



Crossing Borders



Annual Report

crossingborders.dk



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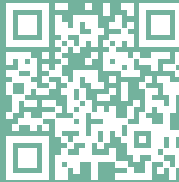
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A stylized illustration featuring a teal heart shape in the upper center. Inside the heart, the text "Why become a Crossing Borders member?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the heart, a yellow hand is shown in profile, palm up, as if holding the heart. The background is a solid light yellow color.

**Why become a
Crossing Borders
member?**



scan the code to become a member
or visit our website crossingborders.dk

Become part of the solution!

Become a member of Crossing Borders and help us empower more young people around the world to take leadership for a positive change socially, economically, and politically.

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Crossing Borders



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Executive Summary

Crossing Borders is needed more than ever

The current global challenges arising from resurgent war in Europe and elsewhere, the accelerated climate crises, forced displacement of over 100 million people from their homes into refugee camps, the revival of xenophobic populism around the world, the growing tensions between nuclear world superpowers, and the widespread mental ill health among young people crises testify to the increasing needs for conducive spaces for dialogue and international collaboration. These mostly man-made global crises can only be tackled by concerted farsighted global efforts aimed at turning them into opportunities to tackle the current cross-cutting challenges through both the local and the global (glocal) levels. Fortunately, young people around the globe are pushing for the change they want see. The recent UN Loss and Damage Agreement is a positive step towards those changes. Therefore, on our part at CB we have started from our local ground in Denmark by mobilising our comparative advantages to build and expand on the valuable experiences we accumulated from the fields both in Denmark and across the globe to carry out the following activities as tangible contributions to mitigating and solving the global problems. Thus, below are brief summaries of what we have implemented so far this year in Denmark, Europe and globally:

A new home for Crossing Borders

Before launching into what have done this year, let us admit the fact that at the beginning of the year, none of us imagined that we would leave the Ubuntu House for another location. It was a house which we gave name to where we welcomed and connect people from around world according to the spirit and letter of Ubuntu. It was here where, for 5 years, we created a safe space for people to mingle, share ideas, stories and exchange experiences towards making the world a better place for all. However, as change is the only permanent thing in life, we had to change the place for another one. Fortunately, moving out of the Ubuntu House turned out to be a blessing, as we found a bigger and more welcoming space at the Union Cultural House in Nørrebro. Our new home has more room both in the heart and physically, and we find ourselves amongst likeminded grassroots organisations where diversity is celebrated and encouraged. Perhaps, this was the biggest CB Breaking News this year. After all, as Crossing Borders, we consider moving on to be natural part of life.

Walking the talk

To begin with let us reiterate that in a globalizing and interconnected world we need to think, connect, and act globally as informed global citizens with the rights and responsibilities. What is good for the world is also good for us. Thus, we try to walk the talks of global connection in all we do in our office, in Denmark and around the world. Hence, to practice what we preach, our office team reflects the actual diversity of the age

of globalization in the best possible terms. Our team of 20 colleagues represents about 18 countries from all the continents including Australia. Most of the team members young women under the age of 35. Our four International Program Coordinators are from Serbia, Ireland, Italy, and Palestine while our project coordinators are from France, India, Greece, and Italy. Our interns are from Australia, Uganda, Ukraine, Turkey, France, Uganda, Syria and Denmark. Our director began his life journey in Mauritania but identifies as a global citizen. Our youth facilitators are from Denmark, Mali, Botswana, Turkey, Poland, Italy. Likewise, our Executive Board comprise members people from Denmark, Dominica, Ethiopia, India, and South Africa. The same goes for our Advisory Board of eminent persons from Denmark, Finland, Ecuador, Denmark/Ghana, Denmark/Kurdistan, Italy, Ireland, Morocco, Jordan, and UK. Our 50 National Coordinators represent 50 countries from all continents. As such, Unity in Diversity is our DNA in a country that is often considered 'homogeneous'.

Expanding our project partnerships

Our partnerships have expanded both in numbers and scope. In numbers, we have over 35 civil society partners in all the regions and countries we operate. We also have expanded on our academic partnerships to include the universities of Copenhagen, Lusofon in Portugal, Gazi in Turkey and Laguna in Switzerland. This, in is in addition to our long-standing partnerships with the universities of Aalborg, Eastern Finland, Thessaly in Greece, Venice in Italy, MIT Art, Design and Technology

University in India. We also have started partnering with the municipality of Sucevea in Romania, ALDA Europe, the municipality of Gdynia in Poland, the 5th district of Budapest, and the International Rescue Committee in Greece.

Our funding partners

As we never get enough partners, we have sustained our old partners and added new ones this year. Our funding partners comprise the Danida's Civil Society Fund (CISU), the New Democracy Fund, the various EU Commission programs such as Erasmus+, CERV, etc, the Nordic Council, the Tuborg Foundation, and the Anna Lindh Foundation for Dialogue. Apart from that our income is generated from the School Workshops, Memberships, and Food for Thought, plus a small amount we generate from the educational consultancies we offer partners from around the world.

Financial growth

Regarding our financial situation, we have dozens of projects approved this year more than the previous one. Some of these projects, such as the Growing Green Communities and Food for Change under the EU program, CB is the lead coordinator of, and in countless others CB is a partner, coordinating our own work packages but not the overall project. In the global program, CB recently had a large-scale continuation of a previously successful project Empowering Women II in India, as well as three smaller projects in Zambia and Zimbabwe approved. Furthermore, we had two mediums size projects approved for CB Democracy

Hubs in Ukraine and Youth 4 Democracy in Georgia. Finally, we have a smaller project Digital Awareness and Resilience which was approved by the Nordic Council. As a result, we expect to come off the year with surplus, which will be the third year in a row.

Challenges

Like most of our fellow civil society organisations, CB is heavily dependent on public funding, as a result we continue to struggle to generate sufficient and stable funding sources to contribute to building the world we want to see and live in. Therefore, like the previous years, it is still a challenge to maintain our core team of 10 full-time and part-time employees. However, with all the projects approved this year and others in the pipelines, we are optimistic, especially with a little help from our friends.

Having the above in mind, the strategic priorities for 2023 are:

1. Continue with and increase our efforts to diversify our funding sources to include seeking funds from socially responsible private funds.
2. Scaling up CB Bring the World to the Classroom School Workshops, both in terms of individual school and municipal memberships, including in-person and online workshops
3. Scaling up our membership base
4. Scaling up and expand the CB Food for Thought to include companies and Lunch & Learn concept at Crossing Borders and other locations
5. Continue transforming CB Global Studies into shorter and tailored summer courses
6. Build and expand the Migrantour project from Nørrebro to the Amager neighbourhood.
7. Begin the process of getting into the national budget in Denmark

A billion thank to CB dream team

All the ideas, projects and events mentioned above have been possible to realize a million thank you to our super kind, smart, and dedicated global office team, Youth Facilitators, Volunteer Chefs, Executive and Advisory Boards, funding, and project partners both in Denmark and Globally.

Sincerely,
Garba Diallo
Crossing Borders Director



Garba Diallo
Crossing Borders Director

CB Youth Facilitators of the Grand Workshop for 1500 students in Odense



ABOUT CROSSING BORDERS



**Crossing
Borders**

**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

Empowerment, Action, Meaningful Connection

At Crossing Borders, we work for a fairer and more sustainable world. We do that by empowering young people around the world to take leadership for a positive change socially, economically, and politically.

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.

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.



Meet the Crossing Borders team - 2022





Garba Diallo
Global



Tatjana Stefanovic
Serbia



Omar Al Sayed
Palestine/Lebanon



Emma Hyland
Ireland



Pauline Teruin
France



Pareeksha Chadaga
India



Rosangela Vertullo
Italy



Giulia Micozzi
Italy



Morten Goll
Denmark



Claus Hedegaard-Jensen
Denmark



Catherine Namuswe
Uganda



Anastasia Shepel
Ukraine



Aurore Marquez-Santo
France



Talia Masino
Germany



Grace hou
Australia



Youssra Asmi
Syria



Kateryna Bobyr
Ukraine



Soraya Boumediene
France/Morocco



Ouafa Zaidi
France/Algeria



Johanna Poutanen
Finland



Melina Niraki
Greece



Jimena Rincon
Colombia



Josephine Fröhlich
Germany



Linda Ligori
Italy



Furkan Akay
Turkey



Maryam Alaouie
Lebanon/Denmark



Vibeke Munk Petersen
Denmark



Mia Brygger
Denmark

Board Of Directors



Vibeke Quaade
Chairperson



Nyeleti Sue-Angel Nkuna

Vice Chairman of the Board



Mignote Nesfin
Treasurer



Karen Blincoe



Asmae Dahrabou



Kirsten Bruun



Phaedria St. Hilaire



Bent Egberg Mikkelsen



Helene Guldborg



Kannan P. Samy
Board Substitute

Advisory Board



Chairman Dr. Mariano A. Davies
Oxford Business Services ApS.



Mr. Jesper Alstrøm
Alstrom Consulting ApS



Mr. Thierry Legendre
Public Affairs Director at Rude Pedersen



Ms. Rikke Rønholt
Global Goals World Cup



Ms. Lorena Torres
Creative Strategist



Dr. Morten Kjærum
Director at Roul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights.



Ms. Mozhddeh Ghasemiyani
Psychologist at Doctors Without Borders



Ms. Gunvor Krongman
CEO of the Cultural Centre for Finland & Sweden



Ms. Gunvor Krongman
Sales Manager at Nets Group



Mr. Søren Sønderstrup
OECD Mission in Ukraine



Mr. Jakob Erle

Director of International Academy for Education and Democracy



Mr. Deo Delaney

Fieldglass Practice Lead-SAP Sourcing and Procurement at Accenture NL



Mr. Mu'ayyad Mehyar

International Advisor, Social Change, Human Rights and Governance



Dr. James Scot

Professor at University of Eastern Finland



Mr. Jacob Holdt

Photographer, Author and Lecturer



Mr. Karsten Fledelius

Associate professor at University of Copenhagen



Mr. Antonino Imbesi

Director of Euro-Net



Ms. Wafa El Moumi

CB Mentor



Mr. John Philip Lerche

Researcher



Ms. Lisbeth Pilegaard



FOOD FOR THOUGHT







As the tradition the Food For Thought in 2022 provided exciting spaces for people from different backgrounds to share their life stories, learn from and be inspired by one another's life experiences through storytelling in a safe, stimulating, and inclusive social environment, with a delicious international dinner in the heart of Copenhagen. The underlying idea of the Food for Thought is that each one of us has a unique story that is worth sharing, from which we can learn and get inspired. It is based on the strong belief that I tell my story, I exist, rather than I think, I exist. To include and empower people, they need a space to share their unique stories and make their voices heard.



As part of CB mission to provide conducive space for dialogue, when the Russian government launched its invasion into Ukraine on 24 February 2022, our reaction was disbelief. We never expected a First World War style could happen in Europe. What we did was to invite our Ukrainian and Russian associates to update the public and share their reflections and perspectives. We also invited a Danish expert to add a global dimension to the debate. We used our Food for Thought as a platform to the evening debate combined with Food. This was on 7 April 2022.

The speakers of the event were a Ukrainian based in Denmark. She is a Military Interpreter, Researcher on International Relations and Post-Soviet Space and Security Studies, Nikita Bulanin is a Russian based in Denmark. He works as an Advisor and a Project Coordinator at the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) in Copenhagen. Prior to joining IWGIA in 2019 he was working with international medical humanitarian organization Medecins sans Frontieres/Læger uden Grænser, both in different humanitarian crises around the world and also in the organization's office in Copenhagen and Michala Calante Benedixen, Founder & Chairman of Welcome Refugees.



Nikita Bulanin



Michala Calante
Benedixen



In 2022 we had speakers and cooks from all walks of life to share their stories and chefs to share their food. The speakers were:

- 1- Mille Rode, Chairwomen of Pen International, Denmark
- 2- Sofie Jam, novelist with Somali origin
- 3- Yasmin Abdel Hak, professor and Human Rights Lawyer with Danish, Egyptian and American background
- 4- Natash Al Hariri, Director of DFUNK at the Danish Refugee Council's youth department
- 5- Halina Buyk, Ukrainian based in Denmark. She is a Military Interpreter, Researcher on International Relations and Post-Soviet Space and Security Studies,
- 6- Nikita Bulanin is a Russian based in Denmark. He works as an Advisor and a Project Coordinator at the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) in Copenhagen
- 7- Micha Calante Benedixen, Founder & Chairman of Welcome Refugees.
- 8- Dr. Deborah Dunsire, CEO of Lundbeck
- 9- Alex Sabour, Creative Director
- 10- Mogens Lykketoft, former President of the UN general Assembly and prominent politician
- 11- Lisbeth Pilegaard, Director of the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy
- 12- Jørn Boye Nielsen, co-founder of the Danish Council for International Conflict Resolution





Some captured
moments from
FFT 2022



Bringing the world
into your classroom!



the school workshops



Introduction by the program coordinator, Rosangela Vertullo

In February 2022, I officially joined the Crossing Borders family as the new School Workshops coordinator. I remember the first time I walked into the office on a typical rainy Danish day. I had so many questions in my mind. "Will I be able to do this job?" "Will these people like me?" "What if I don't fit in?". Then Garba welcomed me with the biggest smile on his face, freshly made coffee, and delicious chocolate croissants. It is funny to think about it now, but after that day I never asked myself those questions again. The truth is that everyone fits in Crossing Borders, and it does not matter how busy they might be, there will always be someone welcoming you with a big smile on their face and, hopefully, some chocolate pastries.

This welcoming atmosphere and this celebration for diversity and inclusion are the core values that I tried to bring into Danish schools during 2022. What a year it has been! A year of many records broken and impressive numbers achieved. For the first time in Crossing Borders history, 6239 students and teachers were reached through our School Services program. But that is not what I will remember about 2022. What I will bring with me is the support of my colleagues, which I now have the pleasure and honor to call friends. I will carry with me the kindness of teachers and students all over the country who welcomed me into their classrooms. I will bring with me all the fantastic youth facilitators I met along the way.

Although much still needs to be done if we aim at bringing positive change in the world, after spending 2022 with Crossing Borders and young Danish students, I am welcoming the future with much greater hope than ever. So, I would like to conclude these remarks by thanking everyone who has made this past year possible and by welcoming all the new fantastic experiences and challenges that 2023 holds for us and for me.

*With infinite hope,
Rosie.”*





6269 students reached during 2022

Black Lives Matter

6 workshops
295 Attendees

Intersectional Feminism

1 workshop
25 Attendees

People & the Planet

1 workshop
1500 Attendees

Culture & Identity

1 workshop
25 Attendees

What is Democracy?

1 workshop
64 Attendees

Online Hate Speech

1 workshop
80 Attendees

Everyday Racism

1 workshop
30 Attendees



5 Webinars

4250 student reached

Black Lives Matter
930 Attendees

Online Hate Speech
620 Attendees

**Intersectional
Feminism**
620 Attendees

Climate Action
584 Attendees

**Abortion, a Fundamental
Right**
620 Attendees





“

I liked that you came with personal stories and experiences. The diversity in the group gave an amazing perspective!! - Caroline Fjeldsted



Crossing Borders (CB) workshops aim to bring the world into your school and your school out into the world. This is accomplished through workshops focused on topics around global issues such as Black Lives Matter, Intersectional Feminism, climate change, migration, Democratic Participation, etc. These efforts are facilitated by deploying holistic and tailored approaches to the needs, levels, and available time of the learners. Finally, this is all made possible by our enthusiastic, fresh, and playful youth facilitators from across the world. In this way, your pupils and students can meet the world inside their classrooms and on their playgrounds.

In sum, here are the facts that make Crossing Borders workshops unique:

- They are authentic as the facilitators come from different continents and countries with different ages, professions, and

experiences, including project coordinators, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, interns, youth, and ex-pat volunteers. In other words, they are a living part of the stories and have direct experience on the workshop topics.

- The workshops are inspired by methods used in the Danish 'Højskole', the European Council's Compass human rights-based compendium, CB Breaking the Culture of Silence Activities Book, forum theatre, and various gaming and action learning methods

- They provide opportunities to connect Danish schools and students with other fellow students and schools where CB has projects, such as Africa, Caucasus, and the Middle East.

- They are flexible in relation to scheduling, meaning the workshops are tailored to the specific availability of the schools. Whether they last hours, a half-day, a whole day, or several days, schools are always prioritized and accommodated.

- They are adaptable to the educational level of students, in that for primary school children, we use creativity, storytelling, and gaming methods whereas for 7th grade onward, we combine presentations, forum theatre, group works, debates, simulation games, and role-play.

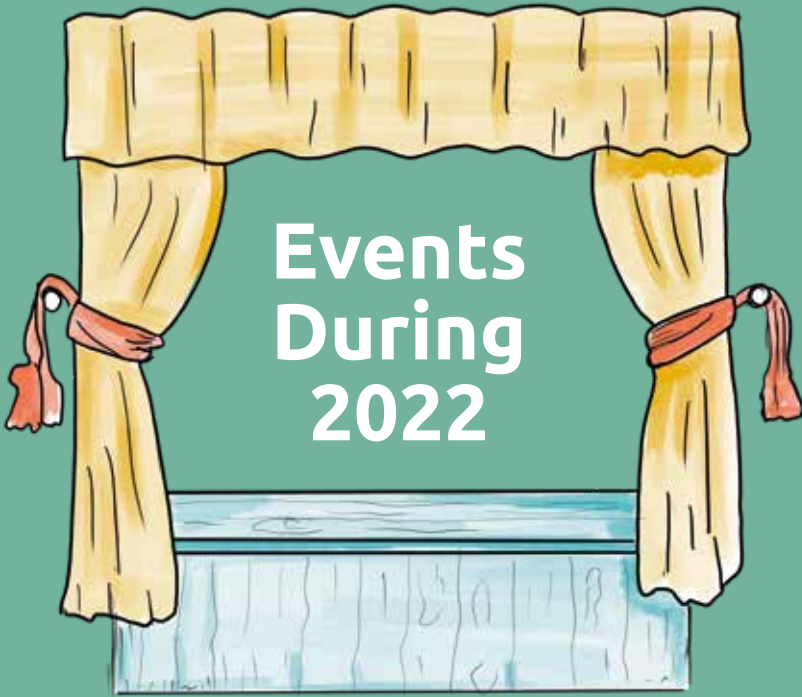
- They enhance listening, speaking, writing, debating, and public speaking skills in English.

“

It was really lovely having you guys here and the debate segment was great. It was great to hear different stories and be educated further on the topic of racism

- Rosa and Pauline







The woman I am today!

Women on the move across Euromed

Celebrating International Women's Day

As Head of the Danish Anna Lindh Foundation, Crossing Borders received a grant from the Foundation to celebrate the International Women's Day at the Copenhagen Student House with some 100 attendees. Titled **"The Woman I am Today! Women on the move across the Euromed"** we invited 10 female artists and 1 male artist from the Euro Mediterranean, Denmark, Syria, Botswana, Namibia, Sweden, Mali to share their poetry, music and spoken words. Crossing Borders focal point at Anna Lindh Foundation Alba Navas came to Copenhagen to represent the foundation.



Our program for the day was:

-  14.00 Arrival, drinks, and snacks
-  14.10 Welcome remarks by event moderator Susanne Gargiulo, CB Board and Senior Reporter
-  14.15 Poetry by Sarah Diallo
-  14.25 Music by Jackson Wahengo
-   14.45 Speech by Liebeth Pilegaard, Steering member of the ALF Network in Denmark, and Nyeleti Sue Angel Vice Chair of CB Board
-  14.50 Alba Navas Program manager at Anna Lindh Foundation
-  15.00 Drumbeats by Simona Abdallah
- 15.20 Break with drinks and snacks
-  15.35 Speech by Noura Al Bitar
-  15.45 Song by Pearl Cutten
-  15.55 Music by Kristina Issa
- 16.05 Networking with finger food and drinks prepared by Zaki Abbara
- 17.00 Closing remarks





**DIALOG OM AFSKAFFELSE AF
FORSVARSFORBEHDET**

**HVAD BETYDER DET FOR
DANMARK?**

UBUNTU HUSET
KØBMAGERGADE 43
12. / 17. / 25. MAJ
KL 17.00 - 19.00

25. MAJ
LISBETH PILEGAARD
Crossing Borders rådgiver

12. MAJ
MOGENS LYKKETOFT
Tidl. udenrigsminister

19. MAJ
JØRN BOYE NIELSEN
Stifter RIKO Skole

DR
EUROPA nævnet

In connection with the June referendum about the Danish defence opt out, CB received funding to organise three public debates in April and May on the issue. For this purpose, we invited the former Speaker of Danish Parliament and former President of the UN General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft, Executive Director of the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy Lisbeth Pilegaard and Founding Board member for the International Council of Conflict Resolution Jørn Boye Nielsen to share their perspectives and answers questions from the public. Using the Food for Thought concept the debates were combined with international dinners.





Mandela Day 2022

“Do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are”

The essence of Mandela Day – take action, inspire change, and make every day a Mandela Day – is more important than ever before.

As always, Mandela Day is a unique opportunity to do good for those who need it most. Hence, every year we at Crossing Borders seize this opportunity to serve food, drinks, and distribute clothes and play music for the homeless and other citizens who need it.

This year, we celebrated Mandela Day in a very special way together with homeless people. With the participation of the South African Ambassador, HE Ms. Magubane and a representative of the Mandela Foundation Dr. Futhi Mtoba, we had an unforgettable day with the homeless in Copenhagen. We shared food, donated clothes, and danced to the uplifting music by the great DJ Kipanga who brought his gears and played South African music.

A million thank you to the Crossing Borders Team for planning and implementing the event. We are grateful to all those who supported and attended the event especially Ala'a at Sorte Firkant restaurant.

The Nelson Mandela International Day campaign remains rooted in the call Nelson Mandela made in 2009 to honour him by working in communities rather than by celebrating his birthday. While 18 July remains a focal point for the campaign.

About YouPeople: YouPeople is a morning café for the homeless in Copenhagen. They are located in Folkets Hus and we serve coffee, tea, and breakfast 6 days per week from 7-10.30.





Ghana Maritime Seminar

Following the successful implementation of Ghana Maritime Seminar since 2017, CB developed and successfully implemented a special seminar between 21 April and 5 May.

Coordinated by CB Associate, Ghanaian journalist, Alfred Tamakloe and Colombian Jimena Rincon, the seminar was designed and coordinated for 18 participating dockworkers HR and unit leaders in Tema and Tagorati in Ghana. The seminar was funded by the Ghana ports authorities and implemented by Crossing Borders in collaboration with the 3F confederation of the trade unions in Denmark. CB provided them with the learning space in terms of lectures, discussions, reflections, and experiential learning and

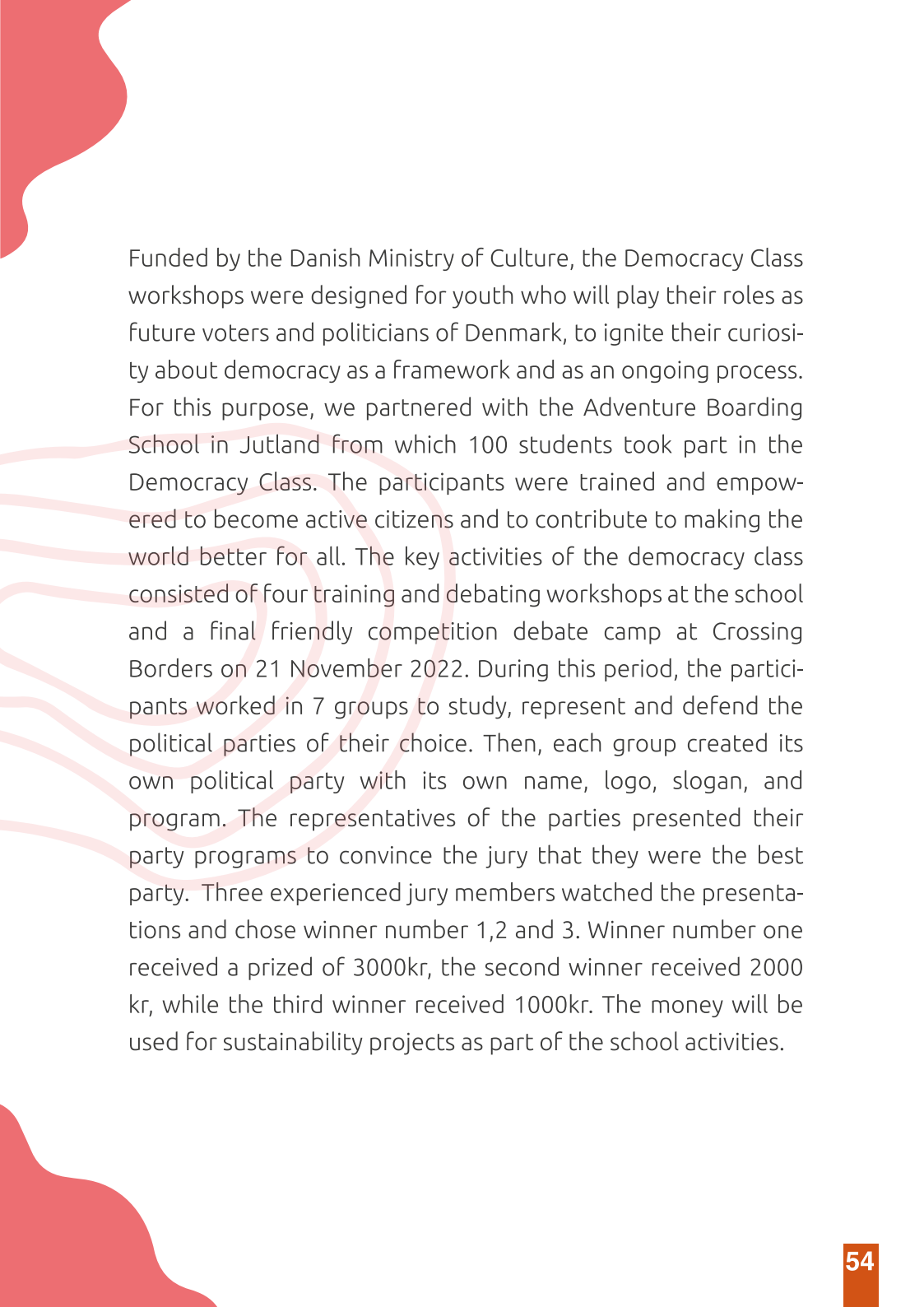
networking with fellow Danish colleagues. This included visits to the Worker's Museum in Copenhagen, Maritime Museum in Elsinore, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Malmo (Sweden) and Hamburg (Germany) Harbours plus the Diesel House, Copenhagen Canal Tour and Migrant Tour of Copenhagen. It was also inspiring to facilitate meeting and interaction between the Ghanaian guests and Danish colleagues from Dock Workers of the 3F- Federation of the Danish Trade Union and that of the Confederation of the Danish Industries- DI as well, who employ the bulk of the Danish labour force.

It was especially interesting for our Ghanaian colleagues to attend the annual congress of the Danish Dock Workers in Silkeborg and join the Danish colleagues from all the trade unions in Denmark at the annual International Labour Day celebration on 1st May parade in Copenhagen which also to mark the 150th anniversary of trade union activism in Denmark.





Democracy Classes



Funded by the Danish Ministry of Culture, the Democracy Class workshops were designed for youth who will play their roles as future voters and politicians of Denmark, to ignite their curiosity about democracy as a framework and as an ongoing process. For this purpose, we partnered with the Adventure Boarding School in Jutland from which 100 students took part in the Democracy Class. The participants were trained and empowered to become active citizens and to contribute to making the world better for all. The key activities of the democracy class consisted of four training and debating workshops at the school and a final friendly competition debate camp at Crossing Borders on 21 November 2022. During this period, the participants worked in 7 groups to study, represent and defend the political parties of their choice. Then, each group created its own political party with its own name, logo, slogan, and program. The representatives of the parties presented their party programs to convince the jury that they were the best party. Three experienced jury members watched the presentations and chose winner number 1,2 and 3. Winner number one received a prize of 3000kr, the second winner received 2000 kr, while the third winner received 1000kr. The money will be used for sustainability projects as part of the school activities.

CB Annual Assembly 2022

The Annual Assembly was held on 29 November 2022 at 16.00 – 20.00 in the big Aula Hall in the Union building on Nørre Allé 7, 2200 Copenhagen. The CB members, Office Team, Executive and Advisory Boards were invited one month before the meeting. Comprising 78 attendees from all walks of life, the invitation was disseminated through email, Facebook event, mail chimp, LinkedIn and other channels.

True to its mission to create space for dialogue and to celebrate diversity as asset, the assembly reflected a global unity in diversity fostered by CB. Thus, the 78 participants came from over 30 countries from Afghanistan and Armenia to Brazil to Botswana, from Congo to Kenya, from Denmark to Dominican Republic, from Ecuador to Ethiopia and Eritrea, from France to Ghana, Germany and Greece, from Hungary to Italy and Ireland, from Lebanon to Mali and Morocco, from Nepal, Nigeria and Norway, from Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain and South Africa, from Tunisia to Uganda, Ukraine, UK ad USA, from Zambia to Zimbabwe. It was a meeting point of the globalised world as it is.

The meeting took off with a live music by Singers and Songwriters Pearl Cutten and John Mutombo, respectively from Botswana and DRC Congo. At the entrance of the hall, the participants were warmly welcomed with Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony by designer and social entrepreneur Alem Sehagy.






The event was opened and chaired by Chair of Crossing Borders Advisory Board Dr. Mariano A. Davies, who is the founding Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in Denmark, and who also serves as the Chair of the British Chambers of Commerce in the Balkans. Mariano's remarks were followed by a video presentation from somewhere in the world by our Board Chair Vibeke Quaade and a speech by Nyeleti Sue Angel Nkuna, Vice Chair of Crossing Borders Board. Both Vibeke and Nyeleti reiterated the increasing needs for Crossing Borders in these dangerous times of growing polarization within and among communities. This is particularly true when we consider the threatening global issues of negative climate change, migration and violent conflicts.

The event was moderated by our German Intern, Singer and Song Writer Josephine Frohlich.

After that the minutes of last year's assembly were approved along with the agenda of this year's meeting. Right after, the executive summary of the annual report of Crossing was presented by CB Director Garba Diallo. The core points of the reports consisted of this year's activities, achievements, challenges, and key priorities for 2023. The CB Director highlighted our relocation to a new and more spacious location at the Copenhagen Cultural House Union. The report also outlined the cornerstone of CB policy of walking the talks of diversity from our office team to all we do in CB. In another word, we practice the old saying that Charity starts from Home. Hence, instead of the usual rhetoric about diversity in a globalised era, we do it right here in

Denmark in parallel and synergy with what we do out in the larger world. The report also included the growth of the Food for Thought Storytelling events in Denmark to include events for companies and speakers from major corporations' CEOs, that for the first time our School Workshops- Bring the World to the Classroom reached out to more than 6000 students throughout Denmark. The report also included other this year's activities such as debates on the Danish Defence Opt Out in connection with June referendum, debate evening on Ukraine-Russia war, with Denmark-based Russia and Ukrainian experts sharing perspectives on the war. As tradition, we celebrated the 8 March International Women's Day and 18 July Mandela Day. The report also mentioned the areas of CB expansion this year in terms of our project and funding partnerships with the resulting positive growth both in quality and outreach in 2022. The report included with a presentation of CB Financial report 2021, 3rd quarter budget 2022 follow-up and forecast for 2023.

Garba concluded his report with a presentation of key CB strategic priorities for the coming year comprising the expansion of our Food for Thought, Membership, and Bring the World to the Classroom.



The next point was a very exciting CB project partner reports from the field in Nepal, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, respectively Pearl Utuk, Bright Chizone and John Muchenje and Phurpa Lama, about their work with youth participation in localizing the SDGS and turning the climate challenges into green opportunities to tackle crosscutting challenges, girls and women empowerment, peace dialogue, inclusion in Europe.

This was followed by annual video highlights of CB actions both in Denmark and across the globe. The video was designed and produced by one of Ukrainian volunteers.

Now it was the turn of the presentation of CB National, EU and Global Programmes by the coordinators Rosangela Vertullo, Emma Hyland Tatjana Stefanovic, respectively from Italy, Ireland and Serbia. The program presentations were supplemented with stands with project objectives and outcomes in posters, brochures and postcards for the participants to take with.

The next point on the agenda was a powerful poetry by Sarah Diallo from Denmark/Mali. Election of board two new Board members and two substitutes were held. The two new CB board members and two substitutes, respectively: Asmae Dahrabou, Karen Blincoe, Bent Egberg Mikkelsen and Kannan P. Samy.

Last but not the least, our global chefs presented the delicious food from Brazil, Denmark, Ethiopia, Ireland, Lebanon, Serbia and Syria they prepared for the occasion!

The event was documented by our fabulous creative photographers Kannan P. Samy and Henrik Helweg-Larsen. The assembly continued with dinner and drinks, networking and Open Mic

A million thank you to all those who made this year's assembly live up the CB vision of a world in peace with itself and its surroundings, and mission to the create space for dialogue on equal terms.





Talks and Workshops

Talks on sustainability

Upcycling and food-waste workshops

We were very lucky in 2022 to be invited to Roskilde Festival where we hosted the Green Design Market Stage. Our primary objective was to raise awareness and foster engagement towards green sustainability. To achieve this, we curated a range of guest speakers and interactive workshops on the topics of upcycling and food waste.



Copenhagen is known for its rich and vibrant cultural life, but it cannot beat this year's cultural night on 14 October 2022 at the Union Cultural House. The moody autumn made this special cultural night even more special as it created a real cosy "Hygge" atmosphere. With its mission to celebrate and see diversity as a natural asset, the whole concept did resonate with Crossing Borders team members, activities, and vision. It fitted our walking the talks of intercultural contacts, interaction, activities, and methods super well.

Likewise, with the autumn season creating a fitting scene for the night, the Union Cultural House provided a unique, warm welcoming space for the celebration. Add to that it was Friday after people had put the work week behind them and set out to find a space, good company, music and tasty food to enjoy and relax.

Being a home to the most multicultural hub in Copenhagen, the Union Cultural House on Nørre Allé houses dozens of different grassroots organisations, who are all united in their focus on creative thinking, imaginative approach to connecting people, in their proud diversity, through cultural expressions and various artforms.

No wonder that there were so many cultural offerings to choose from and enjoy by just hanging out in one of the many rooms with photos by Diversity Works, joining Crossing Borders Migrantour and playing serious games at Crossing Borders

“Everything Social group”, Human Library, Another Life, Rappolitics, Turning Tables and many more.

What was especially amazing was how the Migrantour was so popular that we had to organise two tours with the second having 25 people who wanted to see the Nørrebro neighbourhood through the eyes of immigrant. Up on the third floors, Crossing Borders has its based with Crossing Borders people from across the globe. Here one could meet and taste world from Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony to Ugandan cassava, fried bananas and cake snacks plus fresh drinks. More international food was served at the ground floor by our colleagues Send flere Krydderier (send more spices) social kitchen.

We should have a cultural night, if not every night, every week.





Reflections by the interns & volunteers





Furkan Akay

Turkey

The idea of living abroad was always so exciting to me, but to be honest, it was also a bit scary at the same time. As an extrovert, social, and friendly person, I was scared of not having friends and feeling lonely during my time abroad.

Then, in September of 2022, I finally took the first step, crossed many borders all the way from Turkey, and found myself in Crossing Borders office as an European Solidarity Corps volunteer. When I walked through the office for the first time, I saw faces and heard accents from all around the world. Thanks to the lovely people of Crossing Borders, I never experienced feeling lonely in Denmark.

Anyway, during my time at Crossing Borders, I learned to look at the world from a different perspective through people I met via Crossing Borders. For instance, I met with project partners from Georgia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria, and across Europe. However, if I need to look at my volunteering from a professional perspective, I have been learning how to coordinate, implement, and disseminate EU projects which are focusing on different, but important aspects of life. Besides these, as an explorer, I always make new friends, travel as much as I can through transnational project meetings and my own trips, and collect lifetime memories.



**Irene
Kisaakye**

(Uganda/South Africa)

The most interesting part of my internship is working on projects that align with my educational background. Furthermore, I enjoy the work-life balance that Crossing Borders offers, in this modern capitalistic world and the child-friendly environment! It's amazing to note that, diversity, equity & inclusion are deeply rooted in the CB DNA.

I am currently working on the Localizing SDGs consortium project comprising Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia. Specifically, I am working on the Policy Recommendation paper. The paper is part of the bottom-up approach, deployed by Crossing Borders, to be as a voice for the voiceless vulnerable communities in the three African countries. I am looking forward to creating impact on the localizing SDG's project in partnership with CB African partners.

Furthermore, I also edit, and compile written and video materials from our partners in Uganda, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zambia & Zimbabwe. The materials are parts of the output of our Engagement project in partnership with Fredensborg municipality.



Kateryna Bobyr

Ukraine

This year with Crossing Borders has been a year of personal growth and opportunity. I improved my spoken English and studied several videos, editing, and animating for our projects and online courses. In the process, I learned to quickly search for information and urgently edit videos half a day before the presentation. Thanks to this, we have created many videos for our projects of different sizes and countries. It was my honour to produce the highlight video for the Annual Assembly. I was very excited to work with this year's video memories.

Most importantly, I met nice people from all over the world and learn how to live and work with them. There have been plenty of meetings in Crossing Borders both at the Ubuntu House and, then in the Union, where CB is located. I also personally enjoyed spending time with the delegations from Georgia and our friends from Nigeria and Zambia.



Anastasia Shepel

Ukraine



I started my ESC year in June 2022, and the next 7 months were the most fulfilling and fascinating of my whole life.

This is an incredibly interesting journey in discovering myself and everything that surrounds me. Surely it is unexpected to visit an African festival the day after arriving in Denmark? And how cool it is to work in the same office with people from different parts of the world and learn something new and exciting from another culture every day. How about trying to pronounce Danish words? Uh, I'll leave this question aside, Ukrainian (my native language) and Danish are very different :)

If everything is clear with the cultural part, it is no less interesting on the work front: visits of partners to Copenhagen, a work trip to Utrecht, the Netherlands, content creation for the Migrantour project, school workshops, organization of events... These are all just a small part of my working days, but very pleasant and very diverse.

I am very grateful to everyone with whom I shared at least a minute of my life in Denmark. Grateful for not so gray Scandinavia as expected. Grateful for the cinnamon buns, without which it is difficult to live now. So, the further, the better.



Joséphine Fröhlich

Germany

My internship at Crossing Borders was really a special time, not only made I new friends, and was given exciting opportunities, but I also learned valuable lessons from my colleagues and the projects I worked on. After two and a half years of studying online because of COVID-19 getting actual experience was a refreshment for my heart, brain and soul.

I had the chance to pursue many different activities, such as assisting the EU Program Manager in the coordination and implementation of several ERASMUS+ funded projects. These included the projects INCLUDATE on the topic of inclusion of people with migration background, PISH on the topic of intercultural communication in the university context, EDCyber on the topic of democratic participation of young people in Europe and CONTINUE on the topic of activism and the design of so-called "social actions".

During my internship I participated in international partner meetings, which took place in Copenhagen as well as in other European cities like, Alghero and Athens at the partner organizations of Crossing Borders. In the course of the projects and meetings, I was given the task of designing learning and training content and collaborating on intellectual outputs such as an online course on intercultural communication. I was also responsible for conducting focus groups for the EDCyber project, which aimed to explore the experiences of young adults, youth workers and stakeholders with democratic participation in the context of virtual environments such as social media. During the internship, I conducted several literature reviews on social policy issues and their psychological effects, wrote project reports, and drafted policy recommendations. I also got to lead a community building workshop for Crossing Borders staff, conduct three workshops in one day on pro-environmental behavior and sustainability in a Danish school, and host Crossing Borders' annual assembly.

Together with the EU Program Manager, I also designed a new project called Sustainable Youth Advocacy and submitted it to ERASMUS+ for funding. If approved, the project will use a variety of training to teach young people how to effectively raise awareness about social policy issues and engage in sustainable activism.

In connection with my studies, I was able to interview people during my internship. Right now I am writing my bachelor's thesis on the topic of activism. I am thankful for the experience I got during the internship at Crossing Borders and I am very excited that I have been asked by the program coordinator to stay with the organization and become a real part of the team.

Lots of love and see you at CB,



**Mia
Brygger**
Denmark

I started working with Crossing Borders in the Fall of 2022, as an intern assigned to help out our project coordinator, Rosangelita Vertullo. My main task has been to spread awareness of our school workshops to all kinds of Danish schools; private, public, high schools and boarding schools. Since I've started my internship here, I have been fortunate to work on and improve my skills in copy writing, marketing, translation and networking.

My name is Mia. My background is in communication. My passion lies in film, art and social justice issues. I'm older than most of my colleagues, but I enjoy working with younger generations, as they are more attuned to the world's needs and eager to change societal norms. As am I. The youth is where we should look to change the status quo; they are the future and hold all the power. It's a privilege, as a working member of Crossing Borders, to get the opportunity to teach young minds, how they can use their voice and their rights as citizens, to make the world a just, inclusive and kinder place.

I love, that Crossing Borders is an international NGO with a global outlook. At our offices, the global perspective is very apparent in the work force as well. I get to work side by side with some of the smartest, kindest and funniest people with really diverse backgrounds. As of 2023, we are from Uganda, Germany, Italy, India, Brazil, Ukraine, Serbia, Turkey, France, USA, South Africa, Ireland, Lebanon and I am from Denmark. I have been working with Crossing Borders since October and plan on staying at lot longer. I've gotten to experience so many new cultures and have taken part in interesting projects. I'm excited to see what 2023 will bring.



**Namuswe
Catherine**
Uganda

WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

My name is Namuswe Catherine and I am from UGANDA - (The Pearl of Africa) - I am grateful for the passed 2 years of me being at Crossing Borders , the diversity at the organisation is out of this world surely it is Crossing Borders. I joined Crossing Borders in 2020 November and among the so many highlights, I am thankful that I was chanced to speak and facilitate a few workshops. An experience to the organisation for because I have had opportunity to learn a variety of things as regards Projects and some of the things that entails that. I am grateful and thankful for how the environment at crossing borders extends Grace unto everyone to learn and become the better versions of themselves...

The lovely FOOD FOR THOUGHT lives rent free in my head!! The amazing stories from noble persons and the delicious foods from different walks of the world (DIVERSITY) in play.

CROSSING BORDERS I am grateful for you...



Anna Lindh Fonden Dansk Netværk

Anna Lindh Foundation Danish Network report 2022

Crossing Borders was elected in June 2020 as Head of the Danish Network. Since then, we have a steering committee in places and have been carrying out various activities like attended heads of network meetings in Brussels, Cairo and Alexandria plus many online meetings. CB also implemented two projects, one was the Performance Arts for Gender Equality (Page) and the second was Food Thought to foster intercultural dialogue and exchange. This was to contribute to the “ALF mission is to ‘promote knowledge, recognition and mutual respect between the religions and beliefs, cultures, and values which prevail in the partners, identify, develop and promote areas of cultural convergence between the Euro-Mediterranean countries and peoples, with the aim in particular of promoting tolerance, cultural understanding and avoiding stereotypes, xenophobia and racism, encourage initiatives which aim at promoting a dialogue between religions and beliefs and on ensuring diversity and pluralism in the Euro- Mediterranean region and promote the human dimension of the partnership as well as the consolidation of the rule of law and of basic freedoms”

As part of this, we organised two Food for Thought events in 2022 with Euromed experts. The first was on 10 February 2022 with the Danish, Egyptian and American Professor and human right lawyer Yasmin Abdel Hak, who shared her academic knowledge and lived personal experience about migration, identity and roadblocks and bureaucratic hassles that immigrants are increasingly confronted with around the world, Europe. According to her, this is especially paradoxical in our age of globalisation. The presentation was followed by Q&A. Then all the participants moved to the long corridor of the Ubuntu House where Youssra Al Asmi share her powerful story as a grandmother, teacher with work experience from Kuwait to Yemen and Syria from where she fled the war in 2015 and now undertaking her MA studies in Denmark. Youssra shared her story as she presented the Syria Food she prepared for the event.



The second major activity was a Food for Thought event with Natasha Al Hariri, Director of the Youth Department at the Danish Refugee Council. She shared her story as a human right activists and youth worker with immigrant youth in Denmark. She also shared her lived experience as a professional of Lebanese cultural background. The event took place at the Ubuntu House on 3 March 2022. The actual results included raised awareness, fresh knowledge and insights into the challenges and opportunities young immigrants, especially from the Middle East, face. Deploying storytelling and food as common ground for meaningful dialogue, networking, and interconnect-edness are among the results. Participants got a unique chance to hear Manal Bashir Tahhan's story through the food she prepared for the event. Like millions of other fellow Syrians, Manal fled Syria in 2015 to Denmark across the sea.



The third event was held in conjunction with the International Women's Day on 8 March 2022, the theme of the event was The Woman I am Today, Euromed Women on the Move. The event was opened with welcome speeches by a Steering Committee member of the DK ALF Network Director Lisbeth Pilegaard and Vice Chair of Crossing Borders Board Sue Angel Nyleti Nkuna. The activities of the day include a wide range of cultural inputs from 10 artists: musicians, poets and singers from Denmark, Sweden, and many others with immigrant backgrounds. Among the keynote speakers was Noura Al Bittar from Syria and Sarah Diallo from Denmark/Mali.



The event was moderated by CB Board member and senior CNN producer Susanne Gargiulo. We were very delighted and blessed to have CB focal point at ALF Alba Navas with us. Alba made a powerful speech highlighting the importance ALF places on gender equality and youth inclusion as well as the vital role of intercultural dialogue across the Euromed. Yousra Asmi and Zaki Abbara from Syria led the Food team comprising CB staff and volunteers from Australia/China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, and Greece. The team prepared and served the over 70 guests from various cultural back grounds. Held at the Student House just across from Crossing Borders in CPH, the was both colourful and inspiring.

The Global



Program 2022





**Introduction by
the program
coordinator,
Tatjana Stefanovic**

The Global program this year expanded in the terms of projects, partnerships, and local initiatives, with the main mission to educate and empower active global citizens across the world. The program has been active in 12 countries across Africa, Asia, MENA region, Eastern Europe and Caucasus and we have collaborated with 16 local partners including the new partnerships in Zambia and Zimbabwe and reestablished partnership in Georgia.

The program is funded by The Civil Society in Development and from this year also by The New Democracy fund, both are part of DANIDA - Denmark's development cooperation, which is an area of activity under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The main areas of projects remain youth participation and active citizenship, women empowerment, and community mobilization. Only in 2022, the global program has had more than 1500 participants across Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia as part of our Localizing SDGs project, around 600 women joined the Women leadership school in India, 120 youth directly participated in Democracy Hub Ukraine, around 800 participants were part of Empowering Girls Dialogue initiatives in Morocco, 12 Municipalities across Georgia participated in Youth4democracy project and many others. After 2.5 years managing global program and its strategic development, I am deeply grateful with all our local partners of their efforts, initiatives, the determination that they demonstrate each day. Being part of the Crossing Borders' global family brings many professional and personal learnings and inspiration. The most inspiring are the personal stories that comes across the globe of life changing experiences and opportunities to step out, act and be the change they want to see. The global program truly lives up to "we act locally and think globally" and we continue to work even more together towards a more inclusive and sustainable world.

*Kind regards,
Tatjana*

PROJECTS FUNDED BY:



1 **ANCHORING A CIVIL SOCIETY MODEL TOWARD LOCALIZING THE SDGS**
GHANA, UGANDA AND ZAMBIA

2 **WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**
INDIA

3 **ENHANCED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS**
ZIMBABWE

4 **DIGITAL ADVOCACY PROJECT**
ZAMBIA

5 **EMPOWERED GIRLS DIALOGUE II**
MOROCCO

6 **ENGAGING SCHOOLS IN THE SDGS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK**
DENMARK

7 **YOUTH PROMOTING PEACE AND TOLERANCE IN ZIMBABWEAN POLITICS**
ZIMBABWE

8 **KYIV DEMOCRACY HUB**
UKRAIN

PROJECTS FUNDED BY:



1 **DEMOCRACY HUBS UKRAIN**
UKRAIN

2 **YOUTH 4 DEMOCRACY**
GEORGIA




CrossingBorders

 **CISU** CIVIL SOCIETY IN
DEVELOPMENT

 **NEW
DEMOCRACY
FUND**

PROJECTS FUNDED BY:



1

ANCHORING A CIVIL SOCIETY MODEL TOWARD LOCALIZING THE SDGS IN GHANA, UGANDA AND ZAMBIA

The project objective is to create a south-to-south focused collaboration platform among project partner Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders in Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia. The platform will focus on the important task of localizing the UN Global Goals (SDGs) at grassroots level.

Partners: Ghana Community Radio Network, Open Space Center Uganda, Circus Zambia

2

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The project goal is empowering women and creating women leaders at the grassroots level through Women Leadership Schools. These schools will act as a model for strengthening women's voice in local development by bridging the information deficit they faces and by improving their access to government guaranteed rights. In addition, the project will empower women leaders to facilitate and monitor compliance of these programs in their villages.

Partners: S M Sehgal Foundation

3

ENHANCED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS (CRS)

The project's overall objective is to facilitate opened spaces for dialogue towards civic engagement within local communities associated with the respective CRSs areas. The project's main aim is to strengthen six community radio stations as civic actors and engage their local communities through their broadcasting content. Some of the project activities concern the radio production and content creation training as well as Community radio advocacy meetings with the local communities.

Partners: Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations (ZACRAS)

4

DIGITAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

Under this Digital Advocacy Project, Transparency International Zambia (TI-Z) and Crossing Borders (CB) seek to capacity build other civil society actors in Zambia on the use of digital tools. The overall goal of the intervention is to facilitate civic contribution to strengthening accountable governance through building the capacity of CSOs and youth movements to conduct digitally driven advocacy in Zambia.

Partners: Transparency International Zambia

5

EMPOWERED GIRLS DIALOGUE II

The project development objective is to allow marginalized Moroccan teen girls to gain a voice within their communities, by positively impacting detrimental practices against them, such as, sexual harassment, forced dropping out of school, and forced early marriage. The focus of this project is directed toward expanding the Community Dialogue activity, making them a strong advocacy tool.

Partners: Project Soar



6

ENGAGING SCHOOLS IN FREDENSBORG MUNICIPALITY IN THE SDGs AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK

The main purpose of the project is to engage Danish schools in international development through the SDGs. The project involves various activities in the schools with regards to the world around us with special focus on Danish and African school partnership. The partnership will be based on the respective contexts of the partner schools and their engagement in the SDGs.

Partners: 100% for the Children, Promentum A/S and Humlebæk Skole



7

YOUTH PROMOTING PEACE AND TOLERANCE IN ZIMBABWEAN POLITICS

The purpose of this intervention is to engage and capacitate youth from across the political spectrum in Zimbabwe to strengthen their role in political and development processes. It seeks to ensure different social forces pool together for positive change. This is expected contribute to breaking barriers for genuine youth inclusion in shaping peaceful political discourse within Zimbabwe in general and the dominating political parties.

Partner: 4-H Zimbabwe Foundation



8

KYIV DEMOCRACY HUB

The Kyiv Democracy Hub comes from an increasing need for active youth participation in solving societal challenges in Ukraine. In this project we create the space for dialogue, build the capacity of youth to take positive actions, and to raise awareness on current local and global issues. We empower Ukrainian youth and provide them the necessary set of knowledge, skills, and competencies.

Partner: Klitschko Foundation

PROJECTS FUNDED BY:



1

DEMOCRACY HUBS UKRAINE

The main purpose of the project is to contribute to providing Ukrainian youth with a platform for peaceful and active participation in the democratic development of the country. The Hubs will serve as dynamic focus platforms where youth can meet and engage in public affairs by learning and by debating current youth-related issues in stimulating spaces for democratic education among youth and inspire the present and future youth leaders of the country to be an active part of solving current societal challenges. The core project activities for the youth include training courses, dialogue cafés, seminars, workshops, online courses, regional debate camps, a national debate camp, and a panel debate trip to Denmark.

Partners: Klitschko Foundation



2

YOUTH 4 DEMOCRACY

The overall project purpose is to contribute to the implementation of effective municipal youth policy for genuine partnership among youth CSOs and local government youth departments. The project focuses on six municipalities in Georgia that face severe challenges of youth participation. The aim of the project is to support participatory youth policy development at a local level via piloting a capacity-building program in the six municipalities according to the strategic framework for youth policy development in Georgia. The expected outcome of the project is to have piloted a consistent approach to capacity building of municipal youth work structures.

Partners: Youth for Peace and Equality (YPE), Youth Organization International Centre for Peace, Integration

Localizing the SDGs in Ghana, Uganda and Zambia:



Localizing The SDGs project has been one of Crossing Borders' biggest consortium projects in the past year. The project's development objective is to create a south-to-south focused collaboration platform among partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in Ghana, Uganda, and Zambia.

This platform is focusing on the important task of localizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at grassroots level. This overarching aim of the project is being met through three immediate objectives:

- **Mobilize and engage** our partners' direct target groups (mainly local youth) by enabling them to create and take ownership of localizing the SDGs through grassroots activities.
- **Facilitate** the building of synergies, good practices and success stories about localizing the SDGs through a collaborative platform.
- **Lobby and advocate** for more supportive policy frameworks that will ensure longer-term entrenchment of the various SDG targets at the grassroots level.



Project updates from 2022

| | GHANA | UGANDA | ZAMBIA |
|---|--|---|---|
| OBJECTIVE 1: Enabling the target groups to take ownership in localizing the SDGs | 138 youth involved in focus group 23 Community Radio Stations 276 youth in the Youth Task Forces (YTF) | 2 YTF of 45 people 6 youth parliaments of 180 people 100 youth in a SDGs Awareness event | YTF of 20 youth Youth parliaments Local partners in a SDG Awareness event |
| OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitating the building of synergies through shared platform | SDGs dissemination content through SoMe, radio broadcast & other platforms in local languages SDGs Guide and Sustainable set in progress SDGs Platform launched | | |
| OBJECTIVE 3: Lobbying and advocacy for more supportive policy frameworks | 1 National & Regional symposium involving prominent media and regional authorities | 1 National SDGs symposium involving 150 youth and policy makers 1 Youth Dialogue involving 80 youth | Youth gender equality sensibilization workshops & trainings Women's rights march in the district |





SEPTEMBER 2022

LOCALISING THE SDGS

PROJECT NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER



GHANA

Community Radio Youth
Participates in Ghana's National
Youth Policy Review Conference



UGANDA

The Elle Parle Women's Public
Speaking & Debate Tournament



ZAMBIA

Together to define solutions
SDG mini projects meeting



PARTICIPATORY SELECTION OF COMMUNITY SDG YOUTH ASK TEAM MEMBERS (CYTTs)

Recent development in our SDGs localization journey has seen us traveling a step further together with our communities to co-create and put in place a youth lead community institution called Community Youth Task Teams (CYTTs) who are to lead youth community activities for localizing the SDGs in 22 communities across Ghana in the month of June.

Twenty Two (22) teams of 12 young men and women between the ages of 18-35 were each selected using a participatory and democratic selection process by each of our 22 community radio stations and Community TV station. We engaged more than a thousand community members and youth in the process and have been able to form a total of 264 CYTT members made up of 132 males and 132 females.

This process was facilitated by our community Radio stations Youth Focal persons who were earlier trained to carry

out such activities including generating content for the interweaving of radio programs with community engagement activities.

Our Youth focal persons in each community radio station with support from their radio station management teams, mobilized youth from their selected project communities to facilitate a dialogue among them. Participants set their own criteria and module for selecting leaders under various age groupings and paying attention to gender equality and total inclusion "leaving no one behind".

The Community Youth Task Teams (CYTTs) will take charge in the formation of youth fora that will further deepen the localization of the SDGs and also facilitate the identification and implementation of community level-mini-projects in their communities.



COMMUNITY RADIO STATION (CRS) LEVEL TRAINING OF CYTTs

We also witnessed with wonder, how our Community Radio Youth focal Persons (YFPs) took their Community Youth Task Teams (CYTTs) through an eight (8) unit capacity building training at their various Community Radio Station level in this July. The station level workshops were spread over 5-10 days period and covered various modules all centered on the Community Radio localizing the SDGs project.

All 264 CYTTs were trained in their various community towns at different locations using a combination of in-studio and out studio training. In-door and out-door training and other creative training approaches.

This step-down training aimed at deepening the understanding of the CYTTs on the entire project, equipping them with the necessary skills for mobilizing and facilitating their colleague youth and larger community on various project



activities. The modules also covered topics such as; Team-building, Democratic Communication and Project Overview, deepening our understanding of the SDGs, national youth policy, planning & organization for implementation, and the CRU-SDGs algorithm. It was all about youth supporting youth in localizing the SDGs.



CR YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY REVIEW AND GHANA'S 1ST NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

In recognition of the partnership between the Ghana Community Radio Network (GCRN) and the Ghana Nation Youth Authority, GCRN was invited by the National Youth Authority of Ghana, to contribute to the revision/Pre-review of a new National Youth Policy for the Ghanaian youth and to participate in the 1st ever Ghana National Youth Conference to commemorate the International Youth Day on the 11th and 12 of August respectively at ANAKAZO, Mampong in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

On the 11th of August, 2022, the National Youth Authority organized a National Youth Policy dissemination dialogue session for its varied major stakeholders to which GCRN forms part of. This was to give room for the National youth policy working group to present a new Policy to stakeholders, a dialogues session allowed for inputs and comments from stakeholders.

A delegation of Community Radio Youth focal Persons and board representatives were in attendance. They presented the views of their marginalized community youths on inclusive consultations and participation in National discourse and the right to access information through their most accessible and reliable agencies for information and


communication. Community Radios. This review National Youth policy responded well to GCRN's policy recommendation issue of the need to align the youth policy to the SDGs.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY & MAIDEN NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE:

The 12th of August marked the International Youth Day and was celebrated grandly for the first time in the history of Ghana. The maiden National Youth conference was organized under the auspices of the National Youth Authority of Ghana to commemorate the occasion. This National and International program saw in attendance over a 1,000 youth delegates from youth groups across the country, development partners and other key stake-holders, government officials and the president of the Republic of Ghana: H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, who was conferred with the star of the youth of Ghana award and who also Launched the New National Youth Policy.

The GCRN community was represented by a Ten (10) member delegation of youth focal persons on the CR4-SDGs project and some board members who took the opportunity to share with the world in a booth exhibition, flyers with various messages on CR and it's algorithm employed to localize the SDGs, highlights of priority SDGs as gathered from our communities and GCRN's collective views on the National youth policy. It was an opportunity for our youth to get informed, represented, to connect with others and above all advocate for the many marginalized youth that they represent.





YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE FRONT OF SDG ACTION (UGANDA)

The Annual High School
Leadership Workshop 2022

Namatuba, UGANDA: On 18th June 2022, Open Space Centre, under the Localizing SDGs project, partnered with the National Prefects' Council for the Annual High School Leadership Workshop hosted by Limkokwing University of Creative Technologies in Namatuba – Mukono.

The workshop was held under the theme: *Enlightening High School Leaders' Role in Enhancing the Development of Sustainable Development Goals*. The event was attended by over 80 student leaders from the schools of Code High School, Mukono; Kings High School, Nakafunja; Modern Sec School; St. Lawrence S.S. Sonder; Namatuba S.S.; Dynamic Secondary School; Mpoma Girls' School; and Mukono Hlanik S.S.

Previously, the centre run the SDGs in reality program wherein we had a national Youth SDGs Symposium that served as an inspirational platform dedicated to celebrating, showcasing, and mobilizing youth action around the SDGs. Organized under the theme "Delivering Together," the Symposium brought together students from high schools and universities, youth leaders,

youth organizations, and key stakeholders actively involved in the implementation, monitoring, and promotion of the sustainable development agenda, including the Government of Uganda, development partners, academia, media, private sector, policymakers, and civil society.

Currently, through the Localizing SDGs project, the centre aspires to empower young people to take ownership of the SDGs through grassroots activities and also facilitate the building of synergies through sharing best practices and success stories on SDG implementation in their local communities and schools.

To this end, the centre participated in the Annual High School Students' Leadership workshop, where we conducted interactive sessions with the school leaders on how they can contribute to realizing the SDG. These sessions inspired the leaders to think creatively of ways to activate the SDGs in their school.

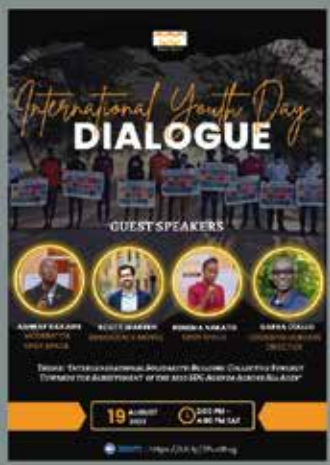


THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY DIALOGUE 2022

On 19th August 2022, Open Space Center joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Youth Day through a dialogue centered around youth voices on the youth day theme. The dialogue was attended by 50 participants comprising youth of broad diversities.

The dialogue was also moderated by three speakers: Gertra Dhalia, Crossing Borders Director; Scott Warren, Democracy Moves Founder; & Pheema Nakato from Open Space who collectively shared insights regarding the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable development Goals in alignment with the youth day theme.

Prior to the Youth Day dialogue, the center conducted a social media campaign that featured their views with its organization's beneficiaries, board members and some partners. The interviews provided a pool of youth voices on the international youth day theme: *Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages* that informed some of the discussions during the dialogue.



THE ELLE PARLE WOMEN'S PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATE TOURNAMENT

From the 5th to the 7th of May 2022, Open Space Center in Partnership with the Elle Parle Women's Association, Akina Mama Via Afrika, and Kyambogo University, organized the Elle Parle Women's Public Speaking and Debate Tournament.

The debate tournament was themed "Breaking the Bias" in relation to the International Women's Day celebrations earlier this year. The tournament featured a series of panel discussions on themed topics surrounding gender equality regarding employment, education and protection from sexual harassment.



The Elle parle debate tournament served as a platform where young women expressed their views on different issues that affect them in alignment with sustainable development goal 5. The debate brought together over 10 universities from all over Uganda, with over 70 young women and men. One of the key learnings from the debates was that there is a need to strengthen efforts tailored toward creating societal awareness on gender equity and equality. After the debates, students from the different universities committed to continuous engagements around SDGs in their respective debate clubs.

COMMUNITY ENTRY DIALOGUE SDG N 13: CLIMATE ACTION



This month our youths work on SDG 13 about Climate Action, in June SOCCA (Sustainable Development Goal Central Africa) organization came to our centre to give us an overview about the environmental problems present in Zambia.

During July our youths work hard to prepare a sensitization forum theatre show to open the dialogue with the community about what environmental problem affects them and how they can be solved.

The Community entry dialogue was held at Circus Zambia Thursday 18 and the communities members from Chybolia and Garden area were invited followed by the representatives of Lusaka and Mutendere City Council, our stakeholders.

The drama show was mainly focused about litter management, deforestation and climate change. The audience was enthusiastic about

the play and give us a lot of interesting feedbacks.

This will be the base for the youths to work on the mini project phase, where the youths will identify possible solutions and action to take to take a "Climate Action" at a local level.





TOGETHER TO DEFINE SOLUTIONS - SDG MINI PROJECTS MEETING

After the Community Entry dialog our youths will meet again discuss the out comes of the activity and what they learned from the community.

They discovered that in Lusaka city the number of trees decreased in the last years, causing lack of water, dust and making the city a less enjoyable environment where to live. Lusaka is a very urban reality even do you can still find some wild life even in the areas more close to the city, such as monkeys or other kind of wild birds.

As well litter is a problem that deeply affect the communities, there is not a proper education about litter management: there are no bins in the city, people are use to throw trash on the floor and the ones that collect it they just burn it beside their homes.

Zambia is still very far from a regulated recycling system and

even the dump site of the city is not restricted and there is not a proper management system to keep the area isolated from the residential area.

During the mini-projects our youths defined 3 mini projects:

1. One mini project idea was about: improving the garbage disposal system.
2. One mini project idea was to create a radio-drama episode to sensitize the population about the climate action topic.
3. An other mini-project idea was about: deliver a workshop and organize a tree planting day campaign in a community school.

We selected the third proposal, in the next meeting our youths will start to organize the workshop, selecting the school where to go and we will contact Planta Milice an organization that work for the reforestation in Zambia to give us more knowledge and tools to start our planting trees action.

Women Empowerment in Local Development India



In the past year, Crossing Borders finalized the first phase of its Women Empowerment in Local Development project in India which is conducted in partnership with Sehgal Foundation. Over the course of this project, around 2100 people participated in the two main types of interventions: Women Leadership Schools (WLS) and Gender Sensitization Meetings. Another 8000 people were positively affected by the interventions without directly participating in them.

The WLS empowered women to initiate change in their own lives and society at large, and trained them as community leaders, capable of addressing women's issues at the village level. Women's capacities were strengthened to make strategic choices and decisions with regard to their lives, their families, and the village. Gender equality, women participation, and inclusion were further strengthened through the Gender Sensitization Meetings which involved key community and village council leaders to achieve broader behavioral change in the society. In addition, sanitation drives and demonstration of kitchen gardens helped to improve day-to-day hygienic practices and food diversity.

Announcement of Phase 2: To continue and expand the community engagement in India, Crossing Borders and the Sehgal Foundation will move towards the second phase of the Women Empowerment in Local Development project in 2023. Women leaders who built their capacities in phase 1 WLS will now act as agents of change by motivating, training and mentoring new groups of women. The scope of training will also be expanded to include Women Farmer Schools (WFS) which were requested by women during phase 1 to promote livelihood skills and income generation activities. The long-term goal of this project is to enable women leaders to become community leaders and advocate for their specific needs to shape the future of their villages.



Gender Sensitization Meeting in village Jagdishpur Kushahi.



Community Members handing over-submitting letter written to Ward Member for the solution of problems in village Narayanpur Kushahi.

Participant Story – Kajal Kumari



“I am very happy to see this change in my father. I am happy to be living the dreams I saw for myself.”

13-year-old Kajal Kumari is a resident of Prasad village in Minapur Block of Muzaffarpur District, Bihar, in India. “We are a traditional and patriarchal community where a girl child is considered a burden.” Kajal is the younger of two sisters and her sister got married at a very young age. Meanwhile, Kajal always wanted to continue studying and live her dreams. Her father was against Kajal’s ambition and wanted her to marry soon, just like her sister. “He did not let me join computer classes, because they were worthless according to him.” Her father, Sohan Shah, now attends sessions on Gender Equality organized under the Gender Sensitization Meeting (GSM), and her mother attends the Women Leadership School (WLS). “When my father started to attend the Gender Sensitization Meetings, he slowly started to understand how harmful child marriage can be for a girl.” Kajal saw her father’s thinking evolve over a period of time. Her father now supports her dreams and decided not to marry her before she completes her studies. He also supported her decision to join a computer course. Now, Kajal is very happy that she got the chance to continue her education and pursue her dreams.

Participant Story – Mintu Davi



Today, Mintu Davi is one of the most influential female leaders in her community and many women in the Muzaffarpur district look up to her. Like many other women in rural India, Mintu Davi felt she has no purpose in her life, but that changed when she joined our project “Women Empowerment in Local Development” implemented by our partner Sehgal Foundation. “I didn’t have anything going on in my life, now I have an objective,” says Mintu. Nowadays, she has her own business. She started joining Sehgal Foundation’s activities and through that, she gained the confidence and the skills she needed to make her ideas into action. But Mintu didn’t stop at one idea, she started to develop more business ideas like introducing agricultural machines in the field or starting mushroom cultivation, and having more than 25 goats on her farm. We asked, what is next, Mintu? with a smile on her face, she took a moment of silence before she confidently responds “I want to do everything; I want to touch the sky”. Her story became a great motivator and example for women from other villages. She meets with them through our project and shares her thoughts and experience. She became the story that every woman wanted to be. With a proud voice, Mintu told us that she has been invited to the Agriculture Summit that is organized by the government in India where she will be talking directly to the prime minister. This is a great step for Mintu, and this makes her one of the most influential leaders in the Muzaffarpur area in the Bihar district.

Empowering Girls Dialogue Morocco



Crossing Borders and Project Soar Morocco have collaborated for the second consecutive year to present the project Empowered Girls Dialogue (EGD) II: Giving girls a voice for change through community dialogue. EGD II builds on the previous CISU funded project Empowered Girls Dialogue (EGD): Facilitating girls' leadership and community outreach. This project allows marginalised Moroccan teen girls to gain a voice within their communities. A voice that drives change regarding detrimental practices toward girls and women in Morocco. Through EGD II, girls will view themselves - and begin to be viewed within their communities - as young leaders and changemakers on key matters.

The processes around the Community Dialogues activity, that is the key part of EDG II, will allow the girls an opportunity to form informal networks with other youth - particularly other teen girls - and start reflecting on problems common to all girls.

255

**Soar girls
beneficiaries**

18 **Women
facilitators
activated in
10 sites**

259

**Soar empowerment
workshops across
10 sites**

9 **Soar Clubs
launched**

27 **Soar Dialogues
held, involving 1
080 stakeholders**





Name: Salma Madoud

Age: 16

Site: Azrou

What does Empower Girls Dialogue mean to you?

For me, girls empowerment dialogue is really important, because the situation of girls in Morocco is not normal at all. When I started this program, I discovered many problems that girls suffer from which I did not know before. I did not know that girls can't leave their homes and are forced to drop out of school because as a girl coming from the city, I can do whatever I want. But this program opened my eyes to the other side of Morocco, which is really different.

And for me, this is really important. Thanks to the program, the girls now know how to defend their rights and be themselves. They know that schooling is their right. They know that they should express their voice and do whatever men do. And this is why Girls empowerment Dialogue is very crucial to me and to our community.

What did you learn from the Program?

Actually, I learned a lot about my voice, my path, and myself, I really discovered myself. Now, I believe in feminism. I want to make a change in my community. I want to be a leader and do something for the girls in my community. Actually, when my mom told me you can not change it alone because we live in a patriarchal society, I told her that I can do it, and I feel like I can do something with the girls. I am confident and capable of making a change for girls in this life.

What is your future Goal?

Actually, I want to be an entrepreneur, a businesswoman. I want to have a lot of projects in the future and I want to travel around the world. This is one of my dreams, and also I wanted to move to the United States, but in this training, I discovered the other side of the United States. So I am re-considering. In general, this program helped me get out of my comfort zone and I learned a lot of new things. These are my goals, and of course one last thing, I want to pay back my family for everything they have done for me.



Name: Imane Essarghini

Age: 16

Site: Douar Igoudar

What does Empower Girls Dialogue mean to you?

Empower girls Dialogue means a lot to me because I got the chance to learn many things. It helped me with gaining self confidence as I was a very shy girl. Now, I can speak in front of my friends. I actually got the courage to talk in front of anyone, not just my friends.

What did you learn from the Program?

This program made me realize who I am and know myself more and more. Now I know how to deal with people, situations, and myself as well. I will try to give all the knowledge I got from this program to other girls from my village. The most important change that I saw in me is that I am not afraid to talk with people anymore, as I was not participating in school classes, not engaged in activities, and not having the courage to ask questions. Now, I ask, participate and get all the answers that I need, not just from my teachers but from everyone that I know. I stand for my rights. And as for my studies, I can tell that a huge change has happened, I used to get marks about 11\20 now my marks are about 15\20. There is one special thing that happened to me and I want to share it with you, I was about to get married last year, but thank god I had the chance to be part of PSB and that helped me a lot with changing my mind, I discovered that being married is not what I need now, instead being empowered is what I am aiming for.

What is your future Goal?

As for my goal, I don't have one future goal, I have many future goals, I want to be a psychologist, I also want to apply for law school and I want to learn English.



Name : Chaima Assioui

Age : 18

Site : Biougra

What does Empower Girls Dialogue mean to you?

I strongly believe that every girl should know how to speak up for her rights. For me, the empowerment girl dialogue helps me to stand up and fight for my rights in a society that breaks you down and makes you feel like you are not enough. This program, however, gave me the strength to use my voice and confidence to stand up in front of anyone.

What did you learn from the Program?

When I joined Project Soar, I was a very shy girl. However, the moment I started the program, I learned how to be social and as a result I gained more friends. I learned how to love myself and my body. I gained strength and confidence. My whole personality changed because of all the values Project Soar teaches us. I am very happy that this program came to my site to wake all the girls up and show them the light.

What is your future Goal?

My short-term goal is to get my baccalaureate with an excellent grade and join Business and Management school. Whereas, my long-term goal is to have a project where I can help the girls in my site stand for their future. Thank you Project Soar for showing me that I am able to achieve my goals.



Crossing Borders' Visit to Project Soar in Morocco

In August 2022, Crossing Borders' global program coordinator Tatjana Stefanovic and project coordinator Pareeksha Pandeshwar Raghavendra had the chance to visit the HQ of Project Soar in Douar Laadam, around 30km from Marrakesh. During their visit, Soar coordinators and facilitators presented success stories of girls and their transformation from early school drop-outs to gaining confidence and knowledge on their values, rights, body, and future goals by becoming Project Soar girls. Even more, the participants encourage their friends and neighbours to join the program.

The few icebreaking games session conducted by Tatjana with Project Soar girls were followed by an activity where the girls presented their learnings from the training. It is indeed a community empowering! The session was ended with the Project Soar girls' affirmations which is the best part of the day.



The following day, Tatjana and Pareeksha visited a nearby village, Douar Igoudar, and attended a Community Dialogue where the Project Soar girls first performed a beautiful skit on the 'Girl's wish'. The skit highlighted what a girl in Morocco goes through just because she is a 'girl' and it was already performed by them in front of other communities. The story also depicts what a girl wishes to be in her life and how these wishes are suppressed by her own family because of her gender. After the performance, there were debates and discussions between Soar girls and other stakeholders regarding gender bias.

The whole session showcased girls' challenges and perspectives in the male-dominated society in Morocco. It was empowering to see the orthodox girls who have managed to convince their parents to take part in the Soar program. They were also advised to showcase the performance in front of their own parents to create more awareness.



The last day started with a very interesting discussion with women facilitators from the Byougra and Azrou regions. This discussion provided a perspective of women facilitators on Empowering Girls Dialogue program from the field itself. Many challenges, struggles, and success stories were shared. These women facilitators were once a Project Soar girl themselves and now facilitate the whole program in front of many people confidently.

A big graduation party for Project Soar girls followed, where the parents (especially mothers) joined the celebration in Douar Laadam. All the Project Soar girls chanted affirmations right in front of their mothers and one could sense their proud feelings by seeing their daughters on stage. There were some intense discussions between the mothers and daughters on girls being treated differently than boys. In between all these discussions and debates, there were some lighter moments like singing Arabic songs, dancing to Bollywood songs, and playing fun games. It all ended with the graduation ceremony where the proud mothers presented certificates to their daughters who are ready to take on the world!



"I really enjoyed the Crossing Borders visit to project Soar HQ. Pareeksha and Tatjana were lovely. I had fruitful discussions with them and the Soar girls. It was a pleasure to have them with us for the Soar Community Dialogue on gender equality in Douar Igoudar. They had excellent conversations with the youth attendees, and they shared positive feedback regarding the community dialogues. They interacted with the play that was performed by Soar grads and Soar Club officers in an effective way. They attended another fruitful conversation with our facilitators and Soar girls who came to visit from Bouygra and Azrou Atlas. We really enjoyed that discussion and we came up with new ideas regarding what Soar girls need for next year, for example, a well-planned Soar Club schedule with specific dates and deadlines for various activities that the Soar girls will be choosing themselves, an art program where girls and boys will be holding acting, singing and drawing activities, IT training for boys and girls to learn about computer science, and training on how to prepare the Soar girls professionally for the labor market. We ended the visit with a very successful community meeting at HQ and a graduation ceremony where the Soar girls opened up about their experiences and personality changes that Soar in a Box helped with, with the Crossing Borders visitors, and where the visitors shared with us the joy of celebrating these success stories." Warda Bouye, Soar program coordinator.



"It is a pleasure and an honor to be here, especially to attend the Project Soar girls' graduation. We experienced the Soar community dialogue, and that was amazing, the way how they managed to involve the other members of the community and rise this important topic of gender bias. We are bringing a lot of amazing stories with us, especially because we can see the change in the Soar girls after attending the Soar training and the curriculum of five modules in which they learn about their value, voice, body, right, and how they can put that into action. The graduation was so emotional and exciting, and it was great to see girls there with their mothers. It is amazing to see how they are proud of their daughters coming here to attend Soar training. I saw how it is important to include mothers and other family and community members in the dialogue. Project Soar is so empowering." Tatjana Stefanovic, CB's Global program coordinator.

Digital Advocacy Project, Zambia




Under this Digital Advocacy Project, Transparency International Zambia (TI-Z) and Crossing Borders (CB) seek to build the capacity of other civil society actors in Zambia regarding the use of digital tools. The overall goal of the intervention, that started in February 2022 and will last for period of 12 months, is to facilitate a civic contribution to strengthening accountable governance through building the capacity of CSOs and youth movements to conduct digitally driven advocacy in Zambia.

CSOs, youth movements, and local media practitioners in four districts (Lusaka, Choma, Ndola and Kabwe) are participating in the project. The project has elevated the institutional credibility and reputation of TI Zambia by consolidating its position as a leading advocacy institution in Zambia. The various participating organizations will continue to look up to T- Zambia for technical support in conducting grass-roots advocacy interventions. Furthermore, the project has enhanced networking and collaboration among CSOs and youth movements from the four target districts. This networking was encouraged during the capacity development workshop and is a requirement for implementing project's supported joint-advocacy interventions.



New partner of the CB Global network from Zambia





Transparency International is a leading watchdog organisation against corruption around the world. TI-Z is the local chapter of this global movement and seeks to promote transparency, accountability, integrity, democracy, rule of law, and human rights through influencing change at two levels in Zambian society: the individual level and the institutional/policy level. Thereby, TI-Z promotes constructive debates, dialogues, and coalition-building between various societal actors to achieve joint action against corruption. They also analyse the impact that restrictions on civil engagement during the Covid-19 pandemic have had on the accountability of the Zambian government.


Youth promoting peace and tolerance in Zimbabwe



Youth promoting peace and tolerance in Zimbabwean politics in partnership with 4-H Zimbabwe and Crossing Borders seeks to create platforms through which youth from different political affiliation can communicate and interact with each other allowing communication around political issues that divide, on fighting back against forces that try to promote strife, and on the issues of youth in politics and their participation in the upcoming election.

The intervention will strive to be a conduit where youth can hear opposing opinions in a setting that promotes peaceful political dialogue and that seeks to build a culture of political tolerance and prevent electoral violence, which in turn will encourage and enhance peaceful civic, political, and electoral participation. Overall, this creates a foundation for youth engagement and participation as the country gears up for the 2023 Harmonised Election and beyond.





New partner of the CB Global network from Zimbabwe

The mission of 4-H Zimbabwe is to empower and capacitate young people to be responsible, caring, and contributing leaders that effect positive change in the world around them. It is part of the global 4-H network that connects local youth groups and provides practical skill building activities, meaningful leadership roles, and partnerships with caring adult volunteers. The 4-H approach contains the head (critical thinking), heart (caring and building friendships), hands (giving back and volunteering), and health (promoting wellbeing).



Enhanced citizen participation through sustainable Community Radio Stations in Zimbabwe



The project Enhanced citizen participation through sustainable Community Radio Stations aims to open spaces for dialogue towards civic engagement within local communities through strengthening the role of community radio stations (CRSs) as civic actors and engagement platforms. This project is carried out by Zimbabwe Association of Community Radio Stations – ZACRAS in collaboration with Crossing Borders and involves the participation of 6 CRSs in Zimbabwe.

Some of the project activities concern the radio production and content creation training as well as Community radio advocacy meetings with the local communities. Crossing Borders works towards building sustainable meaningful connections with the end goal to establishing a North-South horizontal strategic partnership. This partnership embraces a key focus which lies in creating space for place-based values for transformational changes needed to achieve the global sustainable goals. The partnership caters to both licensed and unlicensed CRSs and provides them with sustainable technical capacities to enhance their role in the development of political awareness and the promotion of human rights, democracy, and governance – including elections and voting rights.



New partner of the CB Global network from Zimbabwe

Info about partner: ZACRAS is the Zimbabwe Association of Community Stations and functions as a unified national advocacy platform for community radio initiatives and activists. Its fundamental tasks include both the democratization of broadcasting and media related laws as well as pursuing a people-centered lobbying for the urgent licensing of community radio stations. ZACRAS advocates for the licensing of community radio stations in Zimbabwe with the aim of ensuring broadcasting diversity and plurality as well as access to information and freedom of expression.





Ukraine Democracy Hubs



Ukraine Democracy Hubs are implemented in partnership between the Klitschko Foundation and Crossing Borders. The main purpose of the project is to contribute to providing Ukrainian youth with a platform for peaceful and active participation in the democratic development of the country. The Hubs will serve as dynamic focus platforms where young people can meet and engage in public affairs by learning and by debating current youth-related issues in stimulating spaces.

The project seeks to contribute to the democratic education among youth and inspire the present and future youth leaders of the country to be an active part of solving current societal challenges. The Hubs also aim at increasing youth interests in society, politics, democracy, independent media, human rights, environment, and to enhance youth leadership and active citizenship.



The project and activities were adjusted due to the full-scale Russian invasion on Ukraine. The project team understood that the initial goals could not be realized in the midst of the crisis while teenagers were sitting in bomb shelters or leaving their homes.

We had to revise the strategy and project plan considering the safety of the participants and every day changing circumstances. As the first panic had settled down, the local partners made adjustments to the activities and decided to conduct them in an online format. They gave to the participants instructions on the actions during the air alerts while on the training or lecture. If participants have a bad internet connection in the shelter, our partner provided them with the recordings of the lectures. In this way, they could review the important materials and stay on the same wavelength as other participants.

With the main purpose to provide Ukrainian youth with a platform for peaceful and active participation in the democratic development of the country, the Hubs became the safe space and space of empowerment and freedom.





We at Crossing Borders are both grateful and proud to partner with the Klitschko Foundation in its efforts to include and empower youth to be the change they want see and deserve to live in. For us developing and implementing the Democracy Hubs have been a source of learning and inspiration. This inspiration and learning from our partnership have strongly impacted on our work with youth both in Denmark and around world.

We are continuing to join forces, speak up, host events, and support our Ukrainian friends and partners in creating spaces for protecting and expanding their peaceful resistance and resilience.



Democracy Hubs participants testimonies

Anastasia, 15, Kyiv:

"The topics are well chosen. I learned a lot from other participants during the game. I got acquainted with various ideas. I really liked teamwork with a teammate as well as discussing the topic of the debate with the participants while waiting for the result. Useful advice from judges and a detailed analysis of all ideas, arguments, and mistakes made the project very interesting."

Victoria, 16, Odesa:

"First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project, thanks to it I became more confident before speeches and less worried. Thank you"



Sergiy, 18, Kyiv:

"I liked participating in the camp because it is practice, lively and instructive, unlike dry and boring theory. The theory is, of course, necessary, but only in conjunction with practice. It is the training game that helps not only to feel how to debate but also can reveal some of your gaps in this difficult art. I would again like to thank everyone who took part in this camp, all its participants: judges, coaches, organizers, and simple participants like me. I am glad to see such motivated and ambitious people around me, so inspired that after communicating with them, I get inspired and start working productively. It was an invaluable and extremely important experience, regardless of whether I will be associated with the debate in the future or not."

Meeting with Minister for Development Aid regarding Crossing Borders projects in Ukraine



"Never in my lifetime has the need to stand together been greater. And we will stand together for a long time" - Minister for Development Aid Flemming Møller Mortensen.

In March 2022, Crossing Borders was invited by CISU- Civil Society in Development to attend the meeting with Minister for Development Aid Flemming Møller Mortensen. Tatjana Stefanovic and Halina Bulyk represented Crossing Borders at the meeting where they presented CB's projects in Ukraine. The meeting aimed to hear about the different ways in which CISU member organizations cultivate alliances and partnerships in, among other places, Ukraine, and what they can do for their friends and partner organizations after the full-scale Russian invasion on Ukraine.





Crossing Borders Statement on the Russian government Invasion of Ukraine:

At Crossing Borders, our mission is to work towards a peaceful world. For this reason, we are both saddened and shocked to see tanks rolling into the Ukrainian cities where our friends, project partners, former students, and colleagues live with their families. As the late Desmond Tutu rightly put it, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor". Therefore, we are not neutral in the face of this violent aggression: We strongly condemn the Russian government's invasion and aggression against Ukraine. Our thoughts, love, and solidarity go to our Ukrainian friends and colleagues and all the peace-loving people of Ukraine. As a human rights-based organisation with global outreach, we urge all our civil society partners in Denmark and around the world, to not only continue their existing partnership projects in Ukraine but to strengthen, expand and sustain their engagements in the country to a maximum extent. Friends in need are friends indeed. Let us join forces, speak up, host events, and support our Ukrainian friends in creating spaces for protecting and expanding their peaceful resistance and resilience, when and where possible.

May peace be in Ukraine,
Crossing Borders Director, Garba Diallo

Youth 4 Democracy Georgia



The overall purpose of this project is to contribute to the implementation of effective municipal youth policy for genuine partnerships among youth civil society organisations (CSOs) and local government youth departments. The project is carried out by a partnership of the Youth for Peace and Equality team in Georgia, Crossing Borders and the Youth Organization International Centre for Peace and Integration. It focuses on 6 municipalities across two regions in Georgia, the Samegrelo Region and the Kvemo Kartli Region, that face severe challenges to youth participation. In these municipalities, the project will pilot a capacity-building project aimed at supporting participatory youth policy development at the local level. The developed strategic framework for youth policy development can then also operate as a blueprint for youth policy-making in other Georgian municipalities. The project activities include a 5-day capacity-building training for youth workers in the target municipalities, a follow-up workshop, a study visit to Denmark on youth policy development and the creation of a platform for municipal youth policy implementation through the coordination and collaboration of CSOs and local government youth departments.





About the partners:

Youth for Peace and Equality is a non-governmental organization with the mission to promote a peaceful and equal society, empower youth and raise awareness about peace, human rights, and gender equality. In order to meet this task, the association is implementing educational and youth development programs.

Youth Organization International Centre for Peace and Integration (ICPI) is a Georgian not-for-profit nongovernmental organization with a mission to provide the platform for the development of self-aware, progressive, and engaged youth in civil society. Their aim is to encourage personal growth, innovation and positive change through critical thinking, intercultural understanding, support for new initiatives and collaboration. The team of ICPI promotes democratic values, peace-building and social entrepreneurship for a more sustainable society. ICPI believe in the power of education as a means to plant the seeds of change in attitude and action.

Georgian Youth 4 Democracy visit to Crossing Borders

The guests comprised 16 youth workers and municipalities representatives from 12 different municipalities came to Copenhagen as part of Crossing Borders Youth 4 Democracy program in Georgia. The visit kicked off with a lecture about democracy facilitated by CB Director Garba Diallo. The group started with exciting ice-breaker game in which we were arranged in pairs and asked to draw each other's faces without looking at the papers. We also played a game in which we all had a string attached to the same pen which we had collaborate to put in a bottle together. It was a good way to launch the democracy topic and enabled us to realize the importance of everyone's contribution in a team. The game was a practical demonstration of the necessity of every one's participation in a democracy. We then discussed different questions about democracy and peace like the war in Ukraine, the recent legislative elections in Italy, the USA Capitol attack in January 2021, etc. The group enjoyed how democracy was approached, from a critical point of view, with the idea it can never really be taken for granted, even in so-called democratic 'developed' countries. The conclusion was that democracy is a constant struggle.



Visit to the Copenhagen Municipality's Youth Department and Copenhagen city

On arrival to the Municipality, the group was welcomed by Gorm Gunnarsen, deputy chair of the Children and Youth Committee. Mr. Gunnarsen gave a presentation about how the municipality supports children and youth participation the democratic life in Copenhagen. We learnt about the student council, which is an umbrella organization directly elected to represent the 72 municipal schools, enabling young people to directly be involved in school governance. Thanks to this system, young people can put forward issues that concern them and matter to them on the municipal table. This day was also the occasion for the Georgian group to visit and enjoy Copenhagen in a sunny day. We had the chance to visit some part of the City Hall and even to climb to the top of the clock tower to have a panorama view of the city! After the visit, we all went on a sightseeing tour in the city center and on a canal boat tour.

Lecture at the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy

In her lecture, the director of the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) Lisbeth Pilegaard, lamented that now there are only 12% of the world's population which lives in a democracy. This is a strong indication that democracy has not increased as was believed in the wake of the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s.

Representatives from Georgia with Lisbeth Pilegaard from Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy



Therefore, there is an acute need to support democratic movements around the world. This what DIPD does in the developing countries with the support of all Danish political parties.

Lecture at the DUF – Danish Youth Council



Our next stop was the Danish Youth Council (DUF), which is an umbrella organization of some 55 various youth organizations comprising political, social, cultural, environmental and sports organizations and more. DUF promotes youth participation in the public and political spheres in a functioning democracy. Our DUF host was Nina Madsen, an international consultant in DUF. She talked about the importance of dialogue and communication in a healthy democracy.



Presentation at the Youth Agency

Lastly but not least, our Georgian guests were warmly welcome to Emile Torp, project manager at the Youth Agency, which is a non-profit organization which advocate for the youth and youth issues to be mainstreamed as natural part of decisions that have an influence on their lives. Emilie explained that the organization works through different and participatory projects: podcast, public speaking workshops, youth democracy festival and also educational projects to support youth who create projects during their studies.

Food for Thought with Dr Deborah Dunsire

The Georgian study visit concluded with Crossing Borders Food for Thought storytelling event, which combines exciting talks and international dinner! Held at the Union cultural house where CB is located, our guest speaker was Deborah Dunsire, CEO of Lundbeck. The event was facilitated by Vice Chair of our broad TV journalist Nyeleti Sue Angel Nkuna of South Africa, the event brought together many guests, both Danes and experts including: a fresh Nobel Prize Laureate prof. Morten Meldal, two ambassadors, one a Mandela family friend HE Magubane ambassador of South Africa, and the second HE Menabde ambassador of Georgia. The audience reflected the beautiful diversity of Crossing Borders, which is Crossing Borders DNA. We then had a delicious Lebanese dinner prepared by Send Flere Krydderier (Send More Spices) social restaurant at the Union. It was a pure moment of joy and sharing, regardless of our nationalities, cultures and professional differences.

Georgian delegation and Crossing Borders at Food for Thought event at Union



Garba Diallo, Crossing Borders Director, HE Nata Menabde, Ambassador of Georgia in Denmark, Dr. Debora Dunsire, CEO of Lundbeck, HE Fekile Magubane, Ambassador of South Africa in Denmark at Food for Thought event at Union



Shorena Paghava
Senior specialist
in youth affairs
Batumi Municipality
City Hall

Study visit in Copenhagen for me was the new experiences and opportunities to make changes in the future at my work, but first of all it positively influenced on my mindset. I have learned a lot about what is the key to create good youth work system and support young people to participate in decision – making process.

I have discovered that country which has the strongest democracy and never stops developing it. I was surprised when the host organizations presented their projects and most of them were about raising awareness, learning, and teaching democracy. I thought they have it and feel it in every second of their life, why they need so many projects about it, but yes, this is the formula of success, why they are in the top 5 list's democratic countries in the world.

I was excited when I heard that in decision making process children are involved from the 4th grade, the local government considers and accepts children's views and opinions and then children's recommendations are incorporated into policy. The government of Denmark has the significantly higher trust and support to non-profit and non-governmental organizations. By the strengthening youth organizations, the result and effect are more visible.

As I saw in Denmark, representatives of the government and non-profit organizations have a very attractive culture, belief and attitudes towards youth and youth work. For good youth sphere ecosystem, they have everything: organizations, knowledge about youth, infrastructure, spaces, finances, human resources, services, and politics. They implement a great work, create correct attitudes and as I guess they never stop improving and are always inspired that youth work has the strong effect on society.

My opinion more strengthened, about "talking power", along with work, communicating and talking among the people, sharing ideas, even telling your own story has a strong power and people need it. I witnessed it when I attended the "Food for Thought" storytelling event at the host organization Crossing Borders. I was impressed by people, host organizations representatives and City of Copenhagen as a ecofriendly City with its citizens.

I want to express my immense gratitude towards all Danish and Georgian organizations which initiated and planned our fruitful study trip in Copenhagen, thanks to New Democracy fund financial support and special thanks to our core host organization Crossing Borders and all coworkers to the best hospitality and study visit program with its cultural and sights. Our study visit perfectly matched organizations' goal "Educating, connecting and empowering people to become active global citizens" not only for us personally, but we also have communication with a lot of young people in Georgia and we will share and use benefits of study visit in our work. After the study tour I am back to my work with more inspiration, motivation, and knowledge.

**Mariam Zazadze,
Akhaltsikhe
Municipality City Hall,
Youth Department**



The trip to Denmark was an amazing experience for me; I have plenty of great memories from the journey. I would distinguish city`s incredibly positive energy and mood, smiling people, with positive attitude in streets. Well-organized environment and an amazing infrastructure of Copenhagen was also quite impressive. Despite the fact, that I have been to several countries, I have never had such feelings before. I am happy for having such an opportunity. I believe that I returned to my country with important knowledge and at this point, I am happy to be able to share my knowledge with others in my municipality and namely - in the field of youth. My goal is to return to country, where lots of positive energy is in place.

Our visits to various organizations were very interesting, as we had an opportunity to share their approaches and experience. I discovered how democratic governance works in practice. Conversation regarding positive and negative impacts of democratic governance, as well as examples of cooperation were also quite interesting for me. It was great to discover how organizations and authorities with different interests could unite under one goal, considering interests of the country and ensure the country's development by using common forces and resources. Despite the fact, that I have years of experience of working in the field of youth, I am aware of specific issues related to youth. I believe that I have learnt many new things from various organizations, that work with youth and one of them is a long-term cooperation in the field of youth, their support and enhancement by using various methods and approaches. I had an opportunity to be acquainted with their long-term goals, programs and approaches and I will use it in my working plans.



Engaging schools in Fredensborg Municipality in the SDGs and international development work



In partnership with 100% for the Children, Promentum A/S and Humlebæk Skole, Crossing Borders is a lead organisation in the project with the main purpose of the project is to engage Danish schools in international development through the SDGs. The project involves various activities in the schools with regards to the world around us with special focus on Danish and African school partnership. The partnership will be based on the respective contexts of the partner schools and their engagement in the SDGs.

Achievements during 2022 are:

- The Danish students and teachers from 7 schools in Humlebæk became SDG Ambassadors with relevant practical knowledge about the SDGS from the perspectives of the Danish context.
- 7 partner school in Denmark are paired up with 7 African schools from Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.
- Danish and African schools started dialogue and exchange about how to improve school life in the African partner schools according to the UN Global Goals.

Coming next: In the upcoming year we are expecting more concrete engagement of the SDGs ambassadors with their friend African schools and organising and implementation of the development actions in their local communities.



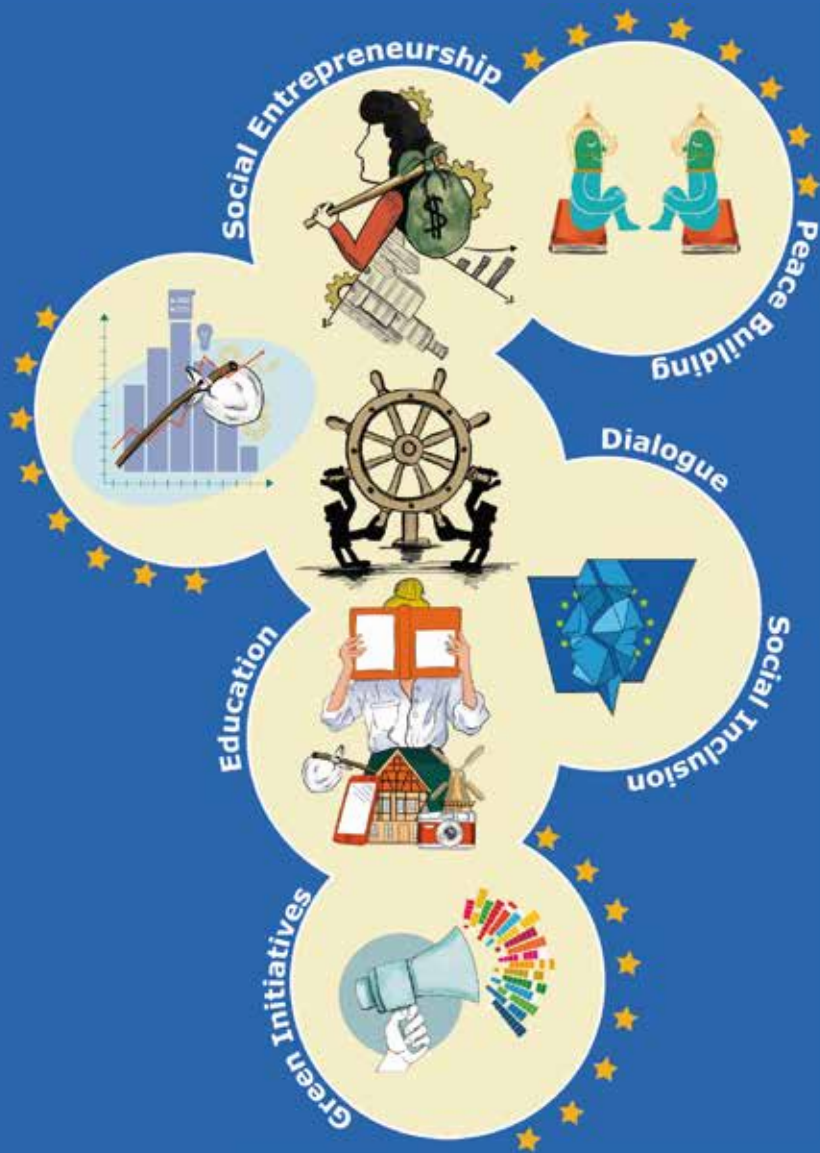


CISU Photo Competition 2022

The winner of CISU's photo competition was found at this year's general meeting. Among the 50 entries, it was Garba Diallo's beautiful image from Jamestown, Accra that won. As a reason for choosing this particular photo, it reads:

"The photograph was chosen because it looks like a small piece of art. When viewed from a distance, it does not immediately resemble anything from the real world. The colors are playful and lead the mind to something animated, and the composition is like a classic portrait painting. On closer inspection, it becomes very real, conversely, there is nothing set up or unreal to be imagined. One gets the impression that the expression on the woman's face tells a story about the very reality she is facing - between her hands right now - and in life in general. "

Garba Diallo represents Crossing Borders, and this year the image will be used as a special CISU poster.



EU Program

Through the EU program, we establish strategic partnerships with other organizations around Europe. Funded by the EU, and together with our partners, we develop projects that work with youth and youth workers to tackle issues like social inclusion, social entrepreneurship, environment and sustainability, dialogues, and peacebuilding.

Map Of Partners





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CONTINUE



The main goal of the project called CONTINUE, funded by the European program Erasmus+, is to help young people suffering from social exclusion to tackle the challenges of post-COVID times.

This is made possible by the cooperation of eight organizations from Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Lithuania and Denmark.

CONTINUE directly involves disadvantaged young people in different activities in order to enhance the interaction between individuals, their communities and the pan-European dimension.

This happened through local and European participatory events, local social actions implemented by the youth and an online platform created for sharing tools, learning and exchanging experiences. Moreover, CONTINUE developed policy recommendations about supporting disadvantaged youth and created different campaigns to foster their participation and inclusion. At Crossing Borders a Social Actions Group consisting of young people between the ages 21 to 27 hosted multiple events about community building and activism. In late fall the partners sent young people from the project to Copenhagen to participate in a Training hosted by Crossing Borders. The training had the aim to provide knowledge about the creation of reach-out campaigns so that the young people could promote their own social actions. For that Crossing Borders invited Tom Hyland, a well-known Irish content creator, and Alex Sabour an expert in social justice campaigns.

INCLUDEDATE



INCLUDEDATE is a project that aims to take new steps for inclusive community-building and support the development of migrant associations in Europe by generating mutual learning opportunities and supporting public actors in their access to and exchanges with migrant communities.

2nd Transnational Partner Meeting, online Conversation of Change (CoC) training and the 1st online webinar of IncludeDate - Educating for Inclusion project.

From the 24th to the 25th of November, the partners joined the Meeting hosted by Crossing Borders at Union in Copenhagen. The transnational meeting was an opportunity to discuss the work done by the partners and the project's next steps. Methods were discussed, along with feedback from the events held in the partner countries. A Conversation of Change online training was held, which was an insightful moment to learn new methods and techniques which will be used in CoC events in the partner countries as part of the project.

EDCyber



Ed Cyber is a new project that started in 2022 with partners from Greece, Spain, Italy, Romania and Belgium. In November the kick-off meeting were held at Action Synergy's headquarters in Athens with all the organizations' staff.

EDCyber is a project co-funded by EACEA under the Erasmus Plus program, European Youth Together action.

The goal of the project is to promote digital citizenship in young people through the application of the "Cyberanimation" methodology.

The project aims to develop in young people skills related to interactivity, communication and decoding of reality in order to acquire critical thinking skills and create spaces for youth empowerment and cooperative action networks as a formula for the realization of virtual and real spaces of participation in digital democracy for young people.

UNICORN



This project aims to gather the best practices from international NGOs. From useful methodologies to internal and external communication strategies, this project discusses the tools that are needed to make organizations and their projects more impactful. In fall 2022 a transnational partner meeting took place in Alghero, Sardinia. Where the partners reflected on the identified needs and gaps, and organizational challenges they have to not only improve the work within the participating organizations but also provide all adult education providers a road map they can follow.

Therefore the meeting was used for the finalization of the collection of 50 Smart practices, the finalization of the content of the e-book and the finalization of the interactive maps of European best practices.

Dyscalculia



Funded by the Erasmus program, the dyscalculia project is a partnership project comprising Crossing Borders, the University of Gazi in Turkey, the University of Lusofona in Portugal and Vione social enterprise in Holland. The project aims at awareness raising about a little calculation difficulty which between 3-7% of the world population suffer from. Dyscalculia is part of the dyslexia family problems. While dyslexia is the difficulty to see and construct letters, Dyscalculia is the difficulty to calculate.

According to various research, people who suffer from Dyscalculia also display symptoms of learning and concentration difficulties as well as psychological, emotional, mental and learning challenges

Hence, the project aims at raising awareness among educators and the public about and to provide them with guidance on how to deal with the problem. The kick off meeting of the project partners took place at Crossing Borders on 16-18 November 2022.

The Rights Hero

Children's awareness of their rights, especially the more vulnerable ones, is a necessary precondition for their civic engagement and democratic participation. However, the current state of awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is very limited. For this reason, Crossing Borders has joined the Rights Hero project which aims at contributing addressing the above problem.

More specifically, the objectives of the project are to increase the children's awareness of their rights and their level of civic engagement and democratic participation. The project also seeks to build the capacity of teachers to mainstream the rights of the children in their daily teaching, especially using gamification as a method to promote the rights of the children in all aspects of their education.

During 2022 Crossing Borders conducted a series of Focus Group studies to develop a 3D game with and for the young target group. Over 20 Danish Children aged 9 to 14 years have learned about the UNICEF Convention on Children's Rights. We are now in the process of finalizing the game, after which it will be distributed in schools and youth organizations across Europe. The educational game will be disseminated along with an educational handbook for teachers and youth workers.

BRAND Project



We are happy to be part of a new project called BRAND (Boosting youth towards Responsible and sustainAble choices in fashion iNdustry) with 5 partner organizations across Europe. Launched at beginning of October 2022 with a kickoff meeting in Vienna, the project aims to raise awareness of young people about fast fashion and its effects on the environment as well

as to provide youth workers with the necessary knowledge, resources, inspiration, and tools to inform, influence and empower young people towards more eco-friendly fashion choices to create a greener and more sustainable fashion future.

However, the BRAND project is not only about raising awareness. It is especially about reflecting on our climate footprint and turning the awareness into action to reduce, repair, reuse and upcycle the BRAND we have on our backs. In another word, the project seeks to help reduce the risk of depleting the limited resources of the planet on which we depend.

As the project is reaching its first 6-month milestone, the partners are deep in the process of developing the toolkit. Soon enough we will launch the first draft and will be looking for young people and youth workers to take the first peep into it. We already have many ongoing projects related to climate change, the environment, and youth. For this project, we are using all the experiences and lessons learned from our projects and combining all of these to benefit the BRAND.



Growing Green Communities



According to the EDGAR-FOOD, “a third of global and 30% of EU greenhouse gas emissions (EU 27 countries range 25-42%) comes from the food system” (2021). About half of the GHG emissions are CO₂, mainly linked to land-use change and energy, one third is methane (CH₄) due to livestock production but also waste over-production, which highlights an issue of food waste. In the EU, around 88 million tons of food waste are generated annually with associated costs estimated at 143 billion euros (FUSIONS, 2016). While an estimated 20% of the total food produced is lost or wasted, 33 million people cannot afford a quality meal every second day (Eurostat, 2018).

This project is a European project that aims to:

- Contribute to a better understanding of change pathways in urban household food production and consumption patterns
- Activate individual youth learners in supporting communities in initiating and developing urban gardening projects
- Promote more sustainable, plant-based food consumption and shorter food supply chains
- Contributing to the EU's green transition efforts

MigranTour



In partnership with 7 other European city partners, we decided to bring Migrantour to Copenhagen to show Copenhagen as a globalizing city that every day is made richer, more innovative, more colourful, and culturally diverse by migration. We want to highlight that cultural diversity is not a threat to our capital, but an asset, that is as necessary as the biodiversity of the universe and as a source of beautiful and thriving life.

We want to show different aspects of Copenhagen through migrant eyes and perspectives. Through the project, we want to contribute to making Copenhagen richer and more connected with herself and the rest of the world. Hence, the purpose of the Migrantour is to recognize, include migrant voices, and inspire them to feel like they belong to, own and share the story of Copenhagen, as it has been and is constantly being shaped by migration. We want to empower the migrant communities to tell the story of the city they call home. The immigrant voices and their human rights to be listened to are as important as the richness in diversity they bring to the city of Copenhagen. We want to highlight that migration is a natural part of life and development. Furthermore, we want to remind ourselves and everyone else that we are all immigrants and at the same time hosts in Copenhagen and on this planet. Some came earlier, others came later, and countless more are coming.



Visual creativity and Design thinking as tools for young learners in a virtual world



This youth project was designed to encourage young learners - pupils, students, young people, but also teachers, coaches, youth workers to be creative in all their teaching activities: in the classroom, in their usual working environment or at home.

The project aimed at integrating arts and creativity to develop digital skills among the target groups by means of innovative practices in a digital era; an era when distance learning becomes the “new normal” in education and youth work. In another word, it the objective was to facilitate learning opportunities for students, pupils, youth, and teachers about making use of innovative digital tools and boosting their creativity.



An important goal of our project was to develop a consistent and qualitative methodological output “VTT and DTS as tools for the innovation of learning and creativity and for the mental well-being of young learners”, that contains a set of structured principles that lay the foundation for the inception of education modules on VTT -linked to innovative teaching methodologies such as Design Thinking Strategies.

Crossing Borders partnered up with arts colleges and centers in Estonia), Finland and Lithuania to create the methodological framework through different workshops and classes in the respective countries.

In Denmark, 8 youth workers and 12 teachers received training on how to bring Design Thinking Methodologies into their educational work. More than 1500 students attended workshops and classes based on Design Thinking methodologies and learnt how to use this method to be more creative and/or to deploy critical thinking in everyday challenges.

All the trainings and activities have been completed and the methodological framework on how to use DST and VTT in the classroom or in NGOs contexts, have been made available online and on the main Erasmus+ platform.



Concluding Remarks

The various global issues, such as the resurgence of war in Europe and other places, the rapidly intensifying climate crises, the displacement of more than 100 million people into refugee camps, the resurgence of xenophobic populism globally, the growing tensions between nuclear superpowers, and the prevalence of mental health problems among young people, highlight the urgent need for collaborative spaces for dialogue and international cooperation. These crises, which are largely man-made, require global efforts to turn them into opportunities to address the current cross-cutting issues at both local and global levels. Fortunately, young people worldwide are driving the change they want to see. The recent UN Loss and Damage Agreement is a positive step towards achieving these changes. Therefore, at CB, we have started mobilizing our unique strengths to leverage the valuable experiences we have gained from our work in Denmark and around the world. We aim to contribute tangibly to mitigating and resolving these global problems, starting from our local roots in Denmark.

Crossing Borders Director, Garba Diallo

