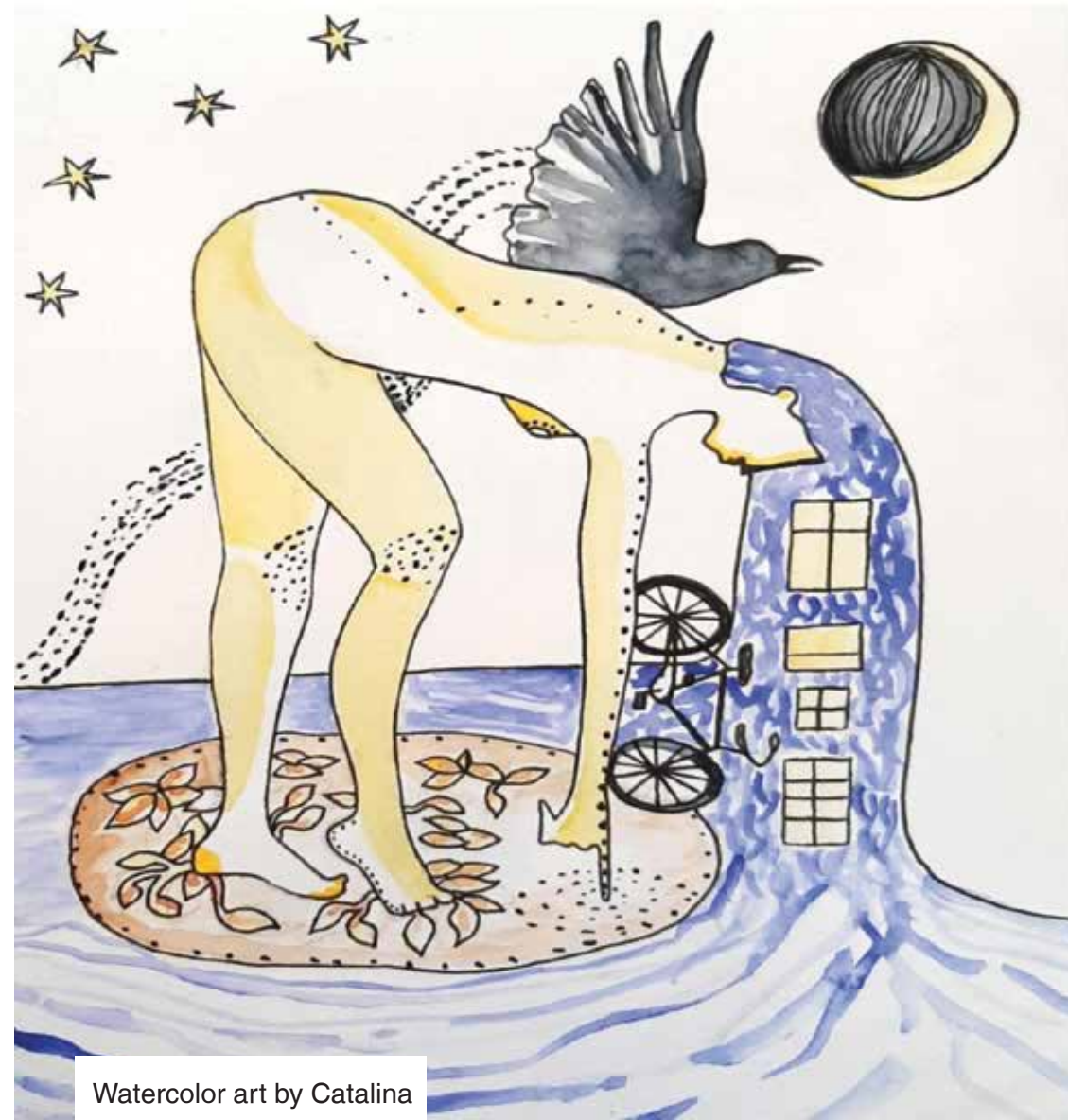
When a person moves between countries, they experience new things, unexpected things. Especially if that person is like me, they travel with a backpack full of illusions. When I first moved to this wonderful city around 3 months ago, after traveling since October last year, I was wishing for a bit of stability to grow roots and develop new life-projects. At that point of my trajectory is when Crossing Borders suddenly appeared, which brought more surprises than I was looking for.

Denmark is without a doubt the northernmost country in the world where I have lived, and its culture never stops surprising me. It is true that my inner heat is calming down with the wind and cold temperatures, but it recharges quickly with the kindness of the people who now surround me. I cannot stop feeling that I learn every day that I go out to the street, because of my unsuitable outfits for this weather as well as for the language which I don't understand a word of that ancient pronunciation, or for the simple fact that I have to communicate in English, that I want it or not cut a part of my spontaneity and personality. However, the tremendous peace, tranquillity, and harmony that are breathed in the environment continue to embrace me as if it were a European independent film scene, with "Knee-Deep in the North Sea" song from Portico Quartet behind. And all the stories and reflections that the film shows start from me, where nothing is written. Thus, the canals have become my best landscapes, the frenzy of bicycles my day-by-day, and the crow my new companion on this journey.

Maybe the impressions of the first months are the best and less contaminated. It is still too early to conceive clear judgments, but not too late to omit opinions about this. To be an ESC in this city represents a personal challenge and a stroke of amazing luck. Not only because I'm provided with total freedom to choose how I want to work and in which group, but also because here I can achieve and think about my goals and in which way I can better develop myself. Here, at Ubuntu house, personality is celebrated and emphasized, and me coming from a complex identity, I feel like family. The work colleagues build up one of the most beautiful teams I have ever known in these almost 27 years of life, where I find professionalism but also complicity, affection, and friendship. Crossing the door, to the outside world, facing adventures, new physiognomies, personalities, and parks, it find me in an environment stimulating where not everything is family, nor company nor friendship. Nevertheless, that doesn't mean negativity and is more related with an interesting aspect to comprehend and analyze to understand how to move, how to create links, and how to conceive time, that here seems to work very organized and slow, in a very different way of my own perception and concept. Then, I full myself with patience and I gaze out.

One day, somebody told me "contemplation is a seed" and now I dedicate myself to observing as an omniscient narrator who keeps quiet and learns and writes. According to that, my experience turns in walking around timeless in these days where the sun doesn't appear usually. Moving and dancing between long streets full of windows, where their habitants live more inside than outside and are something that I, being nomadic, am learning to appreciate.

What captivates me the most; however, are still the simple things. The looks that avoid the eyes of the strangers, the smiles at morning work even if the people are tired, the smells of this tiny rain, the air masses around the lakes, the leaves full of colors pending from the giant trees, and other little details that in this part of the world seem to have more relevance than in other places because of the lifestyle that is lived here.



Watercolor art by Catalina

This new window that I open every day is called Denmark. Everything that I can see and learn is the result of many people that generate the experience mixed with my enormous desired to enjoy what work, social and Nordic life brings me. I will always say: To dare to open as many windows as you can, it is to look really into. Then you will see where life takes you.

2020

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



Despite the corona siege, Crossing Borders has been more active, more creative, more innovative, more hardworking, and more collaborative than ever. We managed to sustain and expand our human resources, activities, and strategic partnerships while developing new projects with new partners in new countries in different fields. A million thanks go to the super-smart, kind, and highly skilled CB team, board, advisory board, our friends, members, and strategic and funding partners.



FROM HOME TO THE WORLD

CB ONLINE



Check out all the videos

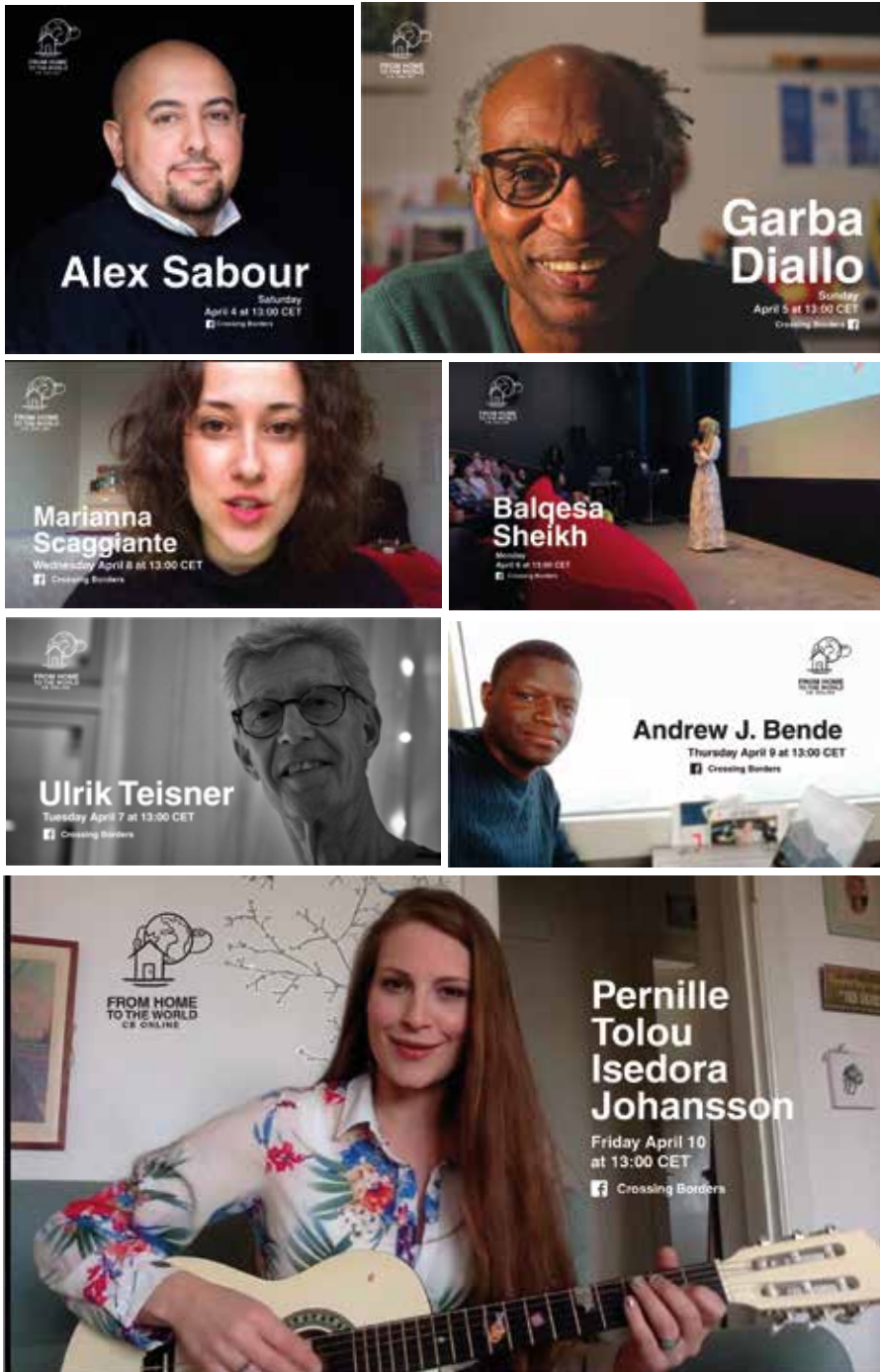


"Social Distancing" was one of the most prevalent terms in 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic occupying the world, staying home was one of the very difficult solutions that WHO and medical institutes recommended everyone to. It wasn't at all easy to apply social distancing; it is in our nature to be social and have connections around us and interact with one another.

For those reasons, Crossing Borders came up with the initiative "From Home to the World". We came to the realization that what is needed from us is in reality, physical distancing, not social distancing. We could keep our connections, and now more than ever, we have the tools and the technology to do so.

"From Home to the World" aimed to connect people virtually from all over the world. With a series of pre-recorded videos, people shared how are they doing in their country. They shared frustrations and hopes. They shared activities and exercises.

We can't live alone, we need people around us, we need to act and interact, it is in our human nature.



A song written for Crossing Borders by Pernille Tolou Isedora Johansson

Let's stick together
 Even though we're apart
 Even from a distance
 A smile can warm a heart
 - oh, apart can be so lonesome..
 When borders close for a while
 We be crossing borders,
 by sending you a smile...
 Send a smile with the wind
 We can still let love in
 Through the door
 There is more in the air up above
 Always crossing borders is love
 If we keep the bigger picture in mind
 and at heart
 We all belong together, like puzzle
 pieces apart
 Oh apart can be so lonesome
 Around the globe, a hope,
 awakening begun
 We are all the same -
 when we come undone
 Oh, apart can be so lonesome
 So if you care, give a smile where
 You have more than some
 What's in the aaaiir
 Discriminates no one...oh
 There is more
 in the air up above

Always Crossing Borders is LOVE
 Send a smile with the wind
 You can still let love in
 to your heart
 Yes when borders close for a while
 And we feel so apart
 Remember we belong together,
 like puzzle pieces apart
 Oh apart can be so lonesome
 When borders close for a while
 We be crossing borders,
 by sending you a smile...
 If we keep the bigger picture
 In mind and at heart
 Remember we belong together
 Like puzzle pieces apart

Listen to the song:





Check out all the videos

Celebrating the life and Legacy of the
late Ambassador of South Africa
and Patron of Crossing Borders
Zindzi N. Mandela

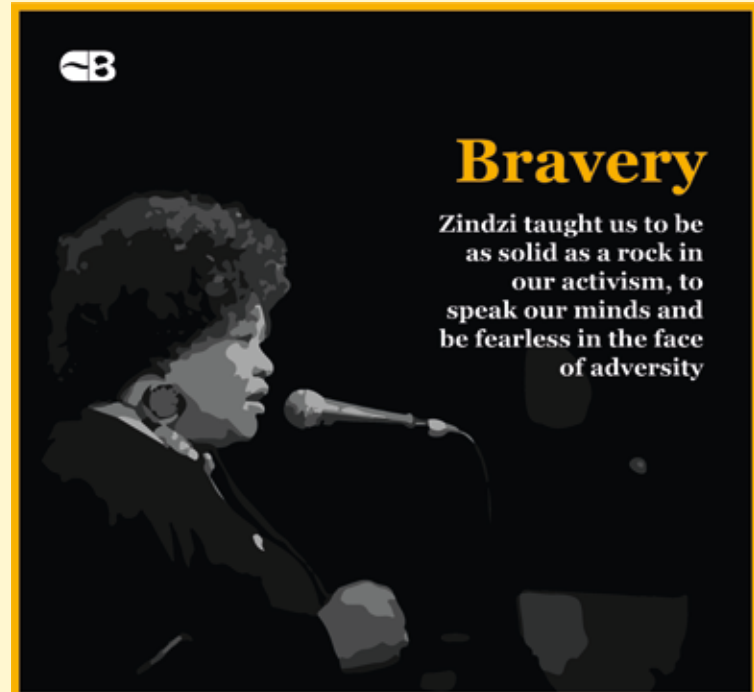


This year we sadly said goodbye to our Patron Ambassador, HE Zindzi N. Mandela, who sadly passed away on the 13th of July 2020, in South Africa. As someone who was born and grew up at the forefront of the struggle against the racist apartheid system, Zindzi's life was defined by and truly embodied the struggle for freedom. Her father Nelson has ripped away from her at only 18 months and was subsequently sentenced to an unjust prison term of 27 years. These life experiences made Zindzi a fighter, for freedom, equal rights, and justice everywhere. As an ambassador to Denmark, she was tirelessly committed to protecting and serving those marginalized by society. As this year comes to an end, Crossing Borders remembers and pays tribute to Ambassador Zindzi N. Mandela for her inspiration, determination, and courageous example in being the ambassador of the voiceless. We promise to continue your struggle for a better world for all. Rest in power, Zindzi.



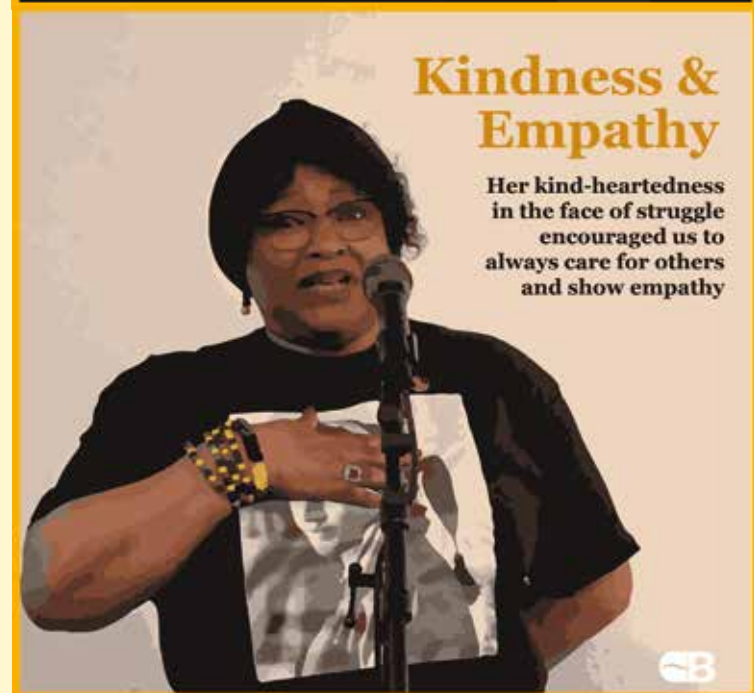
What did we learn from our Patron

Zindzi N. Mandela



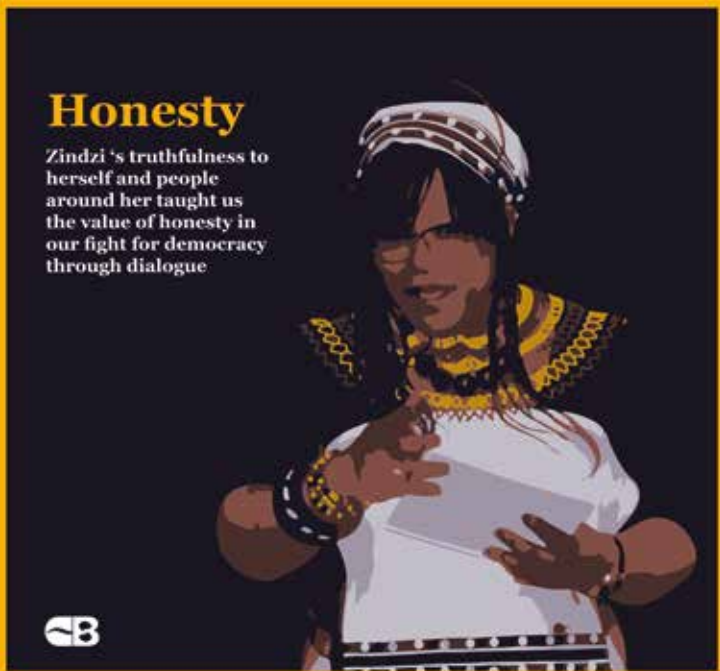
Bravery

Zindzi taught us to be as solid as a rock in our activism, to speak our minds and be fearless in the face of adversity



Kindness & Empathy

Her kind-heartedness in the face of struggle encouraged us to always care for others and show empathy



Honesty

Zindzi's truthfulness to herself and people around her taught us the value of honesty in our fight for democracy through dialogue



Anti-racism

She encouraged us to fight against racism and the patriarchy at every opportunity and showed us how to do so



Kindness & Empathy

As an ambassador, she didn't spend her time in receptions and fancy parties, she spent her time in deportation centres and homeless shelters



Democracy

From Zindzi we learnt to fight for democracy, saying 'we have our differences, but we talk about it and after that, we continue to love one another'



Crossing Borders is the new coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation in Denmark



ALF is an international organisation that promotes dialogue among civil organisations in the Mediterranean area. The foundation works to build trust between cultures across the Euro-Med region which is considered pivotal in the face of the current increasing polarization and risk of a clash of civilizations. ALF operates in over 42 countries, including Denmark, and is comprised of national networks operating locally. Crossing Borders has been elected as the new coordinator for the Danish Network after a thorough consultation with the ALF Headquarter, and the support of the ALF coordinator in Sweden and the previous Danish coordinator, Danmission. As the new Head of network, Crossing Borders is working to reactivate the Danish network, so as to continue the promotion of contacts, dialogue, and exchange across the Euro-Med through regular activities such as a periodic newsletter, events, and the mobilization of old and new members of ALF – Denmark. Crossing Borders is also eager to create better synergy with ALF Headquarters and the other national networks. Overall, the perspectives for the future are to render the Danish Network dynamic and to promote contacts, dialogue, and collaboration across the Euro-Med region.



Watch a video



Localising the SDG's

Uganda - Ghana - Zambia

Anchoring a Civil Society model toward localising the SDGs in Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia: One of the biggest projects funded by CISU in 2020 and starting in 2021



Late in 2020, Crossing Borders attained funding from CISU for a two and a half years project starting on January 1, 2021, and it is one of the biggest projects yet from a donor! This project will take place across Uganda, Zambia, Ghana and Denmark and will aim to ensure Civil Society organizations can share best practices around localizing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Fitting these goals to local contexts while empowering youth through education is one of our central aims at Crossing Borders, and we are particularly excited to work on such a large project that not only empowers youth directly but creates a platform for knowledge sharing across our wonderful partners Circus Zambia, Open Space Centre in Uganda and Ghana Community Radio Network! This consortium project will focus on the important task of localising and contextualising SDG's at a grassroots level. This will be accomplished by three main objectives:

- 1.) The mobilisation and engagement of our partners target groups who are young people and empowering them to create and take ownership of localising the SDG's through grassroots activities innovated by themselves.
- 2.) To facilitate the building of synergies, good practices, and success stories regarding localising the SDG's through a collaborative platform.
- 3.) To lobby and advocate for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure the longer-term entrenchment of the various SDG targets at a grassroots level.
- 4.) Lobby and advocate for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure the longer-term entrenchment of the various SDGs targets at grassroots levels.

Crossing Borders won the CISU photo contest 2020

The theme of this year contest was Engagement



CISU - Civilsamfund i Udvikling

September 21, 2020 · 🌐

Vinderen af årets fotokonkurrence 2020 i CISU er: [Crossing Borders](#)

En jury af professionelle fotografer, repræsentanter fra CISUs partnere og CISUs egne engagementsmedarbejdere har udvalgt dette billede som vinder. STORT tillykke! 😊👏

Dommerne skrev blandt andet:

💬 "This pic shows immediate power of cooperation and is visually pleasing and clear."

💬 "Når en gruppe engagerer sig aktivt i at nå et fælles mål, kan man ramme plet og knytte stærke bånd på tværs af grænser og skel. Det kræver fælles vilje, samarbejde, tålmodighed og gåpåmod, men det kan lykkes!"

💬 "You have to learn to work together to have great results."

Læs hele nyheden her: <https://cisu.dk/aktuelt/nyheder...>

See Translation



Launching our new local project Action Hub funded by Tuborg Foundation

TUBORG
FONDET





Action Hub is an open space in the heart of Copenhagen that works to empower young people to become the drivers of change. Our vision is to support young people for them to engage in meaningful work towards building an active, creative, and aware society.

At Action Hub you will be a part of a community of 30 young people between 17 – 30 years old who want to make a difference and who share a common vision and motivation. In our shared space, you will work with others to turn your best ideas and passion into action that creates a tangible change and meaning in society.

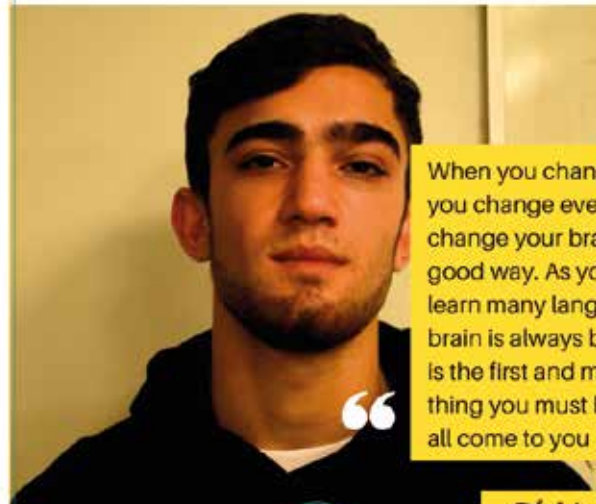


“

I imagine a planet, where people are less selfish, remember how beautiful nature is and rediscover how to reconnect to it.

Naomi, 24

By enrolling in the Hub's four-month program, you will be given the tools, support, and network to create and implement an Action Project. During the four-months, Action Hub will host weekly training sessions that will provide a combination of lectures, workshops, mentorship, and networking, alongside a community dinner to kick off each evening. Each training session will be different from the last, building on the momentum of the previous week and the needs of each Action Project. While you will be required to sign up for one particular course, all activities will be open to everyone so that you will be able to decide what suits your Action Project best as it progresses.



When you change country, you change everything. You change your brain, but in a good way. As you need to learn many languages, your brain is always busy. Interest is the first and most important thing you must have and then all come to you

Hakim, 18



This has been such a new experience, doing my best as a facilitator. It is so nice to meet people, creating contact between the countries

Dimitra, 24



The “CROSSING BORDERS” Photo Contest 2020

Deadline

October 15th
11:00 Am

Winner Announcement

October 18th (CB Birthday)

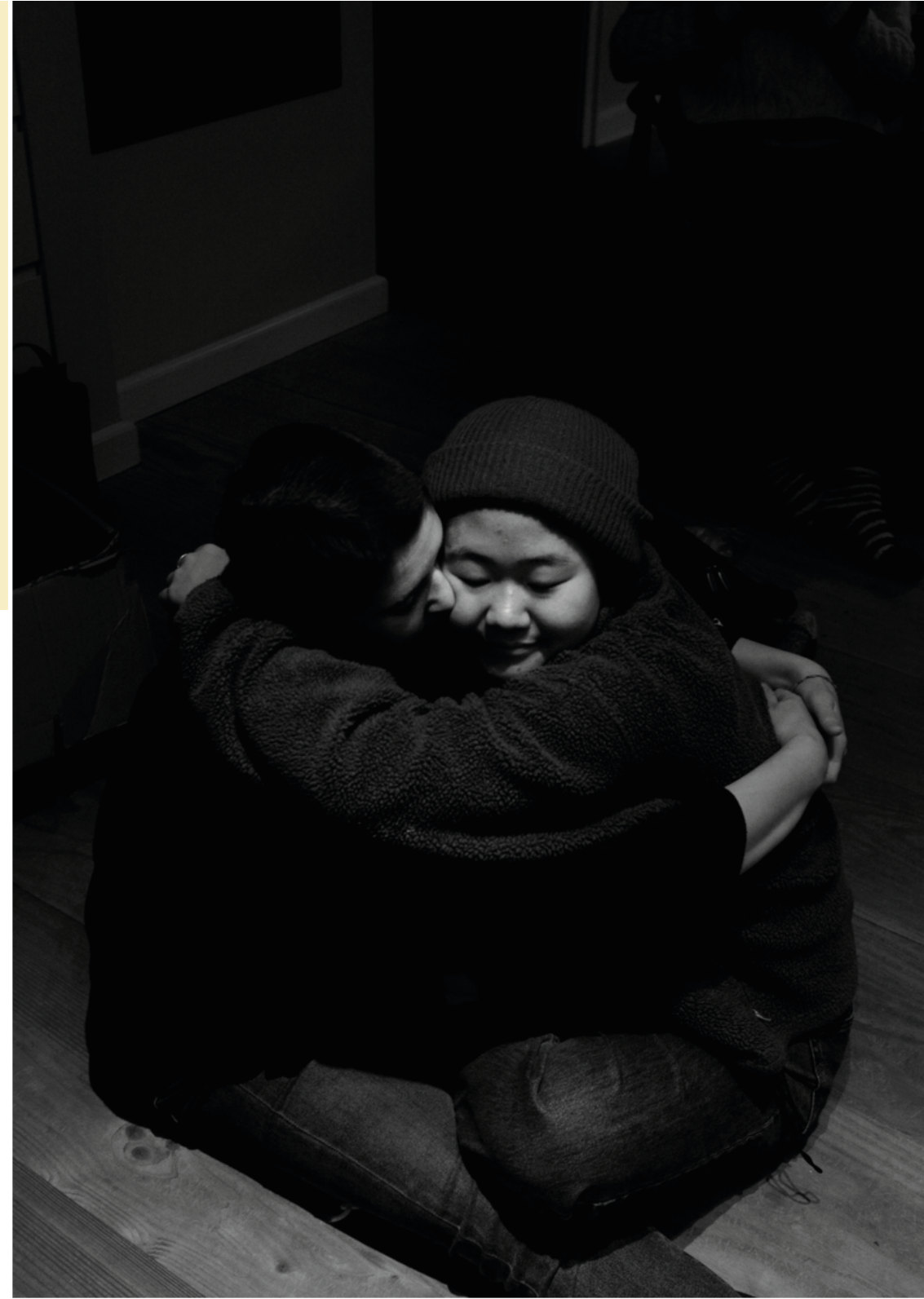
We celebrated our birthdays this year, the 18th of October 2020, by launching the Crossing Borders Photo Contest 2020. The theme was “Crossing Borders”. We want to know what the participants could represent the concept of crossing borders, both physically/mentally and culturally.

We were very honored to have the great photographers Jacob Holdt, Kannan P Samy, and Ulrik Teisner on the panel to decide on the winning photo.

Hannah Aurora Almstrup, from Denmark, won the Crossing Borders Photo Contest 2020 with this photo:

The last embrace

Kaho and Caroline giving each other the last hug before Kaho travels back to her other home 12.000 kilometers away. Trying not to think about the distance between Denmark and Japan. Trying to prolong their stay in “Danpan” – their own little world somewhere in-between Denmark & Japan. During their 5 months as neighbors they crossed borders everyday, developed their own language and created ever-lasting memories together.



An illustration of a window with yellow curtains and a wooden sill. The curtains are tied back with orange ribbons. The text "Events During 2020" is written in white on the green background behind the window.

Events During 2020

2020 has been a very different year at Crossing Borders. With the Covid19 pandemic, staying at home and physical distancing was requested to be followed. However, with all these challenges lies big opportunities. It of course affected the way we host our events as we had to adapt to online life and being behind the screens. This situation has pushed us to be more online presence and reach a bigger number of people who are interested in Crossing Borders from the world. A second opportunity was that we opened up to the world in our events, and using online tools helped us feel no borders. We had events that gathered many people from many different parts of the world in one digital virtual room.



What is dialogue and how do we practice it?



Women on the move Celebrating International Women's Day



In our project Dialogue in Adult Education (DiA), we work to better understand how dialogue works and what is the smart ways to approach it. In one of our meetings with our partners, we were so lucky to have the former Danish parliament member and the founder of Dialogue Cafe, Özlem Cekic, to open the two days meeting with her very inspiring talk about how dialogue could be achieved. We also had Nadja Pass from Samtalesaloner to end up the day with a very inspiring talk about her organization that brings people together in conversation salons.

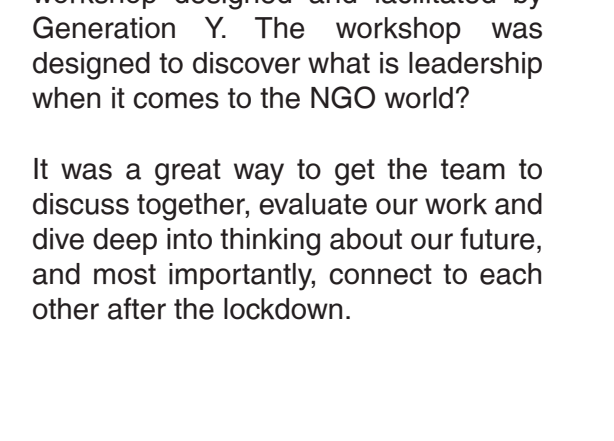
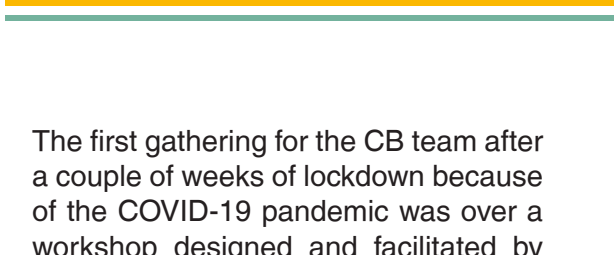
Like, many other good people around the world, we celebrated International Women's Day in a true Crossing Borders way. In this CB way, some 150 people from many different backgrounds, nationalities, ages, genders, and professions came together under the same roof to shed light and height the lives of women on the move, who have made it against multiple odds. For this we had 8 amazing women from 8 different countries share 8 powerful stories, songs, and poems with delicious food prepared by 8 men in 8 different countries. The hall was full of people, deep emotions, and inspirations. People left the place with positive energy, smiles on their faces and tears in their eyes, and determination to make the world a better place for all.



A billion thanks to all those who came to be with us on this day, many thanks to the powerful speaker that gave us some food for thought, the poetries that we heard from Wanjiku Seest and Sarah Diallo were super powerful and made us think, the talks by Mozhdeh Ghasemiyani, Suzana Milovic, and Mary Consolata Namagambe opened our eyes on a lot of struggles that women still facing up to those days, and we don't forget the very amazing music and powerful song words by Pernille Tolou Isedora Johansson that you are hearing in the video below. Special thanks go to our Vice-Chair of the CB board, Rikke Rønholt for moderating the whole event and introducing the speakers, as well as a big thanks, go to our CB Board Chair, Vibeke Quaade for the event opening speech. You all have made our night unforgettable.

We don't forget the CB team and the great cooks who made the food, the great team that makes things happen, we feel so lucky to have such a team from different countries in one place, working on the same missions, to create a place where people could live in peace.





The first gathering for the CB team after a couple of weeks of lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic was over a workshop designed and facilitated by Generation Y. The workshop was designed to discover what is leadership when it comes to the NGO world?

It was a great way to get the team to discuss together, evaluate our work and dive deep into thinking about our future, and most importantly, connect to each other after the lockdown.

Global art and culture partnership webinar

CB
Crossing Borders
The Wilderness



In the shadow of corona - disaster and tragedy - opportunities and potentials Global art and culture partnership webinar.

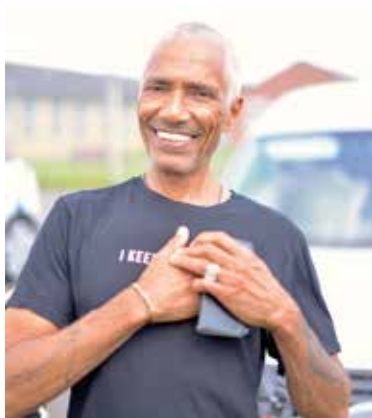
The motivation for this event was the desire to reflect on the challenges and opportunities the Corona crisis has created to re/connect with friends and colleagues from across the globe.



For this, Crossing Borders and Wilderness found it fitting to use music to reconnect with our old friends and at the same connect with new ones. Therefore, we have mobilized truly great and globally-minded artists from 9 countries to share their music and poetry.

The event included a welcome by Garba Diallo - Director of Crossing Borders, and Johannes Nordentoft - Founder of The Wilderness, poetry by Sara Rahmeh - Syria/Denmark, a presentation about Crossing Borders by Tatjana Stefanovic, poetry by Sara Diallo - Mali/Denmark, flute music by Dela Botri - Ghana, Song/music by Luca Simizu - Japan, Poetry/painting by Vibeke Pilar Carstensen - Denmark, Song/music by Maya Bando & Robin Lloyd - Japan and the US, Cora & Poetry by Gameli - Ghana, Closing Poetry by Lesley Ann - Trinidad.

**2020
NELSON
MANDELA
DAY**



What role can the grassroots NGOs play in implementing the SDG's in Uganda?



July 18, Nelson Mandela international day, the day in which we contribute to the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. But this year, we also dedicated our contribution to the Memory, Life, and Legacy of our special Ambassador Zindzi Mandela, who, like her father Nelson Mandela, gave her entire life to community service.

This year, we spent the day at the deportation center in Sjælsmarknorth of Copenhagen with some 65 kids and their parents. Some of these kids and their parents have been languishing in the camp for years. Some of them have been here for over 12 years!

Together with the South Africa Embassy in Denmark, we prepared games, food, drinks, cakes, and gifts for the kids. But, the most important is that we got great artists to join us. They include the storyteller and bassist Moussa Diallo from Mali/Denmark, Mbaye Art from Senegal/Denmark, Helle Fulgsag from Denmark, and Kwamie Liv herself from Zambia/Denmark. These great people managed to put a smile on the beautiful faces of those beautiful kids, who need it the most.



What role can the grassroots NGOs play in implementing the SDGs in Uganda? With a panel formed of our Director, Garba Diallo, the founder of Civil Connections Andrew J. Bende, the SDGs consultant Jesper Alstrøm, and the founder of Open Space Forum in Uganda Wakib Bunya, we discussed the results of the project and how successful it has been. We also discussed how and in what ways grassroots NGOs can implement the SDGs through youth leadership using projects like "The SDG'S in reality."



Watch the full recording

PAESIC

Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom

Conference



Youth Ambassadors for Peace in the Eastern Europe & Caucasus



Public Presentation & Panel Discussion

Reflections on building and sustaining peace in the Eastern European and Caucasus region

online via zoom

SHOW TASKBAR | DISPLAY SETTINGS | END SLIDE SHOW

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Inclusion – the theoretical approach

...in a Danish school context

Hypothesis

- inclusion only succeeds, when the children themselves feel included
- inclusion | learning communities as well as in other communities of children

Matrix definition: Signs of Good Inclusion (Engsig, Næsby & Qvortrup, University of Aalborg, 2016)

- Physical inclusion
- Social inclusion
- Mental inclusion (Qvortrup, 2012)

Participants

Teacher-student workers, Counselors, Leaders } Primary Schools

- Denmark: **Differentiation**
- To share experience, knowledge and practice
- To provide educators with a learning space to share better practices and gain creative and innovative skills in promoting socially inclusive education.
- To meet the specific needs of teachers in a European and Danish context

The overall goal of the PAESIC partnership is to acquire knowledge about **what works** in the schools' practice of **ensuring social inclusion** for students with a migrant or refugee background.



This online event was structured to start with an information session where representatives of partner organizations from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine share experiences on how they work in engaging young people to conceive and cultivate peaceful conflict resolution in their local communities.

The second session led to a panel discussion on the need to answer a pressing social – structural problem, one that has both individuals, local, regional and international impact in maintaining peace and dialog in the region where for many years repeated conflicts have persevered on different levels.

In November, we held an online event together with the University College of Northern Denmark UCN to talk about the best inclusion of children with immigrant and refugee backgrounds in the classroom can be implemented and shared the results from our common project Paesic. We had very interesting discussions and some impressive results from this project.



Watch the full recording

The event provided information and inspiration from experts and trainers in peace education and youth work, civil society activists, and youth participants from project partners: All Ukrainian association for youth cooperation -Alternative-V from Ukraine; Academy for Peace and Development (APD) from Georgia; Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC) from Armenia and Millenium -Training and Development Institute from Moldova.



Dec. 4, 2020

17:00 - 19:00 CET

The implications of election violence in AFRICA

Journalist webinar
Panel debate



Very often, holding elections in many parts of Africa is like going to war with zero-sum outcomes: one party wins it all whereas the other loses it all. Hence, like war, people get wounded and/or killed, detained, and beaten up. School, work, and normal daily life get disrupted. Properties also suffer damage. It is a very dangerous affair. This has been going on since the colonial creation of the African states 60 years ago! With this fact in mind, we held an online event where we invited media experts from the ground to reflect on and share their perspectives as to why African elections are fraught with violence and uncertainty. Some of the questions raised during the event were, What are the root causes of the problem with the elections in Africa? Is there any link between the origin of the African state structure and the election crisis? What are the short, medium, and long-term implications of this sad situation? What role the education system and media play in these challenges? What is the possible solution to the political malaise?

The panel was formed of seasoned African journalists to address this issue during this webinar, including Kojo Yankah from Ghana, Charles Odoobo Bichachi from Uganda, Gameli Tordzro from Ghana, Aissata Sankara from Burkina Faso, and Ernest Chanda from Zambia.

Food For Thought provides an exciting space for people from different backgrounds to share their life stories. We want to enable people to learn from and be inspired by each other's life experiences through storytelling in a safe, stimulating and inclusive social environment, with a delicious dinners.



**FOOD
FOR
THOUGHT**



I TELL MY STORY, THERE, FORE, I AM

The idea stems from the belief that each one of us has unique life stories that are worth sharing and from which we can learn a lot. The idea also resonates with the saying: I tell my story, therefore, I am



Great Food →



Powerful Stories →



Networking →



Cozy Time

Our Food For Thought activities and essence is by having people meet together under one roof, sharing dinner, and connecting over stories. With the Covid19 outbreak in 2020, the Food For Thought was one of the most Crossing Borders activities to be affected as it was no more recommended to meet up, and staying home was requested. However, we managed to host some events and also adapting some to online streaming.

Carsten Jensen
Danish author,
journalist, and
adjunct professor



Jan Grarup
Award-winning war
photographer



Ehab Gamal
Youth Leader
from Egypt



Dr. Samay Hamed
Regional
Representative
and Senior
Consultant



Dennis Dalgaard
Art Photographer



Bonnoir Trio
Afro-Jazz Music Band



Alex Sabour
Creative
Director
and Founder
of Gorilla Media



Alex Sabour and the Gorilla Media on Food For Thought – Reflection by Martina Popadáková

On February 6th we held one of our Food for Thought Events and we were excited to hear an inspiring story about the motivation behind Gorilla Media Denmark. We had the honor to have all the “gorillas” present, along with its Creative Director and founder Alex Sabour. Alex shared with us the journey of Gorilla Media from the very initial idea and desire to do projects that he truly “burns for” to the publication of its first successful projects and all the challenges and struggles along the way.

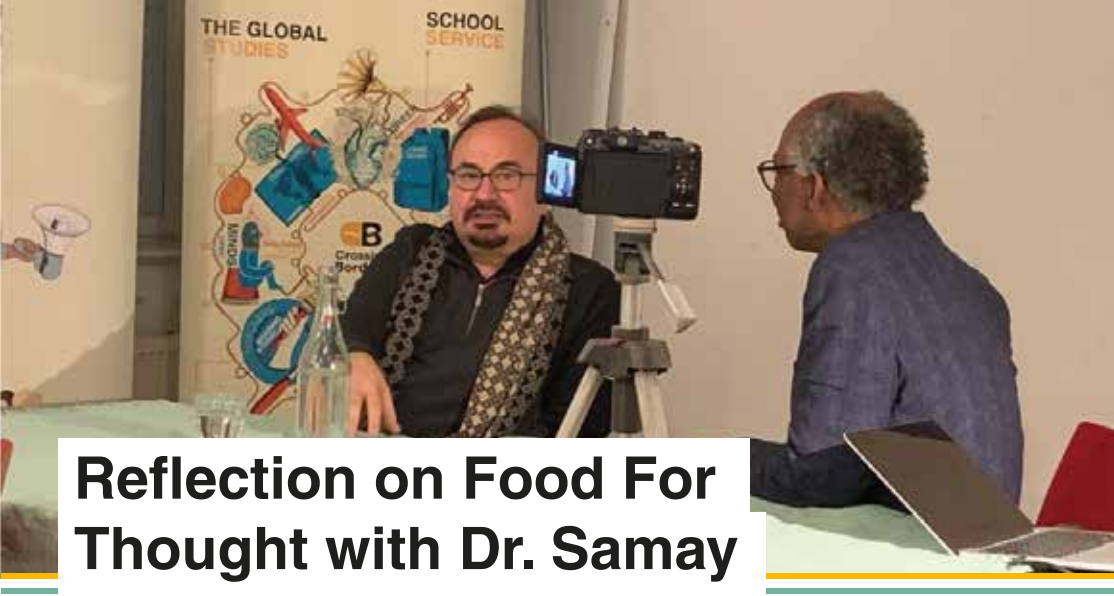
78 Awards and over 500 million people reached are just some of the stunning numbers achieved by this creative advertising agency and production house which started in December 2016. It first began as Alex’s dream of doing projects on important topics and at the time, it seemed an impossible dream. He started with a simple Facebook page, logo and website, but when the opportunity came, Alex took his chance.

On 9th February 2017 the Danish parliament released the official statement, which stipulated: “The Danish parliament concludes with concern that there are today areas in Denmark where the share of immigrants and descendants from non-western countries is more than 50%. It is the apprehension of the Danish parliament that Danes should not be a minority in residential areas in Denmark.” In short: Danes within housing projects should not be in a minority.

As a reaction to this statement, Alex wanted to do something about it, so together with Lelo Shalby and Sasan Askari made a video named “Jeg er Dansk” (I am Danish). The video received mixed reactions from ecstatic to enraged, with some groups severely disagreeing with Gorilla. Alex’s expectations were exceeded when the video went viral in such a short amount of time. In just under 24 hours, the video had 1.5 million views and received a huge reaction not only from the Danish market but also internationally; it went viral in Sweden and Norway and shortly after started spreading throughout Europe and South America.



[Read the full article](#)



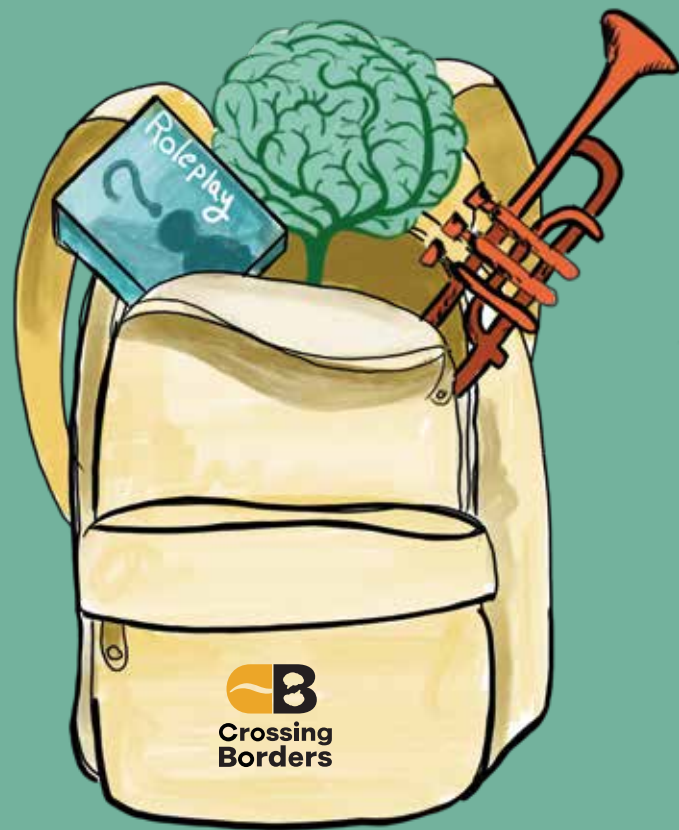
Reflection on Food For Thought with Dr. Samay Hamed by our team members Soren and Owen

At the first Food for Thought of 2020 Crossing Borders hosted Dr. Samay Hamed. The event opened as usual with a presentation of Dr. Hamed's experiences in Afghanistan where he has been trying to bring various means of non-formal education and break cultural taboos, all with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of his fellow Afghans. Following that, our wonderful intern, Ms. Yuka Fuji, and her friend Hika presented an incredible Japanese dinner for us featuring five different dishes (and which very well could have been presented as a 4-course, five-star meal).

Like all of our FFT speakers, Dr. Hamed is a man of many talents. He is a trained medical doctor, a journalist who won the 2003 International Press Freedom Award, a prolific author of books and songs (32 book, 100 songs, and counting), and is committed to challenging the status quo of culture, education, and ways of thought in Afghanistan. In Dr. Hamed's mind, the way to change society is by starting from the bottom rather than the top. To do this, he says, you must change the way people think and help encourage critical thinking. After noting the lack of space for critical thinking in Afghan society and education, Dr. Hamed decided the best way to do this was by creating these spaces himself. These spaces include (among others) musical festivals, workshops, satirical T.V. shows, and underground publications.



[Read the full article](#)



SCHOOL SERVICE

Bringing The World Into The Classroom



2020 has been a challenging year for every aspect of Crossing Borders, and to little surprise, our school services have not been immune to the tremendous societal shifts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite the far-reaching consequences that COVID-19 restrictions have had for our ability to visit and work with students across Denmark, we can still look back at the year and be immensely proud of the work our fantastic school service team has accomplished.



Some of our accomplishments in 2020



We have opened up new reflections, dialogue and inspired over 700 students all across Denmark (and a single workshop in Norway).

Established a new school service team and administrative structure.

Worked with a broad range of essential and current topics, such as Black Lives Matter, Migrants and Refugees, Racism, Climate issues and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have developed new partnerships that will take us stronger than ever into 2021 with both local artists, other grassroots movements and more established institutions.



All of this is thanks to the lovely, life-improving, and fantastic interns, colleagues, volunteers, and friends of our community. However, in particular, Tatjana Stefanovich deserves the most genuine praise and admiration for her tireless and unforgiving effort and power. After many years, as the lead of our school services, Tatjana is stepping down to take over our (non-EU) international programs. Tatjana has throughout her involvement, as the head of school services, been invaluable and taken over school services to a level way beyond what we imagined it to be before her arrival. Tatjana will remain a facilitator and guest speaker on the school service team.



Ambitious Man

A poem by Alieu Drammeh, a spoken word artist in Denmark who visited the schools with us during our workshops and shared his spoken words with the students.

I am a man filled with passion,
Never ending ambition,
I'm an ambitious man,
Climb to the top,
Yes I can.
Start and never stop,
that's the plan,

Reach the peak so I can scream,
Beam like the sun I mean,
Top of the mountain,
Ready to sore through the skies,
Like a plain,
So high I can feel my mother's
presence..
In the essence of success..
That rests between the clouds,
Oh yes..

I'm an ambitious man,
I never dreamt to be a fireman,
But instead wished to become the
fire that drives people to do better
and be better..



I never dreamt of becoming a
police officer,
But instead wished to be the
reason why a killer became a
preacher,
Why a murderer became a forgiver,
Never had the education to
become a doctor,
But God gave my words the
strength to Make a dying heart feel
alive,
Turn suicidal thoughts into nothing
but mere nightmares..
that you wake up from thinking
there's so much life to live..

Oh yes..
I'm an ambitious man!
I have dreams like Martin,
I've already foreseen my future like
that's so Raven,
I've got the heart of Malcolm,
Strike me and I'll strike back..
Hate me and I'll hate back..
But love me and I'll love you twice
back..
Screw me over and my panthers
got my back..
But I dream of a world where we
can talk
Instead of war,
Give me your perspective,
Then I give you my perspective,
Now we understand each other as
a collective.

Oh yes..
You have to be ambitious..
To apprehend these visions,
A closed mind could never
handle my demons,
Fight them off until our hands
feel freedom,
And that takes a man with
ambition and passion,
And I am a man filled with
passion,
Never ending ambition..
I'm an ambitious man,
Climb to the top,
Yes I can.
Start and never stop..
that's the plan.





A Peek at CB School Services, 2021-2022

In place, a new team is currently being developed. The primary focus of the new team is to re-think and re-establish the foundational structure of the school services to achieve three main goals:

Sustainable Social and Economic School Service Structure

The CB school service department has, throughout its existence, like many other aspects of CB, been heavily reliant on volunteers and interns. One of the key goals of the new school service team is to work to build a model, where guest speakers and partners are monetarily rewarded for contributing to our work to engage and inspire today's youth. On top of that, we will also work to:

- Streamline administrative capacity
- Establish a more consistent set of CB facilitators,
- Develop a more concise pricing system.

CB Storyteller Collective (working title)

To strengthen and further develop our network of storytellers, artists and other inspiring guest speakers/performers, 2021 will see the launch of the CB Storyteller Collective, which will be community of local storytellers and artists that are passionate to share their crafts and tales at our workshops. The Collective will not only be a network of beautiful people that we will be able to call upon to join us for the workshops, it also has the aim of building the capacity of young talented storytellers and artists. The hope is that it will facilitate a broad range of events from creative weekend-retreats to storytelling workshops and networking/social events.

A New and Updated School Service Catalogue

We are currently in the process of reaching out to partners, artists and storytellers in our network to establish a new school service catalogue developed in collaboration with a wide range of super exciting new and old partners that will bring our offers to the schools to the next level. More information on this in the new year!

All in all, the school service team is full of courage, and we cannot wait to go into 2021 stronger than ever. To bring tears, joy and inspiration to schools all over Denmark.



The Global Studies Program 2020

Like everything else in 2020, Crossing Borders Global Studies was affected by the Coronavirus. The Spring 2020 term at Krogerup Højskole was interrupted and canceled with the first lockdown on March 12th. Also, as the course was being phased out at Krogerup, it had only 12 students. However, the Autumn term at Nordfyns Højskole went well with 25 students, from 15 countries.





Focusing on the key dimensions of globalisation, the CB global studies provided the students a unique opportunity to go through a process of life-changing experience in a learning space and time to discover what they were passionate about, had competencies in, and what they wanted to improve in their lives. That life change experience enabled students to learn how to communicate and make friends with fellow youth from many different cultures, professions, ages, and perspectives.

The results included improved self-confidence, social competencies, skills, and capacity to live, study, and work with other fellow humans anywhere in the world. These improvements were gained while the students learned and made projects about cross-cultural issues. Nordic Living focused on social justice and the welfare system, the concept of globalization from different perspectives, the 17 UN Global Goals for sustainable development. As an application of the environment/climate module, the students took part in a one-week study tour to the Bright Green island of Bornholm.

After, the tour the course tackled topics on the power of the media and the smart use of social media, Peace, and Conflict transformation. In the peace and conflict module, the students made group projects on the conflicts in Myanmar, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and Ukraine.

To put all the experiences together, the final module was about social entrepreneurship project management. Here, they also made individual and group projects which they could use in their studies and work.



International Projects 2020

International Projects Funded By CISU

CB - CISU active projects in 2020



This year was especially challenging in terms of implementing project activities, working conditions, and maintaining relations with our local partners and community members. It has shown precedent for how necessary development work is.

Our main focus this year was to build capacity and long lasting and trustworthy strategic partnership and projects in order to create a sustainable future for those who are the most in need. We had to react fast and accordingly to be able to maintain all the processes that we have started. We needed to build organizational resilience, firstly for ourselves and then for our partners. We always worked hand in hand with our partners, as they know the context the best. We could witness how solidarity and compassion is awakened in challenging moments and how working collectively can achieve better results for everyone. We also experienced new advantages in using the digital space, re-thinking about risk assessments and creating new strategies on how to rebuild the civic space. Remote and online work brought greater access and participation by using new and innovative working methods and creating the virtual common space, where borders do not exist and where we can connect faster and easier with decreasing CO2 emission simultaneously.

As a reaction to the needs and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic caused, we worked harder than ever to sustain distant monitoring and adequately react to the needs of our local partners. We also tirelessly worked on building digital capacity and creating new projects and proposals. The special focus is on how to build organizational resilience, how to respond, adapt and implement changes and disruptions, going beyond the risk management and preparing the organizations for more holistic approaches that will bring more overall organization health.

In 2020, Crossing Borders International program supported by CISU - Civil society in development had nine projects: two completed, three ongoing and four approved.

Active projects are in the 9 following countries: Armenia, Georgia, Ghana, Moldova, Morocco, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Our plan for 2021 is to continue in the same direction and to develop even more strategic partnerships and sustainable projects that will contribute to capacity building and active citizenship through dialogue, education and training.

We would like to say thanks to all the project partners, youth, community members, and other stakeholders for maintaining the great work and being active and demonstrating solidarity and compassion during these challenging times.

New Projects Started in 2020

**RYAC
Zimbabwe**



REVITALIZING YOUTH'S ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP



Revitalizing Youth's Active Citizenship is about mobilizing youths and youth leaders from Zimbabwe's Masvingo and Bulawayo provinces to be involved in civic engagements processes through constitutional awareness. With our wonderful partners My Age Zimbabwe, this project aims to facilitate increased knowledge around youth's rights, duties, roles and values in the way their country is run. This CISU-funded project is just one example of how Crossing Borders is empowering youth across the world! The project began in November 2020 and will last for a year. It aims to:

Promote constitutional awareness and meaningful youth engagement in the civic engagement processes in Zimbabwe.

Provide conducive spaces and opportunities for youth from the two provinces to engage with their community leaders in civic development and policy processes

Establish the building/mobilizing of a network of active youth-led organisations from the two provinces

In October, CISU Program coordinator Tatjana and Project Coordinator Owen kicked-off RYAC Zimbabwe with Onward and Samora from My Age Zimbabwe. This prepared the ground for a fantastic project; we look forward to a year of raising constitutional awareness in Zimbabwe!

Photo: from My Age Zimbabwe Facebook page





Empowering Girls Dialogue Morocco

We had the pleasure of starting the ‘Empowered Girls Dialogue’ project in 2020, which brought the addition of another brilliant partner, Project Soar, into the CB community.

‘Empowered Girls Dialogue’ is a project focused on marginalized Moroccan teen girls who can become changemakers in their own communities. By providing them with leadership skills, the overall goal is to assist in understanding and improving rights and opportunities of teenage girls facing discriminatory practices such as sexual harassment, dropping out of the school, and forced premature marriages. The project aims to help them acquire the values to be active political participants and advocates for their future in the collaboration with a broad platform of stakeholders which will provide and support mechanisms to fight against oppressive customs and help secure future success.

Photo: from Project Soar Facebook page



The project lasts one year and will take place in 10 underserved locations across Morocco, directly targeting 200 Moroccan teen girls from marginalized backgrounds, as well as 20 women Empowerment Facilitators. Together they will work to have an amplifying effect in the target communities where girls live.

Our partner, Project Soar showed a very proactive approach to cope with the current situation and it was very inspiring to talk to them and see how driven and motivated they are to make this project moving and find a way to implement the activities with the girls maintaining safety as a priority.



Kyiv Democracy Hub



In December 2020, Crossing Borders together with the Klitschko Foundation started a one-year project named Kyiv Democracy Hub. The main purpose of the project is to establish a Democracy Hub in Kyiv as a space to promote democracy amongst Ukrainian youth and to inspire the future leaders of the country. The Hub aims to improve youth interests in society, politics, democracy, independent media, human rights, ecology, and to enhance youth leadership and active citizenship.

This is the first project that partners have together, after many online meetings, found out that they have numerous common interests, like youth empowerment and using debates for civic education.

The initiative of Kyiv Democracy Hub comes from an increasing need for active youth participation in solving societal challenges in Ukraine. Through this project we seek to encourage the creation of space for dialogue, to build the capacity of youth to take positive actions, and to raise awareness on current local and global issues. That is how the idea of the Democracy Hub was born; giving young people space where they can learn, exchange, be empowered and inspire others to become an active citizen and change agents in their society.

The activities such as youth training, debate clubs, great debate camp, panel discussions, lectures, seminars, community cafes, will contribute to the empowerment of youth in Ukraine, so they become a change-maker in their community, striving for a better life and applying democracy and active citizenship in their daily lives. Through these specific project activities, we are establishing a framework that will result in positive changes in their local communities.

Ongoing CISU projects in 2020

Ghana Community Radios

Participatory Community Radio and The Right to Communicate – A Singular Pathway to the SDGs – after 2 and a half years has entered in the final project phase. This project is specifically fighting for the right of the most marginalised and vulnerable in Ghana to have a voice, communicate and attain information by means of the magical combination of Community Radio and the Sustainable Development Goals. The intervention, like all of Crossing Borders and Ghana Community Radio Network collaborative initiatives, situates itself in a position of empowerment. It does so from a position that empowerment is not borrowed but emanates from those concerned themselves. It avails the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable of what is really their own resource – the airwaves – to empower themselves. With this, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, the project seeks to leverage and nudge local, regional, and national governments towards progressive development based on the movement and drive of the local communities of the radios.



On top of that, the project has an inevitable advocacy element in the battle against governmental regulations on community radios that, for multiple unjust reasons have been restricted to a 5-km broadcasting radius.

Lastly, the project also has a focus on capacity building the current community radios and strengthening their general administration, as well as gender equality in the radios.

The ways the project is dealing with the current COVID-situation is, firstly, to use the SDGs and the community radios to inform local communities about the risks of COVID, as well as to leverage local authorities to enforce proper safety policies. Since the project is extended until end of February 2021 due to COVID situation, for this time, CB is developing digital capacity building workshops with the aim of optimizing the digital capacity of the 23-member radio stations of the Ghana Community Network, as well as storytelling workshops to the radio heads and radio journalists to prepare them to identify, collect and send the best practice stories that are worth sharing from the fields for CB to edit, compile and disseminate both in Denmark and Ghana.

Under the project frame, around 90 local communities are being reached by the 21 Community Radios. On top of that, various stakeholders, and in particular government and agency officials, are also the target of our advocacy work for removal of the arbitrary 5-km broadcasting radius limitation.

Over 90 local communities have engaged in learning about the power of both community radio and the sustainable development goals across Ghana. This has led to a long string of various broadcasts, info-jingles, radio community groups, talk shows, phone-athons, etc. With more than 400 engaged community member that have worked to leverage and change local policies and conversations. The project has strengthened and empowered the abilities of local communities to leverage and communicate with each other and local authorities.

On advocacy level, results remain to materialise, however, the case continuous to be strong and is making a lot of noise in the national conversation. Stories of the community radios have also made their way to UNESCO online panels, workshop in UNDP conferences in NYC, etc.

The capacity building has also been relatively successful – particularly, we have seen progress in terms of gender equality, where, as a start, an equal amount of woman and men has participated in capacity building workshops and trainings.

Youth Ambassadors for Peace in Eastern Europe & Caucasus



Project Young Ambassadors for Peace in Eastern Europe and Caucasus is a 2-and-a-half-year partnership project between Armenia, Denmark, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, started in 2018 and currently at the final project phase.

This project is part of Crossing Borders strategic program in Eastern Europe and Caucasus that started in 2016, with the aim of developing long-term educational and sustainable projects that will build the capacity of the partners about conflict transformation and peace building across the countries in the region.

Negative mutual images of the region and neighboring countries, their politicians, as well as different local societies keep lingering, characterized by mistrust and prejudices, among others. Moreover, we have witnessed in many places that different local narratives create powerful misconceptions of 'others', forming a powerful role in feeding the isolation and noncommunication among the parties. One of the sections of these societies that find themselves central to these developments are the young people, bearing the fact that they are tomorrow's diplomats, and therefore bear the burden of dealing with these misgivings in the future.

Unfortunately, young people have commonly been excluded from the chance to engage on issues of diplomacy of their countries let alone their local communities. Although some government institutions and civil societies are actively working to change this, the mainstream systems are far from changing. Schools and educational institutions for example, still maintain structures of old regimes, based on directives from above and strict conformity to political guidance. Not many young people are sufficiently accessible to inputting into more inclusive policy processes and the need to change the status quo.

With the first project in 2016, titled Young Diplomats for Peace in Denmark, Ukraine, and Georgia, Crossing Borders aimed to educate youth about nonviolent communication, conflict resolution and transformation. After successful cooperation and intervention, in 2017 Crossing Borders developed a new two-year project including two more partners - Armenia and Moldova.

That is how Youth Ambassadors for Peace started, including more partner countries, and extending activities among all actors in the region. The overall objective of Youth Ambassadors for Peace is to contribute to a bottom-up, youth-to-youth approach to peacebuilding by strengthening the role of young people and youth related CSO networks. Youth participants are empowered to be vigilant democratically aware, and socially responsible peace ambassadors, capable of building bridges to peaceful conflict resolution among the Eastern Europe and Caucasus neighborhood.



February 2020. Andrew and Tatjana in Tbilisi together with our project partners



During these 2 and half years, the Youth Ambassadors for Peace project empowered at least 200 young people from Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, and Moldova to become peace ambassadors, capable of contributing to peace building at the local, national, and regional level. The project is currently at its final phase where youth small scale projects are running across the four project partner countries.

During the year 2020, the project partners faced many challenges as did the rest of the world due to pandemic and forced lockdowns. However, they showed great effort in dealing with ongoing challenges and finding and adopting new methods in working with youth but also adjusting activities as response to the global crisis and urgent needs. These challenges opened new, creative ways to work in the field of education and make it more relevant for ongoing situation. Our Ukrainian partner, Alternative-V, organized and carried out a series of online classes for educators and social workers working with youngsters on mental health, how to deal with anxiety, how to improve stress resilience and how to prevent, identify and cope with burnout. Our project partner from Georgia, Academy for Peace and Development (APD), created a series of online training courses and online campaigns on Peacebuilding, Non-violent communication, Youth Participation, Active Citizenship. From “Millenium” Training and Development Institute from Moldova and our Armenian partner - Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC), we received many creative initiatives from youth participants that were implementing through mini projects in their local communities, in schools, among peers, teacher, parents and other community members. These youth ambassadors for peace created events about International Peace day, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Living Libraries in order to address different aspects of stereotypes and discrimination and others.

On the 3rd December 2020, we held a public presentation and panel discussion which contained reflections on building and sustaining peace in the Eastern European and Caucasus regions. This online event started with an information session where representatives of partner organizations from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine share experiences on how they work in engaging young people to conceive and cultivate peaceful conflict resolution in their local communities. The second session led into a panel discussion on the need to answer a pressing social – structural problem, one that has both individual, local, regional and international impact in maintaining peace and dialogue in the region where for many years repeated conflicts have persevered on different levels. The event provided information and inspiration from experts and trainers in peace education and youth work, but especially from youth participants in the project.

All project partners concluded, aspirations and intensions are to continue working stronger and more together as we continue expending activities in the region. We hope to carry these activities out among all actors and across all society levels, cross-sectorial and cross-regional. The hope is that this will spark dialogue and build bridges to more sustainable and stronger bonds between neighborhood countries, but also in relation to the East-West connection and dialogue.



February 2020. Andrew and Tatjana in Tbilisi together with our project partners



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Pamodzi Pakazi - Circus Zambia

Crossing Borders have teamed up with the brilliant Circus Zambia to empower Zambian women through dialogue! Through a series of creative workshops, we are building a platform for communities and duty bearers to interact and discuss policies, interventions and concerns. We want to give young people the awareness, knowledge and confidence to participate in civil society and help improve women's rights in Lusaka (Zambia). This one-year project will teach young people to use creative tools to lobby for equal rights and aims to:

Increase knowledge on women's rights and local and legal context among 616 youths

Increase knowledge on "artivism" and using circus and dance for change, as well as competence in designing and delivering creative workshops on women's rights

Increase the knowledge of wider local communities and local leaders and gain their support, building towards lobbying and advocating policy change

CIRCUS ZAMBIA
presents

PAMODZI YABAKAZI ONLINE FESTIVAL



29 JAN
30 ON THE
31 CIRCUS ZAMBIA
FACEBOOK PAGE

Join us online for 3 days
of dance, music, circus
workshops & talks

With Performance by
TOWELA



The project started with a masterclass for 17 young Circus Zambia leaders (9 female, 8 male) on women's rights and using circus & dance as a tool for sharing information. They then created their own workshops on women's rights, which were delivered to over 600 young people from their various communities, with the trainers delivering similar workshops to over 400 parents of these young people. With this experience to inspire them and even more information to share, the Circus Zambia members started working on a show about women's rights. The show, called Nyamuka (Rise Up), will be performed at the end of November for over 800 community members and leaders.

Pamodzi Pakazi is now drawing to a close and is scheduled to finish on time, despite the interruptions caused by Covid-19. We look forward to working with Circus Zambia in the future!

International Projects Funded By Nordbuk & Nordplus started in 2020

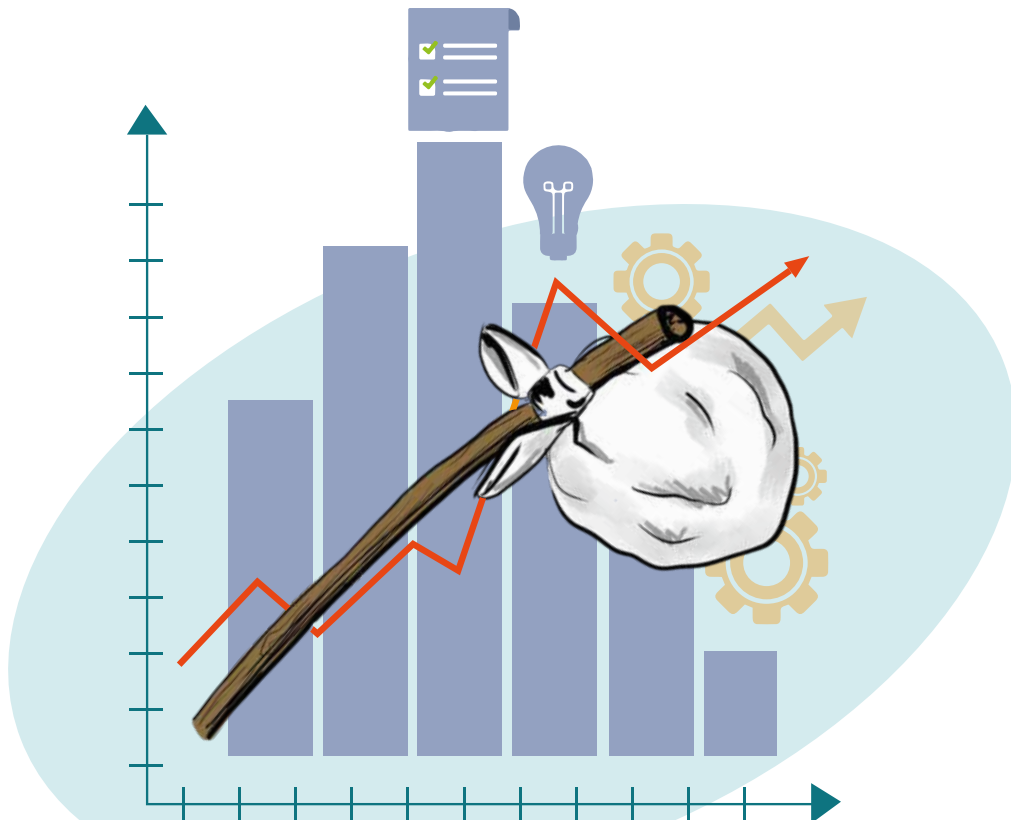
Across the North - our stories of migration



The main objective of this project is to share stories about migration experienced by youth in the Nordic region through digital storytelling, foster cultural learning, and bridge differences. We aim to support young people in using digital storytelling to tell and exchange stories about their own personal experiences of migration because digital storytelling is a way of exchanging experiences and strengthening one's own voice. Youth leaders will exchange stories about their own diverse experiences of migration, thus illuminating how youth in the Nordic region are interconnected through their movements. The partners in the project, besides Crossing Borders as a lead organisation, are Føringen Grønlandske Børn (FGB) from Nuuk, Greenland, Sámi Youth Organization, Noereh from Trondheim, Norway and Ámedikki nuoraidpolitihkalaš lávdegoddi (SáNuL/SUPU) from Oslo, Norway.

This project, in agreement with the other two partners, was extended due to COVID-19 till the end of December, 2020. We decided to move the training of trainers on digital storytelling online; specifically, we used the platform Canopy Lab to allow our trainers to follow the training with an off-line option, giving them a more fluid approach. We did this especially for our Norwegian partner, which is a student association and has therefore a less flexible schedule.

The participants were trained the 24th of November on the basics of digital storytelling by our trainers Andre and Simone, and found the workshop very inspiring and useful. In fact, they immediately put in action what they learned and started work on their own videos focusing on the topics of movement and migration.



Facilitating Supportive Spaces for Migrant Entrepreneurs

This project aims to help migrants that face the risk of being marginalized and excluded in their new country. To minimize this, we previously developed a project called ‘Online Course for Migrant Entrepreneurs on a European level’, which took departure in implementing innovative strategies encouraging migrants’ integration in the labour market in their host community. With the planned activities, we are able to help migrant entrepreneurs receive face-to-face interactive learning so migrants with an interest in entrepreneurship get the opportunity to interact with experts as well as strengthen their network. Besides Crossing Borders as leading organisation, project partners are Mobilizing Expertise from Lund, Sweden, Association for Cultural Relation from Espoo, Finland and NGO Creatorium from Oslo, Norway.

The project was kicked off in October, and this time as well we opted for an online solution as all the partners could not travel due to COVID restrictions. We all shared our concerns and possible difficulties in carrying on with the activities and discuss about possible solutions to implement the mentorship sessions with a smaller number of participants.

Our first mentorship session will take place at Crossing Borders, the 2nd of December. The topic will be the Business Canvas model, and it will take place in person at Ubuntu house in accordance with the COVID restrictions, with a gathering of maximum 10 people. It will be a very interactive session, where the participants will be asked to brainstorm their ideas using the Canvas model and will have the possibility to have a face to face interaction with the mentor who has experience in developing his own business using this tool.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

In September 2020, we started new project funded by NORDBUK program called Food for Thought (FFT) school workshops. The project targets schools across Denmark, Norway, and Finland to raise awareness about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Global Agenda among youth, teacher parents, and local community members. The project motivation stems from Crossing Borders' strong belief in the crucial role of education as the most suitable space toward the inclusion of youth, parents, educators, schools, and the whole community to contribute to the SDGs Agenda.

Through interactive workshops and sharing stories over freshly made healthy food, students, and community members together with Crossing Borders facilitators unleash meaningful dialogue and start acting on the local level. The FFT workshop will engage action learning especially by inputs from Crossing Borders facilitators and guest experts that have background in different areas such as: global nutrition and health, global migration studies, environmental studies, co-entrepreneurs, international trainers sharing sustainable initiatives across the world. In a creative and playful way, we will showcase different successful initiatives and programs that contribute to achieve goal number twelve, 'Responsible Consumption and Production'; and goal number three, 'Good Health and Well-Being'.

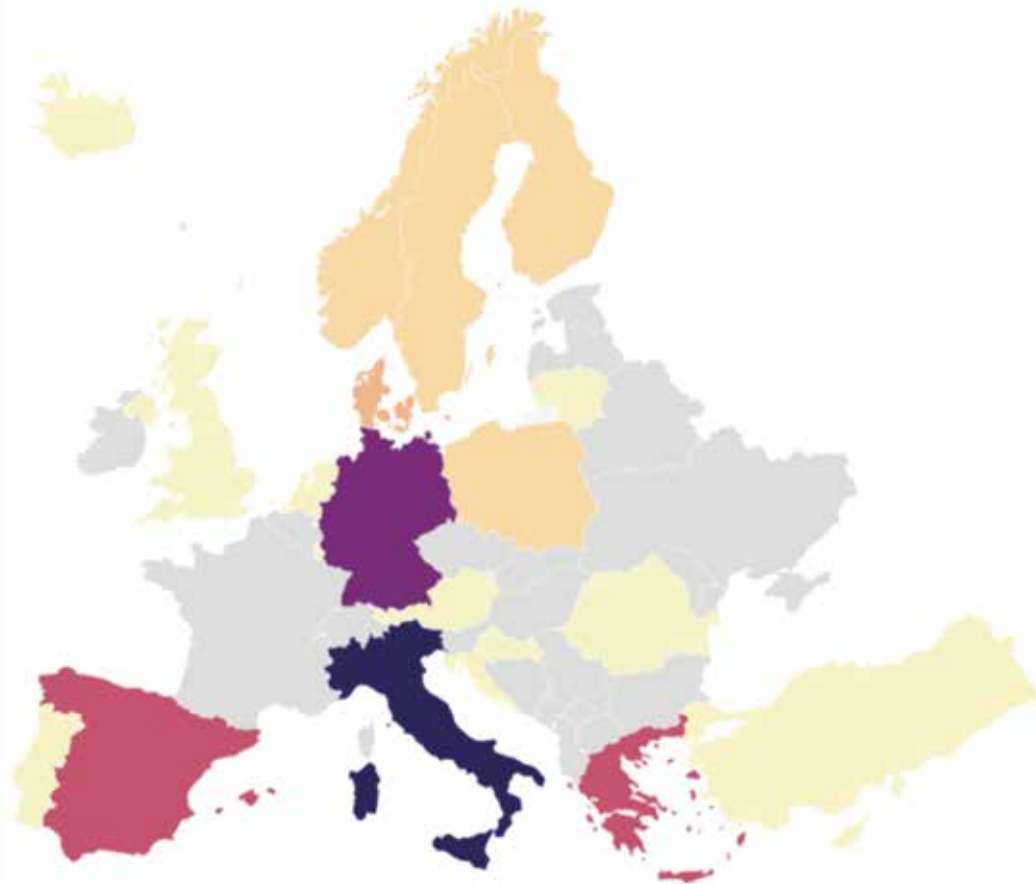
Furthermore, this project develops collaboration and fostering action learning (learning by doing) between schools in Nordic region and contributes sharing good practices among partner countries. Besides Crossing Borders as lead organization in this project, we have joined partners: Upper Secondary School Kalevan lukio from Tampere, Finland and Arbeiderbevegelsens Folkehøgskole Ringsaker from Moelv, Norway.

International Projects Funded By Erasmus Plus



Erasmus + CB Partners

Number of partnerships



2020 saw Crossing Borders lead or partner in 17 different Erasmus+ projects. Although it was a challenging year for obvious reasons, we strengthened partnerships and found creative ways to keep sharing and moving forward. Despite the postponement of many projects (meaning that a lot of Erasmus+ project events couldn't happen), partners have found inventive ways to produce useful resources.

Some of our key events moving online has had a surprisingly positive effect, as it has brought together our international community and allowed them to engage in dialogue. From a guide to combating Hate Speech and Cyberbullying, to an online course for teachers that receive migrant and refugee children in their classrooms and hosting an online youth exchange for climate activism, CB have hosted great online events and produced incredibly useful materials with the help of their partners.

Erasmus + prioritizes supporting educational, professional and personal development of people in education in Europe and beyond and wish to contribute to sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion to strengthen European identity. Crossing Borders is now looking ahead to the future and planning our further engagement with Erasmus+ in 2021. We are incredibly excited to see that Erasmus+ continue to open up new funding opportunities and look forward to working with them far into the future!

Thanks to our Erasmus + Program Coordinator and all of our International Project Coordinators for the great work!

New Projects Started in 2020 where Crossing Borders is a partner organisation



FAMET stands for Fostering Adult Migrant Entrepreneurial Training and Qualification and it is carried in collaboration with partners from Denmark, Italy, Spain and Poland. The project focuses on providing migrants who already run a business or want to start one with a training in entrepreneurship skills as a tool to overcome discrimination barriers and obstacles that they usually face when moving to a foreign country. In order to develop the entrepreneurial capacity of migrants and refugees, each partner has conducted country studies with the goal of highlighting opportunities, challenges and competences needed by migrants and refugees to become entrepreneurs. In each partner country interviews with 10 migrants, 5 organizations working with migrants and 2 migrants that have started up a business within the past 3 years have been carried.

The Danish country study report is based on the outcomes of these interviews conducted by Aalborg University in collaboration with Crossing Borders. The report clearly shows how there is a dichotomy between EU immigrants, non-EU immigrants and refugees when it comes to the opportunities available to immigrants. Migrants that are either EU immigrants or permanent residents in general face little or no barriers to become migrant entrepreneurs. For them, the major challenge is access to information and access to capital. They need to know how to locate the different organizations and NGOs in Denmark that provide the relevant information. Access to capital in Denmark is competitive, as there are different avenues and funds of sourcing for capital. The challenge however is that these funds are competitive and cater to a certain level of maturity for the company. Some funds cater to start-up operations, while other cater to go to market etc. Nevertheless, these funding sources are limited and competitive. Hence, the entrepreneur or would-be entrepreneur has to be creative in the fund-raising process. Most migrants though are either, unaware of the opportunities available for them, face market entry barriers that discourages their participation in the national entrepreneurship landscape, or lack the competences to become an entrepreneur.

For non-EU migrants, access to information and access to finance is important, but they face larger challenges. The first challenge it to understand the dynamics of the Danish culture. A foreign community in Denmark mostly relies on networking, which happens to be useful in the acquisition of human resources, go-to market strategy and forging of partnerships to deliver solutions but results ineffective in the acquisition of language skills and in connecting with Danes. This is a challenge with most migrants as they tend to build their social relationships around persons from their ethnic background. The legal restrictions that do not permit non-EU migrants who are not residents from starting business remain the hardest challenges to overcome.



In the midst of rising hate crime and levels of hate speech in Europe, the Erasmus + funded project Youth Against Hate (or HateBusters) is aiming to develop and share tools for youth workers and young people to identify online hate speech. With our partners Südvind, Danmar, Kainotomia and Mine Vaganti NGO, Crossing Borders is helping to give youth and youth workers the tools to fight hate speech and cyberbullying.

By creating a guide, toolkit and app, HateBusters will give youth and youth workers the knowhow to work against hate speech at a grassroots level and the capacity to raise awareness of online human rights activism. This project aims to reach 300 youth workers and 1000 young Europeans in an effort to contribute to a less hateful, more diverse and accepting Europe.

HateBusters is starting in 2020 after a delay because of Covid-19, but much has been achieved by the project so far. Great progress has been made on the creation of a HateBusters website, our first newsletter, a flyer and the structure and content of the HateBusters guide! All of these achievements contribute to our ability to help young people and youth workers understand and fight against hate crime and cyberbullying.

PISH – Problem-Based Learning, Intercultural Communications and STEM in Higher Education

This KA2 project seeks to build the intercultural competences of students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based higher education programs.

As a partner, CB will lead the designing and development of the online toolkit on intercultural competences in STEM based higher education programs using problem-based learning and will lead the production of a report on intercultural communication training methods, in addition to shared coordination duties. The project started in the last months of 2020 and partners are now prepared to navigate the difficulties related to Covid-19 with a detailed communication and evaluation structure.

Unicorn

This project addresses the strong need for social media skills for educators in schools. Social media is a powerful tool that can help educators connect with students and adapt to the digitalization needs of our current era. As a partner, CB is responsible for leading stakeholder outreach and needs assessment activities, developing the project dissemination strategy and coordinating the final project report in addition to general shared project coordination duties. This is a two-year project and activities will start in 2021.

Ongoing projects where Crossing Borders is a the lead organisation

YDMS – Youth, Drama, Media and Storytelling for developing cultural heritage and tourism.





The objective of this 28 month, Erasmus+ project, is to use narrative methodologies and digital design tools to tell stories about European cultural heritage and to contribute to making this history more well-known. Cultural tourism accounts for 40% of European tourism and can provide an opportunity for greater development of European regions and reduce many negative effects of financial crises. Generating jobs in cultural tourism can counteract job loss in the industrial sector and stimulate the preservation of cultural heritage and biodiversity. This is especially relevant in 2018, the “Year of European Cultural Heritage” with the theme “Our Heritage: where the past meets the future.” Our partners in this project: Youth Europe Service from Italy, AIJU from Spain, and Ost-Passage Theater e.V from Germany.

2020 saw the project partners meet in Leipzig, Germany, where they discussed theatrical scripts, training seminars for young actors and the digital web platform. Partners have also created a guide to all historical tours in partner countries. Crossing Borders has finalised trainings with 15 young actors, in which young people were supported to learn about scripts, body communication and language, plus a lot more!

PAESIC Pedagogical Approaches for Enhanced Social Inclusion in the Classroom





Differential teaching for better inclusion in the classrooms in Denmark



Denmark
2018

83,814

Students with a migrant or refugee background enrolled in primary school



Copenhagen

had the largest population of multicultural students that is still growing every year

Implication of Inclusion

Do you know that testing schemes to know the real implication of inclusion policies do not exist in national Danish schools?



Municipalities

Several municipalities don't work with inclusion paradigms



Studies carried by PAESIC project show

that some migrant and refugees students are included in general education programs with no «welcome & supportive programs»



This project aims to promote social cohesion and the competencies of teachers in enhancing social inclusion of migrant and refugee children in the classroom.

The core idea of PAESIC is to promote the exchange of good practices in enhancing the inclusion of all students, especially those with migrant and refugee backgrounds. This is achieved through the creation of tools and guidelines to support more inclusive classrooms and schools.



During 2020 PAESIC developed a ‘Guide for School Leaders’ and an online course for teachers with practical information to gain in creative and innovative skills in promoting socially inclusive education. All the resources can be downloaded in the project webpage: <https://www.paesic.eu/download/>

Furthermore, PAESIC has hosted three transnational project meetings this year. The first took place in January 2020. The team travelled to Volos, Greece, in a visit to our partners in the University of Thessaly.

The second and the third meeting were hosted online. Partners have managed an incredible collaboration during this year, keeping constant communication and support to each other. All outputs have been delivered as expected. Nevertheless, the circumstances have made difficult the final steps of the project. In the final stages of the project all partners are expected to conduct Multiplier Events to showcase the materials created to relevant target groups and stakeholders. Therefore, PAESIC has been extended until the spring of 2021, in order to ensure the success of the good visibility and outreach of the project.

In order to highlight the outcomes created by this project, especially the online course for teachers, Crossing Borders and the University College of Northern Denmark conducted the first Multiplier Event of the project in a mixed physical and online event. The event was held in Crossing Borders’ office in Copenhagen, and live streamed on Facebook and Zoom by our team. In this event, we presented the main findings in Denmark, as well as how to use the platform for teachers. It was followed by participants around the world.





EUROSPECTIVES 2.0 project combines the art of telling stories with the use of a variety of multimedia tools. The project aims to enhance the quality and relevance of the digital learning offer in education (formal and non-formal) and youth work by developing innovative approaches and dissemination of best practices in the assessment of digital skills. The main project output is curriculum for digital storytelling that will enable unskilled learners to share their stories, make their voices heard, and participate as active European citizens.

Eurospectives 2.0 is a two-and-a-half-year project, that started in 2018 and is currently at its final phase, where project partners finalize curriculum and prepare for dissemination of the main project results. The partnership is made up of partners from across several European countries including: Crossing Borders (CB) Denmark as leading partner, Comparative Research Network (CRN) Germany, People's voice media (PVM) UK, Agora Koeln Germany, Coordinamento delle organizzazioni per il servizio volontarion (COSV) Italy, Centro de Formacion e Resursos CRF Vigo Spain and Ellinogermaniki Agogi Greece.

During 2020 there were many changes in the project as reaction on the new situation. Thanks to the project team and especially our partners and their immense expertise in the field of training, teaching, and research, we managed to adjust activities and furthermore develop and improve digital capacity and learning-teaching methods under the new circumstances.

In the beginning of March, despite the chaos and just before a worldwide lockdown and the unprecedented restrictions on travelling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CB project coordinators Tatjana and Marina managed to attend a project meeting hosted by Ellinogermaniki Agogi in the heart of Athens' historical quarter.





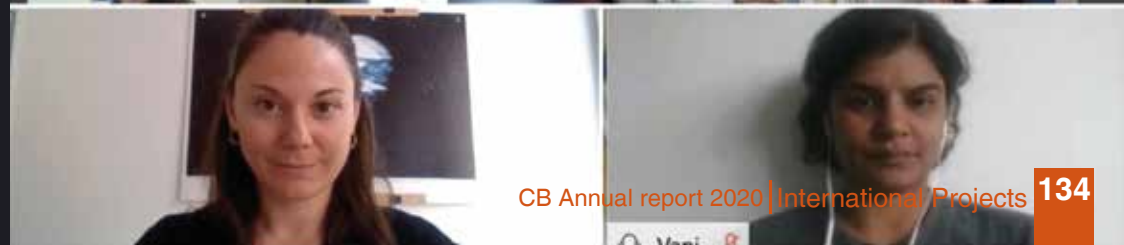
This unusual but fruitful meeting was a mixture of virtual contributions from our partners from Spain, Italy, and Germany, who did not manage to travel following national and EU instructions, and face-to-face discussions from other partners. Despite the unique and emergency nature of the meeting, the team succeeded in producing a set of concrete results on the structure and content of the digital storytelling curriculum, as well as addressing issues on policy recommendations and other management matters.

The presentation of two uniquely engaging approaches to digital storytelling by experts in the field was the highlight of the Athens meeting. Glenda Rome, a freelance film maker based in Edinburgh, presented 'Return to the Closet', an excellent example of how storytelling can give voice to the voiceless and help raise awareness on fundamental societal challenges such as rights. Manolis Andriotakis, a writer, columnist and film maker, also presented his approach to teaching backpack journalism to young learners and teachers in his 'Backpack Journalism in the City' open course at the Onassis Foundation.

The month of July was very engaging for Eurospectives 2.0 project since we managed to hold two online trainings and ten online training days, that were originally planned to happen in Copenhagen and Vigo. Both trainings and laboratories, are aimed to test the curriculum modules, one for formal and other non-formal education.

The first five-day online training-lab was about digital storytelling in school education. This lab aimed at introducing digital storytelling in the classroom with an emphasis on supporting young learners in telling their stories and their perspectives as active citizens and crucially combining digital storytelling with aspects of the curriculum. Online format of the lab allowed greater participation and that resulted in 40 teachers from across the world that were trained to use digital storytelling in their teaching practice.

The second online training-lab was dedicated to digital storytelling in non-formal education. During five days of online sessions and thanks to the project partners that bring diverse knowledge and expertise from the field we covered different topics such as Introduction to the storytelling, Context Analysis, Community Reporting, Campaign Storytelling, and Measuring the Impact of the stories. During the online lab, we tested modules and elaborated on previous meetings in order to understand what aspects need to be improved before the official launch of the curriculum.





Innovative techniques were presented at a partner meeting held online and hosted by Agora Koeln in November. The hybrid city tour around Koeln, where our guides were biking around the city and live streaming while other participants were sitting in their office homes in different countries, following city tour and interacting over zoom platform, just demonstrated how challenges can be transformed into innovative methods and bring additional assets.

During the lockdown we had many interesting blogs published about the ongoing concerns and issues about the use of digital tools in education settings, working and communicating during the lockdown, and concerns and questions about Which tools and strategies can I use to keep my message relevant and out there? What can I do to be seen, heard, noticed, and not forgotten? How to engage others in activists' projects with authentic storytelling?

After the last online training lab that is planned for next month (January 2021), we are happy to share finalized curriculum for digital storytelling developed during this project. Along with the curriculum, an online course will be released and that will improve project reach and participation. We hope that that will improve participation for everyone, authentic and unique stories to be shared and voices to be heard.



YOUTH VOICES: We are shapers, not listeners



"Youth Voices: We Are Shapers, Not Listeners sought to empower young people across Europe to be active participants in decision-making processes surrounding climate change in both the national and European contexts. This goal remains more important than ever, as young people are the ones who will feel the effects of climate change the most. No matter the topic, young people deserve to be heard and to be able to influence policies and decisions which affect their lives and futures. Through the process of this project, with included training on youth participation, a survey on youth perceptions of climate change in Europe, and a virtual youth exchange where young people came together with decision-makers, young people came together and shaped their own ideas about climate change and climate policy and shared those ideas with one another and with relevant decision-makers. This project collaborated with partners from Portugal, Romania, Greece, and the Netherlands.



Other Ongoing Projects in 2020 where Crossing Borders is a partner organisation



REUERHC

Reinforce EU economies, reinforce human capital

REUERHC started in 2018 and is a 27-month long project, aiming to promote the integration of migrants and refugees, give them the opportunity to develop job opportunities as entrepreneurs and help the national economies of countries hosting migrants.

Due to COVID 19, the project has been extended for 6 months, and until June 2021 the online course will be published and available in 5 different languages.



Peace Lens

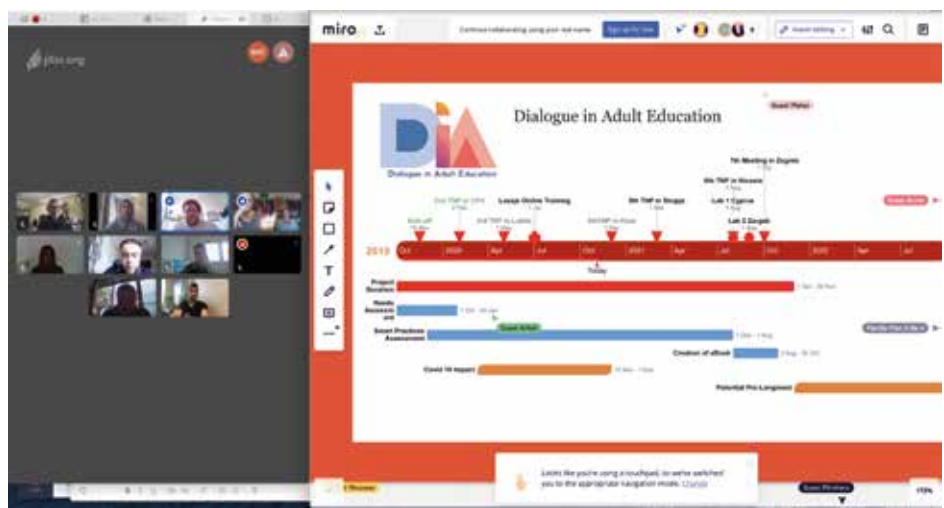
Peace Lens uses board games to reflect on European values among youth. The board game has been designed and currently it is being tested within high schools. We are four partners from four different countries in this project. Crossing Border from Denmark, IYDA from Germany, YES from Italy, and Lisel from Luxembourg.



EDACate enhanced citizens' skills through vocational education. Currently, our partners are sharing best practices and experiences from their home countries and working on compiling all the practices in an eBook after being evaluated by a grid created by the partners.

Our partners in this project:

 Action Synergy Innovation in education & training in Europe & the world	 Border Crossings Intercultural multimedia theatre across borders	 Crossing Borders Empowers young people to become active global citizens	 Edu Compass Foundation Personal development & educational management
 IYDA e.V (coordinator) Intercultural Youth Dialogue Association	 Youth Europe Service A non profit organization established in 1999	 Swideas AB For decent work, economic growth & reducing inequalities	



This project brings us together from different parts of Europe and different organizations to share experiences and practices on how to use dialogue to promote peace. The project has created an interactive map with best dialogue practices from across Europe and further afield. Currently, we are sharing practices and evaluating them. After this step, the practices will be uploaded on the interactive map and will be added to the eBook at the end of the project.



Fostering Social Inclusion seeks to address and foster diversity through best practices. The project targets educators from partner countries who will participate in intensive transitional project meetings, including training activities and visits to stakeholders. The partnership has been collecting successful practices relating to social inclusion and producing methodologies for it.



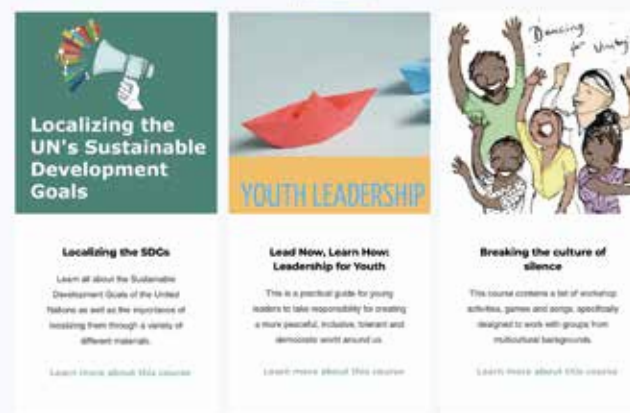
Crossing Borders Online Courses

**A partnership
between Crossing
Borders and CanopyLAB**

CanopyLAB

CanopyLAB has presented Crossing Borders with an exciting opportunity to digitize our wealth of educational content. We see non-formal education as crucial to creating spaces for dialogue in societies across the world and, in light of this, our mission is to spread non-formal education and dialogue throughout the digital world too! We were motivated to work with the LAB by their use of SDG 4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Working with CanopyLab is a fantastic opportunity to help achieve our mission and empower people digitally!

Recently released Courses



We are delighted to announce the recent release of the first of six online courses from Crossing Borders International College! With modules ranging from Inequality, the Nordic Welfare Model, and Cross-cultural Communication to Climate Change, these courses are interactive and take an up-to-date approach to each topic.

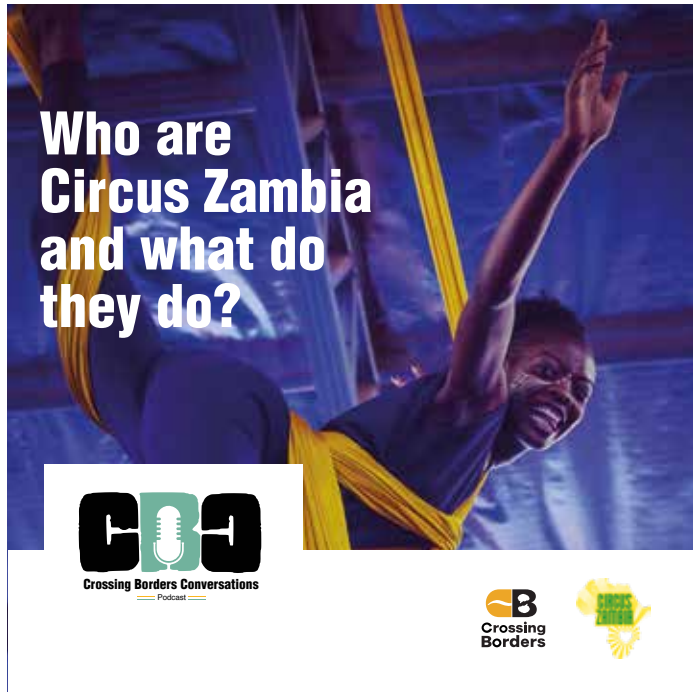
Crossing Borders is collaborating with Canopy Lab's education platform to help empower global citizens and create digital spaces for dialogue across the world. In such troubled times, we at CB see online education as a vital way of creating a peaceful and sustainable world. We see this as a major highlight of 2020 and through 2021, we will continue to release these online courses for our members.



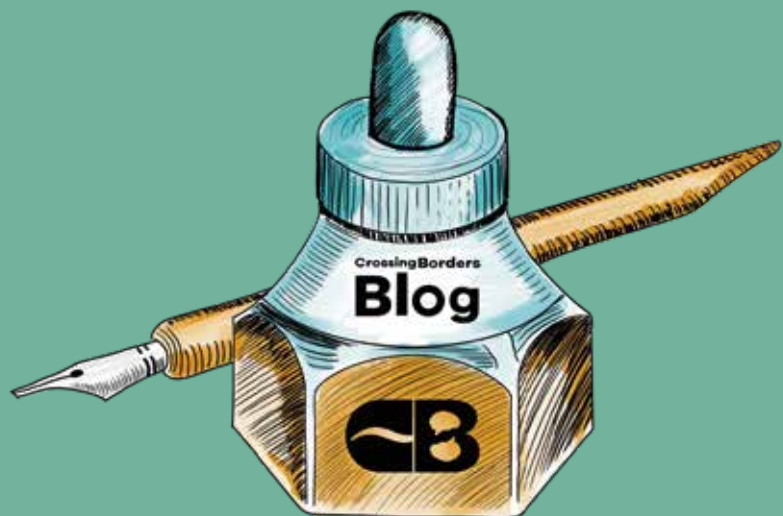
Crossing Borders Conversations

Podcast

This year, Crossing Borders is releasing its very own podcast! Hosted by International Project Coordinator Owen, the CB podcast aims to create dialogue around some of the most important issues of our time. Just like all of our projects, events and activities, the podcast aims to empower people through discussion and at the same time, inform all our members and listeners about the fantastic work Crossing Borders is doing.



Our first episode



Featured articles from Crossing Borders Blog



Scan this code to
read all the articles

Lesbos & Braemar

Where Human Life Matter

by Chiara Sammito



The world has been recently unsettled by the emergence of the pandemic COVID-19. People all over the globe find themselves facing many changes in their everyday life which are needed to control the spread of the virus. Amid this global health crises, it's visible how some "humans" matter more than others so I decided to address the low position that migrants hold in the global hierarchy due to a well-constructed and regulated system aimed at the dehumanization of those subjects. In order to do so I will start with an overall characterization of Moria: the biggest European refugee camp, located on the Greek island Lesbos. Afterword I will briefly report the episode of an unwanted British cruise ship and of its passengers eventually rescued from international diplomatic intervention.

The comparison between the refugee camp Moria and the British cruise ship Braemar emphasizes the durable inequality and colonial settled mindset that characterizes European thought which, by now, has been assimilated and accepted by the rest of the world.

Scan the code to
read the full article



ENABELING DIALOGUE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

by Mr. Mu'ayyad Mehyar



@CrossingBorders
@AnnaLindhFoundation-Denmark

Dialogue it's not just a huge part of my career, but a fundamental side of my personal life: I experienced it first when I was young and sitting with my big family in Jordan (being the youngest of eight brothers and sisters). Then, through my mum's monthly receptions when, for over 35 years, she used to host more than 60 women of her friends, every 3rd and 4th of each month. I also learned it through my civic engagement activities during the teenage period and later at the university in Jordan, where I was studying Mechanical Engineering. Together with university peers in Jordan, I founded a debate club in 1987 to discuss issues of mutual concerns and controversy amongst the students at the university premises. During that period, I co-founded a Pan-Arab Youth Forum in 1989 and started to dialogue not only about national issues but also regional issues of common concern to Arab Youth.



Scan the code to
read the full article



Look at the Bright Side of the Coronavirus III

By Garba Diallo, Director
of Crossing Borders

@CrossingBorders

The lesson here is that we need to shift our priorities away from the notion of bigger is better toward small and decentralised units. The orthodox notion of bigger is better that has driven the modern development toward over-centralization has proven itself to be ineffective. The results are mega metropolis with mega glass towers, high ways for mega lorries transporting endless chain of necessary and un-necessary products, a complex web of mega metros and airports, mega power plants dominated by polluting coal, gas, nuclear and hydro plants, mega monoculture-agri-business, mega ports for mega ships ploughing the seas with mega containers and mega fishing trawlers to feed mega markets owned by fewer and fewer mega transnational corporations.

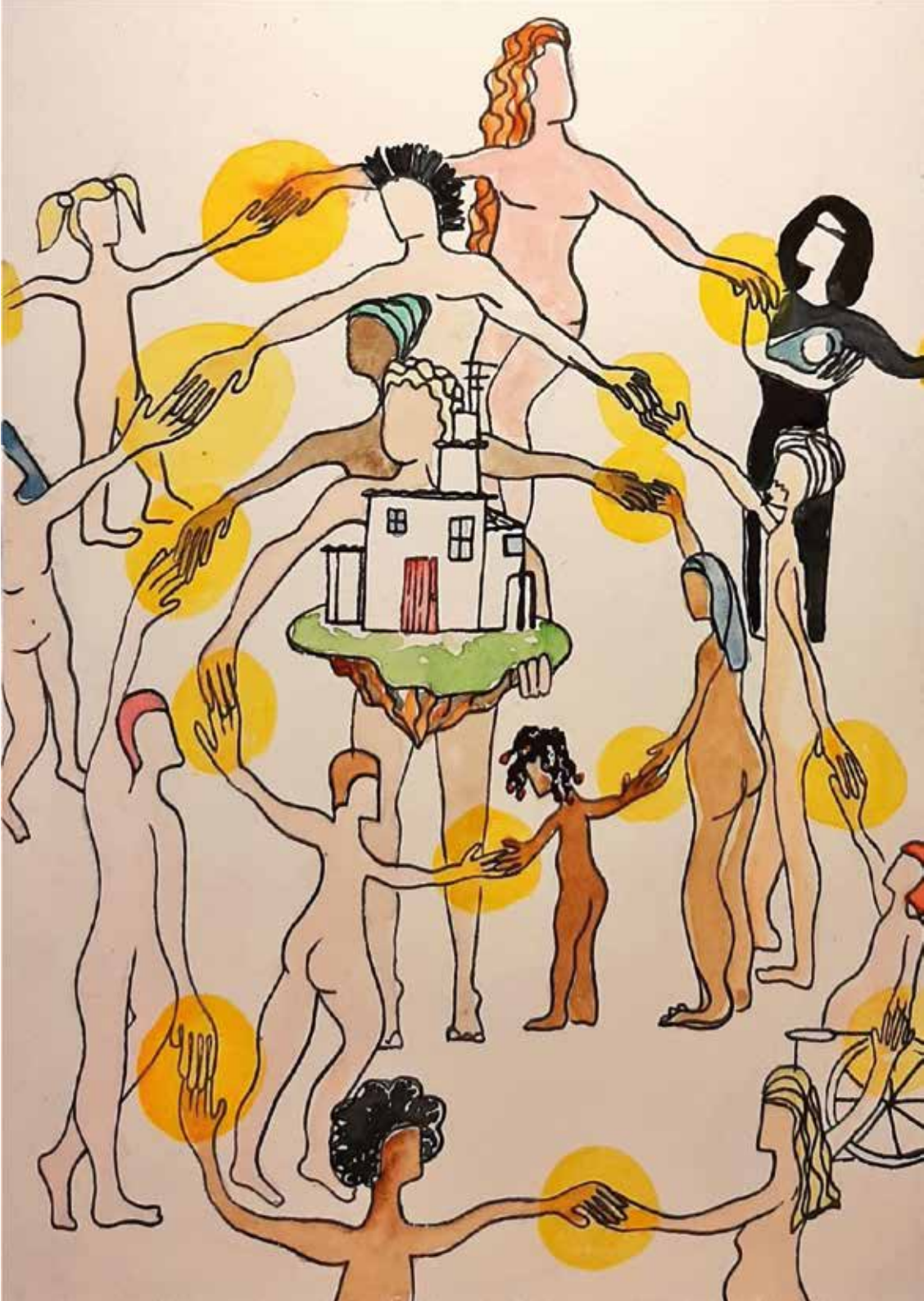


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Some Watercolor Art by Cata.Luna

ESC Volunteer at Crossing Borders







A WINDOW TO THE FUTURE

Taking into account that the Corona is still digging its heels deep and is surging we are not planning sit on our hands and wait for the corona to vanish. On the contrary, CB is determined to turn the pandemic sea of challenges into opportunities to include and reach out to more partners in order to sustain and expand our activities both at home in Denmark and abroad with our fellow partners. We will take advantage of the boat of hope to consolidate our current programmes and develop the following new projects, among others:

1. A New Democracy Hub Consortium for youth together with our partners in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine plus other neighbouring countries
2. Strategic partnership projects together with our partners in the EU programme countries
3. Two smaller citizenship projects with new partners in India
4. Expand on our partnership with My Age Zimbabwe for a larger project
5. Expand the CB Action Hub entrepreneurship with private funding
6. Scale up our school Services to offer more online workshops for Danish and other schools abroad
7. Scale up the Food for Thought and offer it online for a worldwide audience
8. Strengthen our online platforms for more online events, podcast and courses

Watercolor art
by Cata.Luna



Crossing Borders

Educating, connecting and
empowering people to become
active global citizens

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