

GLOBAL DIALOGUE FOUNDATION AT THE 3rd UNAoC SUMMER SCHOOL 2012



Participants at the 3rd UNAoC Summer School, Portugal - 2012

1 September 2012

Global Dialogue Foundation was recently invited to attend the 3rd annual United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Summer School youth conference.

Project Officer Ms. Melanie Young stated, “I’m excited to have had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with many youth organizations and gain a global perspective on the issues and roles of youth in our modern societies. Also, to develop international partnerships to further the Foundation’s mission.”

The Summer School was organized by the UN AoC in cooperation with other partners, such as the League of Arab States, the Gulbenkian Foundation, the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI), the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Aga Khan Development Network as well as the Government of Brazil.

The 2012 conference, hosted by the University of Coimbra, took place on 6 August to 13 August 2012. Over 135 participants from around the world converged on Coimbra for a week of lectures, panel discussions and interactive workshops, discussing diverse topics from cultural violence and

tolerance, the role of youth in revolution and change within countries as well as integration of migrant cultures.

Youth from six continents debated issues such as the Arab Spring revolution and the cultural clash between Muslims and non-Muslims in Europe and worldwide, bringing together multicultural perspectives to inspire youth to work towards a common understanding between cultures and religions.

Under the theme “Bridging Hearts, Opening Minds and Doing Things Together”, the Summer School aimed to bring youth organizations together to enhance knowledge and to further develop the skills of these youth from over 70 countries in intercultural and inter-religious discourse. The Summer School program saw these youth come together to discuss and compare approaches to youth leadership, participation and project development to contribute to the continuing development of youth as leaders within their communities around the world.

The conclusion of the Summer School coincided with International Youth Day celebrations in Braga, also known as the European Youth Capital of 2012. Activities included an official ceremony to mark IYD celebrations, including a special message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and a visit to Guimarães, 2012 European Capital of Culture.