



CrossingBorders

# SPACE *for* DIALOGUE

ANNUAL REPORT



2023



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# We approach change with four C's



## Curiosity:

Because the greatest adventure lies in learning about ourselves and others



## Competence:

Because creating real change demands real know-how



## Care:

Because we value people, the climate, and future generations



## Communication:

Because it is the most vital tool for fostering change

# Executive Summary



## A Reflection on Global Tragedies

**In writing this executive summary of Crossing Borders' annual report for 2023, our sympathy and solidarity extend to the innocent victims of the most cruel and indiscriminate violence against defenceless and already downtrodden refugees in Gaza, who have been under the most relentless bombardments in recent history for more than six months.**

With the killing of more than 33,000, mostly children and women, and the deprivation of basic needs such as water, food, medicine, and shelter, according to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), there is a plausible case of genocide. Our sincere thoughts and solidarity also go to the victims of senseless violence in Sudan, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh, and Myanmar. This is occurring while those who can put an end to the tragedy are not only watching but are openly complicit in it. We are truly devastated to witness what is going on: double standards, hypocrisy, and disregard for international law and humanitarian principles, as if some lives matter while others do not. How can those who can help put an end to this tragedy refuse even to call for a ceasefire? This unprecedented disregard for certain human lives has shattered the rhetoric about the universal right to life, livelihood, freedom, and dignity. The resulting moral collapse will be harder to rebuild than the ruins left behind after the war on Gaza. It will require honest soul-searching and education based on dialogue to rise from the moral ruins.

## Need for Impartial Spaces for Dialogue

At Crossing Borders, we are determined to continue acting on our mission to create more spaces for dialogue and to build the capacity of more youth to take the lead in building the world they deserve to live in—a peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world. As such, we continue to do what we can, where we can, with what we have. In response to the growing need for dialogue and collaboration, we have accelerated our human rights-based educational activities both at home in Denmark and across the world where we operate. The goal is to facilitate more contacts and collaborations across cultures, professionals, and perspectives. We believe that the root causes of the growing crisis are deep fear and greed, which breed the zero-sum mentality and the illusion of 'we the good guys vs them the evil guys,' and that the good ones will prevail over the bad ones. Hence, this year, we have both sustained and increased our efforts to meet the growing and urgent needs for learning to live and work together on equal terms. We do this within our office team, with our partnerships in Denmark, in Europe, and across the globe.

## Continue Walking the Crossing Borders Talk

As we stated previously, in a globalised and interconnected world, we need to think, connect, and act globally as informed and responsible citizens. Thus, we strive to walk the talk of global partnership in the composition of our office team, which comprises approximately 20 colleagues from Brazil, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, the United States, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Eritrea, Nepal, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Egypt, and Ukraine. The same applies to our executive board, which consists of nine members from Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, India, and South Africa. This principle extends to our Advisory Board, composed of eminent persons from Afghanistan, Denmark, Finland, Ecuador, Ghana, Kurdistan (Denmark), Italy, Ireland, and Jordan. Similarly, our 50 youth national coordinators and global youth facilitators represent 50 countries from all continents.

## Hosting Volunteers

Our office's diversity has been enriched by continuously welcoming and hosting interns and volunteers. This year, the volunteers and interns have come from Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Eritrea, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Nepal, Romania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, and the USA.

## Exchange

As a global organisation with partners in over 40 countries, from Armenia to Zimbabwe, from India to Ghana, and across Europe, we have both paid visits to partners abroad and welcomed study visits from around the world through our exchange program.

## International Events

As usual, CB hosted the International Women's Day event with speeches, music, and food. We also took part in the Bornholm Democracy Festival, Couleur Café in Copenhagen, an educational forum in Aarhus, Mandela Day in Copenhagen, and Afghanistan conferences at the UN City. Additionally, we co-hosted a day conference on Afghanistan at Action Aid in Copenhagen. We participated in the 30th-anniversary commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, which was held at the UN City in Copenhagen. Furthermore, we had a stand at the School Food Forum at the Frederiksberg Town Hall.

## New Partnerships

While we continue strengthening our partnerships with our longstanding collaborators, such as the Association of Boarding Schools (Efterskoleforeningen), Copenhagen and Fredensborg municipalities, Aalborg, and Copenhagen universities, CB has established new project partnerships with Lindevang School in Frederiksberg and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Denmark. We are also delighted to forge partnerships with the largest Ukrainian humanitarian organisation, Bevar Ukraine in Denmark, Youth Island, DIS, Copenhagen Film Company, and Last Week in Denmark.

**CB was officially recognised as the head of the Anna Lindh Foundation network in Denmark.**

**The CB Program in Denmark has been strengthened and expanded through School Workshops, Food for Thought, Migrantour, and other events.**

In addition to around 40 civil society, academic, and public partners in Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Hungary, Moldova, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, we have established new partnerships with partners from Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Nepal and Norway.

## Funding Partners

Fortunately, we have maintained our main funding partners, comprising the Danida Civil Society Fund (CISU), the New Democracy Fund, various EU Commission programs, 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, Food for Thought, and Migrantour. We also receive small grants from the Culture Council and the BUPL solidarity fund.

## Human Resources

As a result of our heavy dependency on smaller and short-term projects, recruiting and maintaining a core professional team staff is still an ongoing struggle. In addition, as a learning and training organisation, the bulk of CB staff are young university interns and volunteers, which makes them mobile. This contributes to the high turnover of team members.

## 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.

## With the above in mind, and in conclusion, the strategic priorities for 2024 build on those of 2023 are:

- Accelerating our efforts to diversify and stabilise our funding sources to include seeking funds from socially responsible private funds, developing program framework, etc.
- Continue scaling up CB Bring the World to the Classroom School Workshops, both in terms of individual school and municipal memberships, including in-person, online workshops and webinars.
- Developing the CB Africa Youth Program - CAP.
- Continue expanding the CB Food for Thought to include companies.
- Continue scaling up the Migrantour program to partner with more schools and organisations.
- Continue developing the Youth for Ukraine program in Denmark.

# Meet the CB Team



# OFFICE *team*

Diversity is something that we live by and encourage. This is also reflected in the people that are part of our daily life in our office.



**Garba Diallo**  
Director  
GLOBAL



**Tatjana Stefanovic**  
Global Program  
Coordinator  
SERBIA



**Mia Toftdahl**  
School Workshops  
Coordinator  
DENMARK



**Furkan Akay**  
EU Program  
Coordinator (Finance)  
TURKEY



**Josephine Fröhlich**  
EU Project Coordinator  
GERMANY



**Andrew Gibbons**  
EU Project Coordinator  
USA



**Maryam Alaouie**  
EU Project Coordinator  
LEBANON/DENMARK



**Tanya Dewan**  
Creative Coordinator  
INDIA



**Cecilie Balling**  
Project Coordinator  
DENMARK



**Susan Zekiros**  
Project Coordinator  
DENMARK



**Kateryna Bobyr**  
Intern  
UKRAINE



**Bikalpa Basaula**  
Intern  
NEPAL



**Masato Isaji**  
Intern  
JAPAN



**Luka Tsbadze**  
ESC Volunteer  
GEORGIA



**Margaret Maged**  
ESC Volunteer  
EGYPT



**Oussama El Sayed**  
ESC Volunteer  
LEBANON



**Rasmus Smetana**  
Volunteer  
DENMARK



**Jacqueline Million**  
Volunteer  
ITALY



**Júlia Oliveira**  
Volunteer  
BRAZIL



**Angeliki Alexopoulou**  
Young Entrepreneur  
GREECE



**Karim Pedersen**  
Ambassador  
DENMARK

## Our former team members from 2023

**Aman Habhoub**  
Intern



**Anastasia Shepel**  
ESC Volunteer



**Anna Bonenfant**  
Intern



**Audrey Cosyns**  
Intern



**Catherine Namuswe**  
Intern



**Chandini Rydder**  
Intern



**Chisato Ishimoto**  
Intern



**Christoffer Kanstrup**  
Intern



**Eimi Yamashita**  
Intern



**Emma Hyland**  
Program Coordinator



**Giselle Mesiera**  
Project Coordinator



**Irene Kisaakye**  
Intern



**Iustin Baisan**  
Young Entrepreneur



**Karolina Viteckova**  
Program Coordinator



**Melina Niraki**  
Project Coordinator



**Mia Brygger**  
Intern



**Pareeksha PR**  
Project Coordinator



**Rosangela Vertullo**  
Program Coordinator



**Soraya Boumediene**  
Project Coordinator



**Svenja Hitzemann**  
Intern



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Vibeke Quaade**  
Chairperson



**Nyeleti Sue-Angel N.**  
Vice Chairperson



**Mignote Nesfin**  
Treasurer



**Karen Blincoe**  
Board Member



**Helene Guldborg**  
Board Member



**Kirsten Bruun**  
Board Member



**Dr. Phaedria St. Hilaire**  
Board Member



**Bent Mikkelsen**  
Board Substitute



**Kannan P. Samy**  
Board Substitute

## ADVISORY BOARD



**Rikke Rønholt**  
Denmark/Ghana



**Lorena Torres**  
Denmark



**Dr. Morten Kjærum**  
Sweden



**John Philip Lerche**  
Denmark



**Mozhdeh Ghasemiyani**  
Denmark/Kurdistan



**Gunvor Krongman**  
Finland/Sweden



**Søren Søndersrup**  
Denmark



**Jakob Erle**  
Denmark



**Deo Delaney**  
China



**Mu'ayyad Mehyar**  
Jordan



**Dr. James Scot**  
Finland



**Karsten Fledelius**  
Denmark



**Antonino Imbesi**  
Italy



**Wafa El Moumi**  
Denmark/Morocco



**Jacob Holdt**  
Denmark

# reflections by team members



*Eimi Yamashita, Japan*

"I believe there is power in dialogue. Denmark is known as a welfare state with a high level of happiness, but I was surprised to find out that they face the same issues of diversity and immigration as Japan. What was even more surprising was that they were trying to solve these issues using dialogue.

I was impressed by what Garba said: "There is not enough dialogue nowadays. That's why some people try to solve conflicts with weapons." In working with diverse members at CB, I was able to solve anything through dialogue that I could not solve alone. It was a pleasure working with you all. I hope to spread the dialogue across borders."



*Justin Baisan,  
Romania*

“Reflecting back on my exchange experience at Crossing Borders as part of Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurship, I feel a mix of gratitude and nostalgia.

Since September, I have been involved in various projects, both local and global. Teaching students about important issues such as diversity, democracy, and cyberbullying during our school workshops has been truly fulfilling. Also, communicating with coordinators from Nigeria or Zambia who are working on the Localising of SDG 4 has added value to my experience. Another highlight that allowed me to express my creativity and leave my mark was designing the brochure for the annual assembly.

What I miss the most, however, is the vibrant multicultural environment in which every idea was celebrated, and the friendship with the people of CB. The impact of this experience will continue to resonate with me even though my time at CB has come to an end, and I hope that we will be working together on various projects and that we will see each other again soon.”



*Anna Bonenfant, France*

“Joining Crossing Borders for a six-month internship has been an incredible experience that I will cherish forever. Being part of an NGO that upholds such strong values of diversity, unity, kindness, and friendship has been not only rewarding but also an immense privilege.

Throughout my time at CB, I have had the opportunity to work on a variety of stimulating and impactful projects such as BRAND, Food For Change, or Phoenix. It has been incredibly fulfilling to know that my contributions have helped to positively impact people's lives and contribute to making the world a better place.

One of the highlights of my internship has been the people I have met along the way. I have had the pleasure of working alongside passionate and dedicated individuals who have not only inspired me professionally but also enriched my life personally. Their support, guidance, and camaraderie have made this journey all the more enjoyable and memorable. I find myself missing them every day and cherishing the memories we have created together. I am hopeful that our paths will cross again in the future, somewhere around the world!

***A bientôt, Crossing Borders! Thank you for everything.”***



# We bring the world to the classroom!

In 2023, we once again engaged young people in the world around them, inviting them to take small steps of action in a world that can be quite overwhelming and sometimes even seem hopeless. In my opinion, there is an increasing need for dialogue and meaningful connection between people in the world. That is why, at our school workshops, we invite the students to listen to each other, to respect each other's opinions, and to practice voicing their own.

Our school workshops are very much a two-way communication. It's not only us bringing new knowledge and insights to the students, but the students also provide us with a lot of new input and views on what it means to be a young person in the world today. That is why our school workshops, and partnerships with schools in general, bring essential knowledge for Crossing Borders' other projects as well.

One of the things I love most about our school workshops is our amazing team of workshop facilitators. Young people from around the world, who are eager to bring their unique experiences and ideas to the youth in Denmark. I owe all of them a huge thank you for their creativity and commitment!

In 2024, we will continue to expand our partnerships with schools, organisations, and companies, to make our workshops even more accessible to schools all over Denmark.

**I am excited to meet and engage with even more young people and their teachers in 2024!**

*- Mia Toftdahl Olesen*  
School Workshops Program Coordinator



# 2023 Highlights

School Workshops covered vital topics including democracy, SDGs, migration and inequality, digital awareness and resilience, and combating hate speech this year.

Through a dynamic collaboration with **Efterskoleforeningen**, we extended our reach by offering engaging online webinars featuring passionate international speakers to all boarding schools across Denmark.

This year, we hosted the following webinars with international speakers:

- Creating open and resilient societies
- Global Sustainability
- The War in Ukraine: an inside perspective
- How to Foster Women Empowerment in India
- Avenues to success in Science
- Gender Equality in Denmark in the 21st century
- What is happening in Iran? An inside perspective

## 250

Boarding Schools

*were offered webinars  
with passionate  
international speakers*



## 1854

Students

*from boarding schools  
joined our webinars in  
2023*



## 2975

Students & Teachers

*benefitted from our  
School Workshops in  
2023*



# SDGs Ambassadors - Engagement Project

In 2023, we finalised a 2-year project engaging Danish schools in international development work through the SDGs. The project was a partnership between Crossing Borders and two organisations, 100% for Children and Promentum, and involved students, teachers, and school leaders from 7 schools.

The project encompassed several activities, including partnerships and dialogues between Danish and African schools, as well as workshops on international development work and SDGs.

These workshops offered perspectives from both the Danish context and schools in Africa. The informal learning and direct contact between schools were essential components of the project. It reached a total of 151 students, 34 teachers, and 7 school leaders, broadening their understanding of the world and challenging their prejudices about Africa. It inspired them to create change for a more sustainable world, both locally and globally.

***The project was funded by CISU.***



**Åben Skole**

In 2023, Crossing Borders was part of Copenhagen Municipality's Åben Skole program, meaning that we were able to offer workshops on democracy to public schools in Copenhagen free of charge. Next year, we will once again be part of the Åben Skole program, this time offering two different workshops: one on anti-discrimination and one on active citizenship specifically targeted at student councils.



“

*We are usually only concerned about our own values, but the interactive learning method during the workshop allowed us to see things from a different perspective. It was challenging in English, and I learned a lot.*

**-Stacie, 16 years old**

“

*I liked the fact that we heard from different perspectives. The diversity in your group gave us a unique view of a democratic world.*

**- Caroline, 17 years old**

“

*Overall, there is now a greater awareness of the SDGs in everyday life and at the school among teachers and students. The students have gained a greater knowledge of the SDGs and think it into projects and assignments.*

**- Tina Hvitsted Rose, Fredensborg Skole**



# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Food for Thought provides a warm and engaging space for people of different backgrounds to share their life stories.**

Breaking bread is an ancient tradition for building bonds, and sharing a delicious meal prepared by Send Flere Krydderier, a social entrepreneurship kitchen, is part and parcel of every event.

Our speakers have diverse backgrounds and stories, rooted in various communities. Our event serves as a social space where both internationals and locals can meet and connect.

Food for Thought has become one of Crossing Borders' flagship events because much of our work is really about cultivating practices of bridging and belonging. The recipe of food and stories is simple but powerful, and together with a warm and inclusive atmosphere, these two ingredients are key to creating a sense of instant belonging.

*- Susan Zekiros*

Food for Thought Coordinator

# SPEAKER *lineup*



**Norman Ferrington**  
African American Musician  
March 2, 2023



**Rhea Lobo**  
TB Advocate  
March 30, 2023



**Marek Azoulay  
Jørgensen**  
Youth Leader  
August 3, 2023



**Anita Mathal  
Hopland**  
Documentary Director  
April 20, 2023



**Morten Meldal**  
Nobel Laureate  
(Chemistry)  
September 14, 2023



**Karen Blincoe**  
Sustainability Activist  
May 11, 2023



**Charlotte Flindt**  
International  
Relations  
October 12, 2023



**Golo Joachim Pilz**  
Climate Change Activist  
June 20, 2023



**Galvin Harrison**  
The Next  
Generation Project  
November 16, 2023



# I tell my story, therefore I am.

Moments from 2023



**Insightful Speakers,  
Engaging Audience,  
Community Dinners.**





# migrantour

Copenhagen



# Migrantour:

A walk towards the hidden gems of Copenhagen

**Welcome to Migrantour, where our network of cities offer immersive intercultural urban walks designed and led by individuals of migrant backgrounds.**

Our ethos revolves around fostering responsible tourism with zero-mile experiences, providing insightful journeys into the European societies shaped by migration. Our tours are an invitation to travel, meet and reflect on the value of diversity and dialogue.

Migrantour Copenhagen primarily conducts tours in Nørrebro, a vibrant and culturally diverse district that has been home to generations of migrants. Our tours immerse visitors in its narrow streets and rich history.

**In 2023, our Migrantour project achieved significant milestones, including:**



Hosting 37 tours throughout the city with over 600 participants.



Conducting a successful Multiplier Event in March 2023 attended by over 70 participants.



Welcoming new tour guides from diverse backgrounds, including Italy, Turkey, Tunisia, and Syria, to enrich our team.



Establishing fruitful collaborations with schools, organisations, and festivals.



Gaining recognition through features in news articles on Globalnyt and The Copenhagen Post.





# Anna Lindh Foundation DENMARK

The Anna Lindh Foundation is an international and inter-governmental organisation that promotes intercultural dialogue and cooperation between the people and cultures of the Euro Mediterranean region, in the face of growing mistrust and polarisation.

Founded in 2004 with headquarters inaugurated in 2005 in Alexandria (Egypt) and coordinators & management staff based across more than 40 countries, the Anna Lindh Foundation is the first common institution for dialogue co-created by the European Union and its Mediterranean Partner countries.

**As the head of the Danish Network, Crossing Borders focuses on the following:**



Creating conducive spaces for Euromed intercultural meetings and dialogues.



Sharing information, updates, and opportunities with our members.



Reactivating former members and recruiting new ones.



Organising cultural events for the general public.



Promoting the respective interests and activities of Danish members.



Communicating and collaborating with other national networks.

# 2023 Highlights



Gothenburg Heads of Network meeting in March



Food for Thought with Marek Azoulay in August



Migrant tour with IPC and 35 international students



Istanbul Heads of Network meeting in December



# YOUTH for UKRAINE

## This year Crossing Borders embarked on an exciting new adventure, Youth For Ukraine!

This project is an initiative designed to establish meaningful communities for Ukrainian youth in Denmark. The project seeks to foster democratic spaces for Ukrainian youth in Denmark to increase their democratic participation.

### Kick-off Gathering

On December 2nd, Crossing Borders organised an event in Denmark, bringing together 38 Ukrainian youth aged 16-30 to establish a meaningful and sustainable community. Through group dialogues, participants formed five clubs and a social media community, fostering connections and addressing shared needs. Enthusiastic engagement underscored the event's importance, providing a sense of home for participants. The initiative, supported by Bevar Ukraine, Tuborg Fondet, and BUPL Solidaritets- og Kulturfond, is the first national effort for Ukrainian youth in Denmark.



## Next Steps

Building on the December 2nd, 2023 event, we are now initiating a two-year program for Ukrainian youth in Denmark. The goal is to establish at least four hubs, initially located in Aalborg, Aarhus, Odense, and Copenhagen, where Ukrainian youth can actively gather, lead, organise, and participate in democratic activities within their local areas.

Throughout the two years, we will work towards anchoring this initiative in the different municipalities, so that the initiative continues beyond the two-year program. We will work towards capacitating the Ukrainian youth to be self-sustainable regarding financial aspects such as fundraising, how to reach out to possible collaborators and establish partnerships, and training the skills and abilities to execute different projects.



# Vibrant Events



# 2023 *events*

## International Women's Day

*March 8, 2023*

The vibrant Women's Day event was organised by a committee consisting of the women of Crossing Borders. The focus was set on highlighting the experience of diverse women in a male-dominated society. From creating awareness about inequalities, honouring the wisdom of women from different generations to empowering speeches and music - we thank all the women for their contribution to this memorable evening.



## Samsø Staff Trip

*May 12, 2023*

11 Crossing Borders members from 10 countries enjoyed a 3-day team-building trip on Samsø Island, Denmark. Known for sustainable energy and agriculture, they visited key sites like the Energy Academy and Nordby village. Activities included a maze and biking. The trip fostered bonding through chores, conversations, bonfires, music, and games.



# 2023 *events*

## Couleur Café

June 10, 2023



The Couleur Café festival celebrated African culture with performances, music, and food. Crossing Borders participated with a team from 7 countries, promoting educational initiatives like CB School Workshops. They engaged visitors with quizzes and activities, including using leftover coffee for hand care. The event was enjoyed for its music, food, and community spirit.



## Mandela Day Celebration

July 18, 2023

Crossing Borders volunteers partnered with the South African Embassy in Copenhagen to mark Mandela Day. Serving food to 50 homeless individuals, they embodied Mandela's spirit of kindness and generosity. The event, held on Mandela's birthday, aimed to spread compassion. In tribute to Mandela's legacy, the volunteers also shared a birthday cake, symbolising unity and goodwill.



# 2023 *events*

## Afghanistan Conference

*July 30, 2023*

Crossing Borders partnered with DAKDIF to host a conference in Copenhagen on the Taliban's rule in Afghanistan, titled "Two Years After the Take Over - Challenges and Ways Forward." Led by Tahmina Salik and Elaha Salik, the event included Afghan diaspora members and speakers from Europe, along with Danish MPs and UN rapporteur Richard Bennet.



## Diversity Workshop

*September 18, 2023*

A dynamic diversity workshop for Japanese youth at Crossing Borders was organised in collaboration with Educational Visits Denmark. Through interactive activities, storytelling, and dialogue, we delved into diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality. Participants reflected on personal growth and action plans, enriching both their journey and our ongoing initiatives.



# 2023 *events*

## Annual Assembly

*November 23, 2023*

Crossing Borders held its AGM on 23rd November. The meeting showcased the year's powerful activities and events aimed at promoting understanding across borders. The meeting was an opportunity for discussion of the various initiatives, with an emphasis on unity and co-operation within the community. The event concluded with a celebratory dinner and concert.



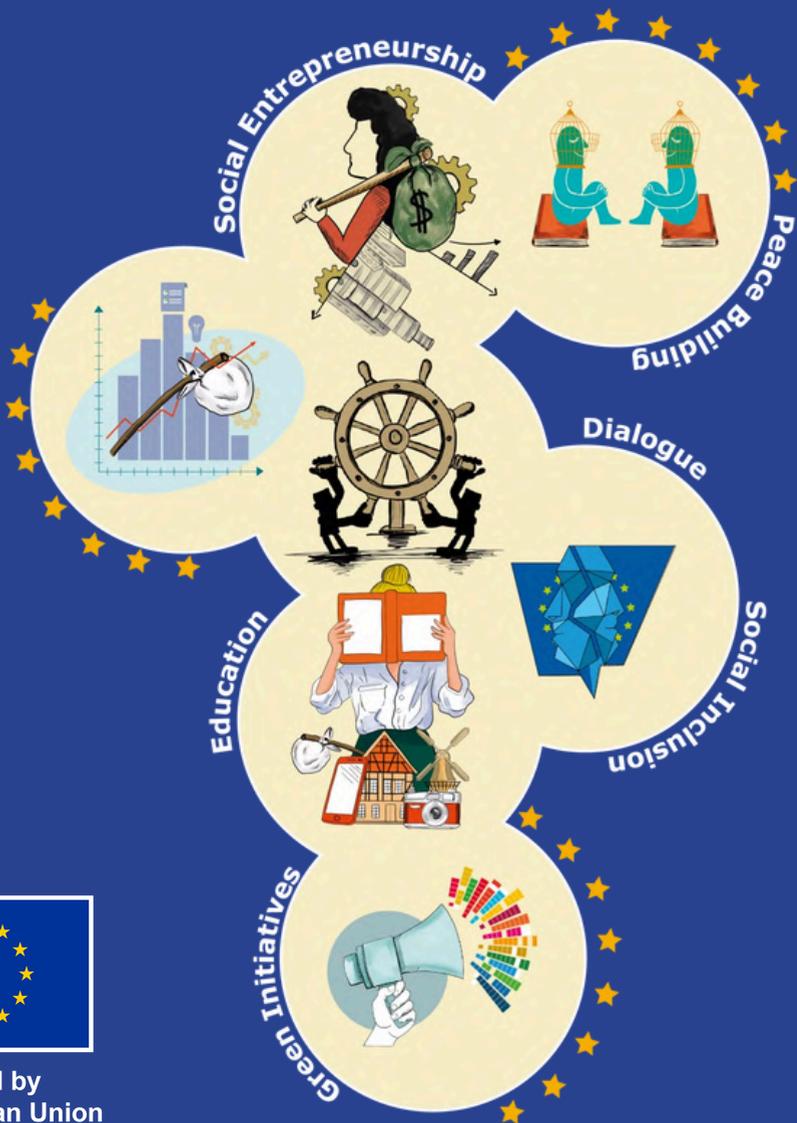
## Christmas Dinner Party

*December 8, 2023*

Crossing Borders hosted a cosy Christmas dinner at the Union. Our team, CB members, board members and special guests came together for a good time and a lovely dinner. It was a memorable evening to take some time for reflection and empowerment as we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome in the new year.



# EU PROGRAM



Funded by  
the European Union

# The European Program in 2023 once again contributed to the diverse and vibrant activities of Crossing Borders!

Our partnership projects live from their creative approaches to education and youth engagement. To this year's highlights, we add a plethora of community-building dinners, trainings both domestically and internationally, workshops, field trips, educational materials, awareness campaigns, and more!

Most of our European projects have a practical and participatory approach, allowing us project coordinators to gather data and important perspectives on current local as well as global challenges from young people and youth workers. This way, we can develop intellectual outputs like e-books, online courses, toolkits, and guides that contribute to the long-term impact of our projects. If you, dear reader, are interested in the methodologies and resources used and developed in our European program, we can only recommend exploring our [new resource page](#) on our website.

The greatest joy of working in the European program is educating young minds and making their voices heard, and equipping youth workers with new tools to create awareness about sustainability, inequality, diversity, and active citizenship.

We are incredibly excited about 2024, especially as we embark on the journey of developing new educational tools with our esteemed partners across Europe. Witnessing these tools actively utilised by young minds and observing the positive impact gives us the energy to continue our grassroots work. With the hope that someday the young people who participate in our projects become leaders for positive change in their communities and wise decision-makers. We thank our European partners, facilitators, volunteers, and project participants for their amazing ideas and their hard work, and we are looking forward to collaborating in 2024.

*- Furkan Akay &  
Josephine Fröhlich*  
EU Program Team



# 2023 Projects

Through the EU program, we form strategic partnerships with organisations across Europe.

With EU funding, we collaborate with our partners to develop projects focusing on youth, and critical issues such as inclusion, entrepreneurship, environment, and more.

<p>Growing Green Communities</p>		
<p>ACCT</p>		
<p>Phoenix</p>		



# Growing Green Communities

## About the Project

We aim to enhance the capacities of local youth as active and vital agents of change within their communities, households, families, and public and civil society organisations.

### **Our concrete objectives are as follows:**

- To contribute to a better understanding of change pathways in urban household food production and consumption patterns by mapping out participatory food intervention practices in selected communities.
- To activate individual youth learners in supporting communities to initiate and develop urban gardening projects by creating and testing an inclusive Training Format.
- To promote more sustainable, plant-based food consumption and shorter food supply chains by identifying effective ways to develop producer-consumer interactions, promote CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), and create AFN (Alternative Food Networks) in expanding cities.
- To contribute to the EU's green transition efforts by integrating practical findings into research on the dynamics of urban households' food consumption, the role of young people, and participatory food interventions in cities, and by creating an open-source platform for knowledge sharing and exchange.

2023

# Highlights

During 2023, the Growing Green Communities (GGC) training took place in Bordeaux from March 13th to 16th. Project partners met with 8 young students from project countries to learn from each other the best practices in developing green communities, including urban gardens. Participants of different ages, nationalities, cultural backgrounds, and educational and professional backgrounds had 4 intensive days of activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Additionally, from October 10th to 12th, another training course was implemented with nearly 60 students from Germany and Finland. This training was hosted by Kalevan Lukio, where various workshops were held.

- **Going forward, we will be producing a handbook that integrates findings from previous project results, providing an in-depth context for fostering communities of young people committed to sustainable food practices in urban areas. The anticipated impact is a shift towards more sustainable, plant-based food consumption and shorter food supply chains within research communities initially. These changes could then be disseminated through established networks and stakeholders to broader circles and geographies.**





## About the Project

**Through our 'Food for Change' project, we empower young people post-pandemic by using food as a catalyst for intercultural dialogue.**

We foster community and civic engagement, transcending borders of race, gender, and socio-economic class. Our training and dialogue dinners promote tolerance, inclusion, and diversity to prevent radicalisation and discrimination among youth, strengthening the capacity of relevant organisations to work with young individuals.

We expect that the intercultural dialogue on personal, societal and political topics this project aims to foster will empower the youth's sense of initiative and active citizenship in their local communities and across countries in Europe.

### **What is a Dialogue Dinner?**

Dialogue Dinners are a versatile methodology that can be utilised by both youth workers and individuals. It serves as an occasion where a diverse array of individuals gather to share a meal, fostering connections and meaningful conversations.

Typically, participants engage in cooking together, though ordering food or dining out is also a viable option. Throughout the dinner, a chosen topic, thoughtfully curated by the facilitator, serves as the main focus for the discussion, tailored to the interests and needs of the participants.



2023

# Highlights

The highlight of 2023 for this project was the implementation of our Dialogue Dinner series. The project included 6 dinners but we decided to integrate the methodology permanently into our event catalogue. In 2024 we will continue hosting Dialogue Dinners, aiming to provide a safe space for our newfound community of young, engaged and open-minded people.

- Over 25 young people joined our 6 Dialogue Dinners in Denmark, some of them becoming regular participants.
- In total, the project consortium held 36 Dialogue Dinners with over 250 participants.





## About the Project

The project aims to promote environmental citizenship among students, teachers, and the wider community, which involves developing a sense of responsibility and consciousness about the environment and understanding the impact of our activities and choices on the ecosystem.

To address this priority, the project proposes to provide schools with the necessary tools and resources to teach environmental citizenship effectively.

Throughout the project, we will be creating a glossary that explains important terms related to the environment in a clear and concise manner, two editions of The Handbook of Environmental Citizenship—one for teachers and one for students which will provide information, resources, and activities to help teachers and students understand and engage with environmental citizenship, and a digital game to promote project objectives in engaged and interactive way.

- We kicked off the project in November 2023 with 7 partners from 5 different countries.



Anti-racism & Civic  
Courage Training

## About the Project

**The Anti-Racism and Civic Courage Training (ACCT) project tackles racism, xenophobia, and discrimination across the European Union, using an intersectional approach to educate and empower individuals toward civic courage.**

The project is a collaboration between civil society organisations, activists, and community leaders from five countries, aimed at facilitating an exchange of methodologies and best practices.

Through ACCT, community leaders are trained on already existing local documentation centres and reporting mechanisms for discriminatory events that are shared with participants and local partners. To do this, we bring together experts from different countries and create a report that compiles the local knowledge. This fact-based research informs the work we do and is shared with our communities and the online.

This year, the project focused on developing a comprehensive curriculum for a 4-day training session that will be implemented in each country. In November, ACCT conducted its first pilot training session in Lublin, Poland, testing this innovative curriculum developed among the partners. Additionally, this year, a poster campaign was launched to mobilise artists to depict their visions of inclusivity, with plans to showcase these works on public transportation in Germany and Denmark, making a bold statement against intolerance.

2023

# Highlights

This year, ACCT focused on developing and adapting its anti-discrimination curriculum, setting the stage for a local training session in Denmark in 2024.

The highlight of the year was the poster competition, which drew over 50 entries from across the EU. Three winners were chosen - 2 from Poland, and one from Spain. This campaign will engage over 600,000 people both online and offline. One of the ways it will do so is by displaying the posters on buses and metro stations in Germany and Denmark on The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 22nd, 2024, aiming to reach millions of commuters with messages of inclusivity and anti-racism.

- Developed 1 comprehensive curriculum spanning over 70 pages.
- Over 50 poster entries received from artists in 7 countries for the poster campaign.





## About the Project

The main aim of the BRAND project is to raise awareness among young people about the themes of fast fashion and its effects on the environment. Additionally, it aims to equip youth workers with all the necessary materials and tools to inform, influence, and empower young people toward more eco-friendly fashion choices, thereby creating a greener and more sustainable fashion future.

### **More specifically, this project aims to achieve the following objectives:**

- Develop young people's knowledge of the multiple environmental and social impacts of fast fashion at both the local and global levels.
- Raise awareness of the concept of eco-fashion and promote responsible fashion choices, as well as an understanding of key concepts and principles related to sustainability.
- Promote tools and knowledge to help youth workers foster responsible, eco-friendly, and sustainable consumer behaviour among young people in the fashion and garment industry.
- Provide sustainable and eco-friendly information that can be easily applied by young people to drive positive change towards a better and more sustainable fashion industry, and consequently, a better future.
- Enhance the development of digital innovative tools to effectively utilise digital technology for teaching and learning, thereby fostering the development of digital competencies and skills.

2023

# Highlights

The LTTA was hosted by KAINOTOMIA in Larisa, Greece, from the 9th to the 13th of October. Each organisation engaged with one staff member and two young people (20 people in total). Activities and interactive training were designed with contributions from all partners. It was a transformative process during which learners acquired new skills, new attitudes, and new ways of thinking.

The main objectives of the LTTA were to exchange knowledge and good practices among partners through training youth workers, leaders, and educators in non-formal education and supporting methods on the burnout phenomenon, workplace stress management, and prevention strategies. Additionally, it aimed to further build the cross-sectoral cooperation of our project by involving more staff members from partner organisations in different sectors.



Moving forward, our plan is to:

- Establish a community of **BRAND e-NFLUENCERS**, acting as digital role models to empower young people in adopting sustainable and responsible behaviours.
- Develop an app featuring three main tab sectors: a 5R library, offering resources for sustainable living; a materials tab providing information on the environmental impact of various fabrics and accessories; and collection points in each partner country for donating old garments with philanthropic aims.



**INCLUDATE**  
Educating for Inclusion

## About the Project

**The aim of the INCLUDATE project is to explore and address the unique challenges faced by migrants and minorities in 5 different European cities, with a focus on promoting social inclusion and integration.**

Through research, collaboration, and community engagement, the project seeks to identify barriers to inclusion and develop effective strategies to overcome them, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and cohesive society in the partners hometowns.

The Local Inclusion Plan, crafted by Crossing Borders in Copenhagen, plans to use the urban nature of Copenhagen as a catalyst for inclusion. Drawing upon the insights from the INCLUDATE project, this plan seeks to harness the power of nature-based initiatives to create spaces that foster belonging and participation among migrants and minorities. By enhancing access to green spaces, promoting environmental stewardship, and facilitating intercultural exchanges in natural settings, the plan aims to bridge divides and cultivate a sense of community and connection.

Through collaborative efforts with local partners and residents, it aspires to foster inclusive environments where all individuals feel valued, respected, and empowered to contribute to their city and its natural spaces.



2023

# Highlights

A special highlight was the TPM in Strasbourg, France in December 2023, where our project coordinator Joséphine participated in a panel debate about inclusion challenges.

- Moving forward, the project consortium will develop a curriculum for organisations aimed at equipping them with methodologies for promoting inclusivity and inclusion work. This curriculum will provide tools, resources, and training to support organisations in fostering more inclusive practices and strategise about their inclusion work.





# About the Project

Although the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic seems to be over, the consequences of the long lockdown and isolation are still visible in our society. In particular, the creative sector is one of the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic because of the unexpected and substantial loss of income, particularly for the most vulnerable players.

The PHOENIX project addresses these challenges and helps young amateurs, freelancers, and non-profit youth associations from the creative sector to get back on their feet. We do so by re-adapting crowdfunding, digital content creation, and community reporting to link young artists to their communities and gain support from them.

- This year, we developed an e-learning course to guide individuals on utilising methodologies to reignite creativity sectors. Additionally, we have crafted an interactive virtual map where young participants can showcase their art and garner support from local communities.



## About the Project

The Rights Hero project is an innovative digital learning initiative designed to promote awareness of children's rights among youth, teachers and educators.

Through an engaging 3D computer game which was developed by the project partners, the project aims to empower children to understand and assert their rights in various contexts. Players navigate through interactive scenarios that highlight key aspects of children's rights, fostering critical thinking and empathy. In 2023 the project hosted educational workshops and provided multimedia resources to educators across Europe with tools to integrate children's rights education into school classes, after-school activities, NGO work and social work. Through the RIGHTS HERO game, the project seeks to inspire a new generation of advocates who are informed and passionate about defending the rights of children everywhere.

- We were especially happy to welcome the project partners for a transnational partner meeting in Copenhagen in November 2023.
- Through the project's webinars we reached 800 teachers across Europe. Some of them will play the Rights Hero game with their students, enriching their understanding of their rights.



## About the Project

**The wonderful EDCyber project aims to teach youth workers across Europe how to facilitate online communities to promote active citizenship in their local communities.**

The methodology in this project is called Cyberanimation and translates sociocultural animation practices into the digital environment. With this approach, the project consortium is giving a useful and modern tool to youth workers to utilise social media, online communities and activities to foster change for a better world.

The project aims to develop in youth workers and young people skills that allow them to have a better understanding of virtual environments in terms of their socio-cultural dynamics, the principles that govern this reality, the potential that they represent, as well as the challenges they must face to contrast current phenomena such as hate speech, disinformation, the spread of anti-democratic ideas, etc.

**In March of 2024, the Project will come to an end, but before we will host three virtual youth exchanges and three local workshops for young people and youth workers to build community and work on socio-cultural or political issues in their local context using the Cyberanimation methodology.**



2023

# Highlights

In 2023 the project consortium met in Naples, Italy for a training and collective brainstorm to create an online course for youth workers who want to learn more about the methodology. In the last quarter of 2023 thirty youth workers from all over Europe participated in the course. Our project coordinator was happy to develop and teach the module about “Soft skills in the digital environment.”

You can register to access the online course materials developed for this project here: <https://actionlearning.eu/register/>





## About the Project

The overall aim of the project is to create tools that can give youth in Europe a voice and make them capable of presenting their opinions and influencing public debate and discourse, with the ultimate and long-term aim of shaping the next set of EU actions in a way that addresses their concerns for the future.

The project aims to help youth groups (aged 13-24) develop journalistic skills and knowledge and create their own media content. As a result, the project will provide this group of youth with the tools to acquire a voice in public political debate and participate fully in the democratic process.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Increase knowledge and awareness of EU institutions, policies, and democratic procedures.
- Empower youth to counter disinformation.
- Enhance the democratic participation of disengaged youth through journalism and media.

# GLOBAL PROGRAM



In 2023, the Global program continued to empower youth, women, and local communities across the world, contributing to building a society they want and desire to live in. Engaging community members in identifying issues and participating in decision-making processes while building sustainability and resilience, empowering women, democratic participation and education, peace building, and localising the SDGs were the key efforts during 2023.

With 12 projects across 9 countries (Armenia, Ghana, India, Moldova, Nigeria, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, Zimbabwe), we are continuing to build on the successful results of our previous efforts. As a result of our strategic partnerships, many individuals and groups have taken collective action and have created positive change within their communities. For us, this is a big motivation to continue working toward our vision – empowering people to become active global citizens. There is still a lot of work to be done, and as an active grassroots NGO, it is not a matter of choice but a matter of necessity and responsibility.

We are grateful to all our partners for the collaboration that fosters synergy, creativity, and shared ownership, resulting in solutions that are sustainable, inclusive, and equitable. We are infinitely grateful for all those youth, women, and community members who have intentionally stepped out of their comfort zones to take action and create positive change in their local communities.

To be part of the CB global family is a unique experience of celebrating our world of diversity. Looking forward to all upcoming interventions around the world in 2024!

*- Tatjana Stefanovic*  
Global Program Coordinator

01. **Localising the SDGs,**  
Ghana Community Radio  
Network, Open Space  
Centre, Circus Zambia,  
**Ghana, Uganda, Zambia**

02. **Women Empowerment  
in Local Development,**  
Sehgal Foundation,  
**India**

03. **Capacity Strengthening  
for Changemakers,**  
Teach the Child,  
**Nigeria**

04. **Green Eco-Lab,**  
Open Space Centre,  
**Uganda**

05. **Armenia Meeting Point,**  
Analytical Centre on  
Globalization and  
Regional Cooperation,  
**Armenia**

06. **Enhanced Citizen  
Participation Through  
Sustainable Community  
Radio Stations,**  
ZACRAS, **Zimbabwe**

07. **Youth Promoting Peace  
and Tolerance in  
Zimbabwean Politics (I),**  
4H Foundation,  
**Zimbabwe**

08. **Youth Promoting Peace  
and Tolerance in  
Zimbabwean Politics (II),**  
4H Foundation,  
**Zimbabwe**

09. **Civic Contribution to  
Strengthening  
Accountable Governance,**  
Transparency  
International,  
**Zambia**

10. **Learning Spaces  
for SDG 4,**  
Teach the Child,  
**Nigeria**

11. **Democracy Debate Hub,**  
MilleniumM,  
**Moldova**

12. **Democracy Hubs,**  
Klitschko Foundation,  
**Ukraine**





01

## Localising the SDGs

The project development objective is to create a south-to-south focused collaboration platform among project partner Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in Uganda, Ghana and Zambia. The platform focuses on the important task of localising the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grassroots level.

**The overarching aim of the project will be met through three immediate objectives:**

- Mobilise and engage our partners' direct target groups (youth) by enabling them to create and take ownership of localising the SDGs through grassroots activities.
- Facilitate the building of synergies, good practices, and success stories about localising 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 grassroots levels. While the project targets different stakeholders, the direct target groups are the youth.

2023

# Highlights



- Policy lobby platforms in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono engaged 183 participants, including youth, persons with disabilities, leaders, and more.
- Youth Parliaments in Mukono and Kampala had 98 attendees, including young people and leaders.
- University Debate Nationals' Dialogue welcomed 149 participants, including students, media, MPs, and policymakers.



- 21 mini-projects and 4 reference group meetings per community radio station.
- 1 Election SDG Forum per community radio station to engage district-level candidates.
- 10 programs broadcast from community radio station focal communities.



- Capacity building sessions, youth parliament, and community dialogues focus on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), engaging 540 participants and impacting over 1000 individuals.

The SDGs have helped me find solutions and sensitize my community. After exploring SDG 3 - "Good Health and Wellbeing", I was able to see how my community can be improved. Chibolya is notorious for drug abuse, high pregnancies, and high infection rates. The knowledge and information I gained during the capacity building have enabled me to position myself as a changemaker in my community.

**Samuel Musa Cassam,**  
Junior Facilitator for the  
Localising SDGs Project



SDGs are important for my everyday life so I can help the people in the community. For instance, I have encouraged the youth to engage in urban farming, use plastic bottles to make bags and chairs, and every Sunday we have fitness training from 6 to 8 AM. The SDGs have really helped me know the needs of my people.

**Nakagga Dorah Solome,**  
Female Youth Councillor  
at the Nakawa Division.



*Empowering Voices: Testimonials from the Localising the SDGs project*

📅 June 15-17, 2023

# Folkemødet in Bornholm

During this year's Folkemødet democracy festival in Bornholm, our director, Garba Diallo, alongside Freda Pigru from the Ghana Community Radio Network and Wakibu Bunnya from Open Space Uganda, participated in a panel discussion titled "Localising the SDGs in African Youth and Democracy Hub," hosted by CISU. The experience proved to be both enriching and inspiring!

Freda and Wakibu shared valuable insights into their work in Ghana and Uganda, aligning with Crossing Border's initiative on Localising the SDGs. In addition to their panel contribution, they engaged in various talks and workshops over the three-day festival, addressing crucial topics such as democratic citizen engagement and sustainable development practices.



02

# Women Empowerment in Local Development

The project, in partnership with **Sehgal Foundation**, focuses on empowering women at the grassroots level (rural villages) in India. This is a continuation of the CISU-funded intervention Women Empowerment in Local Development, taking place in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India.

The empowerment of women comes through the concept of Women Leadership School (WLS), which was also used in Phase 1, that revolves around changing women's limited roles in decision-making at home and in the village. Through Women Farmers Schools (WFS), which promote gender equality and skills enhancement of women in agriculture, the aim is to increase their income from farming and to ensure that their work will no longer be considered secondary to that of men.



This project aims to identify women willing to initiate change in their lives and society at large, and train them as community leaders, capable of addressing women's issues at the village level. Women's capacities will be strengthened to make choices and decisions with regard to their lives, their families, and the village.

2023

# Highlights



**600 Women** including elected representatives, enrolled in 20 Women Leadership Schools across 20 villages.



**221 Training Sessions** held to enhance skills and capacities.



**65 Ward-level Meetings** held with 1016 participants, facilitated by change agents.



**48 Meetings** conducted with 938 participants focusing on gender equality.



**600 Women Farmers** participated in nutritional vegetable garden demonstrations.



**9 Convergence Meetings** were organised involving 466 farmers.



## Women Empowerment in Local Development Phase 2

### Testimonials – Entrepreneurship Dreams



"I thank Sehgal Foundation and Crossing Borders for supporting me in obtaining this training from RSETI. This will help me to access loans from the bank and start my own enterprise. I am very excited"

Priyanka Devi, from Panapur village, Motipur block, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, has completed her Class X education and has six family members.



### Dreaming Big for her Daughter

Devanti Devi (36 years) from Jagdispur Kushai village in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, learned about the government program supporting girl child education in the women's leadership sessions that empower women about their identity and agency, such that they can express themselves and actively take part in local development. Devanti was able to avail the benefit under which she applied and received monetary support for the higher education of her daughter (19-year-old), who is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts. Devanti's experience became crucial in establishing a connection with the government program.



Devanti Devi, part of the 'Women Empowerment in Local Development' project by the S M Sehgal Foundation in partnership with Crossing Borders.



*Empowering Voices: Testimonials from Indian Women on Project Impact*

# Capacity Strengthening for Changers



The project aims to mobilise and engage several stakeholders, including distinguished policy advocates, educational development professionals, local educational boards, and community engagement specialists who have worked in the humanitarian and development sectors in Nigeria. Secondary beneficiaries include the children in the classrooms, comprising at least 800 children in the 1st school year.

Both Crossing Borders and the partner organisation, **Teach the Child**, share a common strategic goal of “educating, connecting, and empowering youth to take an active role in their societies,” providing a strong foundation for a continued partnership for the benefit of community members in the project area.

Under this project, a 3-day workshop in Copenhagen, facilitated by Crossing Borders, on organisation development and non-formal education methodologies, and a 3-day workshop in Nigeria to equip the staff of Teach the Child Initiative and public school educators, were conducted with the tools necessary to improve learning outcomes in young learners, particularly those who attend public education institutions.

## 2023 Highlights



The capacity building of 20 public school educators and 13 members of the Teach the Child team.



The capacity building of Teach the Child team members includes accountability structures, organisational vision, and strategic planning.



📅 February 26 - March 6, 2023

## Hosting Pearl and Blessing from Teach the Child, Nigeria at CB Office

We hosted Pearl and Blessing, our partners from Teach The Child, Nigeria, for our project, Capacity Strengthening for Changemakers.

During their visit, we engaged in mutual learning, conducted capacity building workshops at our office, collaborated with the Klitschko Foundation, participated in a school workshop in Copenhagen, visited the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) and also attended our Food For Thought event with Norman F.



04

## Green Eco-Lab

Our goal is to empower Ugandan youth to combat climate change. Along with our partner, **Open Space Centre**, we aim to raise awareness and build practical skills, enabling these young individuals to develop innovative solutions for climate adaptation.

The project focuses on empowering young people in secondary schools and communities to adapt to these climate-related challenges. By creating a Green Eco-Lab as an in-school training and experimentation hub, the project enables young people to conduct experiments and develop solutions that can support communities in adapting to the changing climate conditions in Uganda.

### 2023 Highlights



Held a meeting engaging 40 school and community members to raise awareness about climate change and project significance.



Designed youth-friendly toolkit and training modules on climate adaptation.



Established a "Green Eco-lab" at school for hands-on experiments on air quality, weather, soil, biodiversity, and water resources.

05

# Armenia Meeting Point

Our mission is to create a platform for awareness, learning, collaboration, and dialogue among 15 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and media outlets in Armenia. The capacity-building and knowledge exchange activities with a new innovative learning platform aim to foster good practices and collaborations that will strengthen the civil society of Armenia.

The **Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC)** is a front runner in promoting democracy and civil society in Armenia.



## 2023 Highlights



Strengthened civic spaces in Armavir, Vanadzor, Gyumri, and Yerevan by fostering collaboration among CSOs, local groups, and media.



Enhanced advocacy and lobbying skills, boosting resilience of 15 Armenian CSOs and 5 media outlets in 4 regions.

# Enhanced Citizen Participation Through Sustainable Community Radio Stations



This project, in collaboration with **ZACRAS Zimbabwe**, aims to build and develop six community radio stations that provide target communities with important information so they can participate in the socio-economic and democratic political spaces. These stations are essential for promoting social justice by giving a voice to underrepresented groups and fostering inclusive sustainable development.

## 2023 Highlights



Produced and distributed 96 radio programs, including podcasts, reaching over 40,000 online audiences.



Sensitised 12 community radio station staff in Harare and trained 12 journalists in content production.



Conducted 48 community meetings across 6 targeted districts, with 712 citizens in attendance.



Utilised online IEC material for advocacy on community radio sector sustainability.



07

## Youth Promoting Peace and Tolerance in Zimbabwean Politics (I)

Our mission in Zimbabwe is indicative of our commitment to fostering positive change. Through youth empowerment, peace promotion, and inclusivity advocacy, we aim to create a brighter future for this resilient nation. This project seeks to assist young leaders, bring together individuals from diverse political affiliations, and provide everyone with an opportunity to share their ideas to foster a more peaceful Zimbabwe.

We anticipate a transformative wave sweeping across Zimbabwe, wherein politically engaged youth evolve into ambassadors of peace, catalysing a new era of tolerance and understanding.

Our partners in the Zimbabwe project include the **4 H Zimbabwe Foundation**, local political parties, civil society organisations, the Parliamentary Youth Caucus, the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts, and Recreation, the National Peace Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), and the Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC).

# Youth Promoting Peace and Tolerance in Zimbabwean Politics (II)

With our ongoing second project, our objective is to foster active and peaceful participation among Zimbabwe's youth in electoral processes. This entails disseminating knowledge and cultivating an understanding of the importance of democratic engagement. Additionally, we aim to integrate peace-building initiatives, utilising art and sports to inclusively involve youth and enhance governance activities by May 2024. Empowering youth with information will also serve to advocate for pro-youth policies and increase the engagement of women.

Our partner, **4-H Zimbabwe Foundation** boasts a proven track record of effectively working with the project's targeted beneficiaries: youth and key peace stakeholders. In our previous peace project, we successfully engaged with the National Peace Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), and traditional chiefs, thereby fostering peace and tolerance.



## 2023 Highlights from Project Phase 1:



The project brought together 11 main political parties united for joint peace programming.



Peace hubs and joint programs established and a peace pledge signed, fostering peace-building.



Youth4Peace interventions acknowledged by the Political Affairs, Peace, and Security Department (AUPAS).



Conducted Key Peace Stakeholders Networks and secured partnerships with relevant stakeholders.



## 2023 Highlights from Project Phase 2:



Improved knowledge and participation of around 40 persons with disabilities.



50 youth empowered in leadership, governance, and election monitoring for peace.



Youth leaders participated in the 2023 elections, securing councillor and member of parliament positions.



Signed the Peace Pledge and Zimbabwe Youth Charter on Peace in the Electoral Processes.

# Civic Contribution to Strengthening Accountable Governance



Our mission in Zambia is to empower civil society organisations and youth groups with digital tools and knowledge, enabling them to advocate effectively for transparency, accountability, and civic participation, thereby fostering a culture of accountable governance and citizen engagement. In collaboration with **Transparency International Zambia (TI-Z)**, we implemented this project, leveraging our expertise in digital tools and international projects to support accountable governance and civil society in Zambia.

## 2023 Highlights



Empowered 20 CSOs and youth groups, including female representatives through physical and virtual training sessions.



Hosted 10 radio programs in Choma on CDF and local governance with high-level council officials.



10

## Learning Spaces for SDG 4

Our primary objective is to equip public school teachers and students in Bwari with 21st-century teaching and learning skills. Our partnership with **Teach the Child** underscores our commitment to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 4, ensuring quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Through the integration of innovative teaching methods and purpose-built educational tools, we not only aim to elevate learning outcomes but also empower educators.

This initiative is designed to substantially improve education in Bwari by establishing accessible Learning Spaces for 90 students who have participated in Capacity Strengthening Workshops for Changemakers, funded by CISU.

### 2023 Highlights



5 advocacy visits to Bwari's local education authority.



Hosted a two-day teacher's inception meeting.



Conducted Learning Space sessions for SDG 4 in 3 public schools with 90 student participants.

11

# Democracy Debate Hub

The Democracy Debate Hub project is a collaboration between Crossing Borders and the **Millennium Training and Development Institute**, two organisations with a shared commitment to youth empowerment and democracy-building. The project is aimed at empowering at least 150 young people between the ages of 14 and 20 in Moldova with essential communication, collaboration, and debating skills, enabling them to navigate the complex world of information, propaganda, and fake news.

## 2023 Highlights



Established 15 Democracy Debate Hubs across Republic of Moldova.



21 youth workers, teachers and youth participants have been capacitated in facilitating Democracy Debates and in initiation of the Hubs.



Engaged youth in debates to boost their understanding of democracy, politics, society, human rights, and active participation.



# Democracy Hubs Ukraine



The project's primary goal is to educate and empower Ukrainian youth aged 14 to 19 by promoting active citizenship, democratic values, and civic engagement. It aims to nurture and encourage active engagement and discussions on diversity, gender equality, life balance, and environmental sustainability, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the project addresses the impact of evolving media on democracy and equips young participants with media literacy skills. We're working together with the **Klitschko Foundation**, an NGO in Ukraine that cares about young people and wants to help them succeed.

## 2023 Highlights



Training of 8 Hub Coordinators were implemented.



120 youth enrolled in online Debate camps.



Democracy Hubs platform created with 10 educational modules.



24 participants joined the Great Debate Camp in the Carpathians.



📅 March 1, 2023

## Democracy Hubs Visit from Ukraine

We hosted a delegation from the Klitschko Foundation, our Ukrainian partner. The visit commenced with a presentation of the Great Debate Camp winners from western Ukraine, showcasing the inspiring stories and determination of youth participants.

The day included a tour of Copenhagen and Crossing Borders' headquarters, fostering engaging interactions. Participants also joined the Fabo Learning Lab session, enriching their global learning experience. At the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD), discussions on democratic values underscored their significance in society, facilitated by DIPD Director Lisbeth Pilegaard.

A highlight was the Food for Thought event featuring Norman Fearington, where discussions on the Ukrainian situation unfolded. Norman's heartfelt speech to the visiting youth group resonated deeply, emphasizing resilience amid adversity.

The visit concluded with exchanges of hugs, gifts, and the forging of friendships between CB's team and the Ukrainian youth.

This meaningful partnership with the Klitschko Foundation lays the groundwork for ongoing collaboration, strengthening Ukrainian youth in their pursuit of dreams.

# Other Projects





# DAR:

## Digital Awareness and Resilience

The Digital Awareness and Resilience (DAR) project is a Nordic project, focused on equipping young people with essential skills to navigate the digital landscape effectively.

It emphasises critical thinking in social media use and addresses issues such as fake news, cyberbullying, and democratic participation. Through educational programs and transnational activities, DAR not only promotes digital literacy but also fosters resilience among students across participating countries, preparing them to become conscientious global citizens equipped to thrive in an ever-evolving digital landscape.



In 2023, we conducted 8 workshops in Danish schools covering various topics including social media usage, fake news, cyberbullying, and debating skills.

We also orchestrated an engaging national debate, bringing together participants from Flakkebjerg Efterskole and New Nordic Youth to delve into the intricate relationship between democracy and social media. The event, attended by 60 students, not only showcased their outstanding debating skills but also fostered insightful discussions on the pressing issues at hand.





Velliv  
Foreningen

# Well-being at Work:

## Psychological Safety and Mental Health for Young Professionals in a Dynamic and Diverse Workplace

This year, Velliv Foreningen, Olga Skalska, and Crossing Borders embarked on a collaborative journey to cultivate psychological safety and promote mental health among young professionals in a dynamic and diverse workplace.

Participants delved into principles and research-based methodologies, honing essential skills such as enhanced self and social awareness, improved self-regulation and co-regulation, and effective conflict management.

**As a workplace characterised by diversity, we encountered unique challenges. However, the program empowered us to:**

- Increase psychological safety
- Strengthen collaborative abilities
- Manage stress and conflicts adeptly
- Enhance communication channels

The participants engaged in a series of enriching activities, including:

**06** Immersive  
Workshops

**03** Group Coaching  
Sessions

**10** Individual  
Sessions

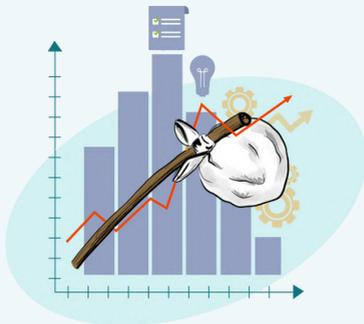


# NordConnect

In October 2023, we launched NordConnect, a triangular partnership between Crossing Borders here in Copenhagen; a vocational college in South Karelia, Finland; and the Norwegian organisation Charge Incubator.

The project collaboration focuses on entrepreneurship, particularly for female entrepreneurs and graduates in the migrant community. As part of the process, the project seeks to engage migrant youth and build a sense of belonging.

Throughout the project period, which extends to October 2024, each of the partners hosts entrepreneurship boot camps and facilitates the creation of a forum for local community building. The Nordic collaboration allows us to exchange experiences, lessons learned, and best practices.



In November 2023, we traveled to South Karelia, Finland, to join forces at the very first entrepreneurship boot camp with the Finnish project lead, Rozabela Singh, and the Norwegian partner representative, Sanaa Talha.

The boot camp made for a powerful opening of the Nordic collaboration, and we are excited to continue building on the fruitful insights and lessons learned throughout the continued collaboration in 2024.

All the ideas, projects, and events mentioned above have been made possible thanks to the **CB Team, Executive and Advisory Boards, funding, national coordinators, global youth facilitators, and project partners both in Denmark and globally.**

Special thanks to our partners in the Copenhagen **UNION Cultural House** for creating a global space for so many civic and grassroots organisations to contribute to making our capital city a safe and vibrant global hub.

*Sincerely,*  
**Garba Diallo**  
*Crossing Borders Director*



# Become a Member

As a member, you contribute to our mission of empowering young people around the world to take leadership for a positive change socially, economically, and politically. Your modest contribution goes a long way, enabling us to execute impactful projects locally in Denmark, throughout Europe, and also on a global scale!



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