



DDCP-YD/YPA Eval. (2014) 4

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Youth Peace Ambassadors

Human dignity
and peace-building
by young people in Europe

Project Report

1. Introduction

The Youth Peace Ambassadors project was endorsed as a flagship project by the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe during its 22nd meeting in March 2010¹. As such, it was first defined by the Advisory Council on Youth², and then made operational by the Youth Department Secretariat. It was envisioned the project would promote and support the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue in Europe.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors ran from October 2011 till March 2014 and aimed

- To promote and support the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue through a network of specifically trained young people who strengthen the presence and promote the values of the Council of Europe in conflict-affected areas and communities.

The project objectives were:

- To promote the presence and the role of young people as positive actors of change in peace-building processes;
- To strengthen the role of young people in identifying and speaking up against human rights violations, including discrimination, hate speech and those human rights violations affecting especially young people and children;
- To support the field presence and activities of the Council of Europe by fostering cooperation with key stakeholders, partners, non-governmental organisations working in the field of peace-building in order to promote the values of the Council of Europe;
- To develop the impact and the expertise of the Council of Europe's youth sector in conflict affected areas through non-formal education activities with young people;
- To develop the competences of 50 *youth peace ambassadors* in human rights promotion and protection, conflict transformation, peace-building and intercultural dialogue, as well as other specific competences according to the participants' needs, related to their role as future ambassadors;
- To support and give visibility to at least 50 local youth-led projects for peace-building in conflict-affected areas and communities;
- To enhance the *youth ambassadors* capacity to take action at a local level in environments affected by previous or ongoing conflicts;
- To advance youth policy's role in peace-building and conflict transformation;
- To create and support a European network of *youth peace ambassadors* to secure the sustainability and medium-term impact of the project.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors are young people from across Europe motivated to build a better world where a different peace is possible. They should be:

- Young: So that they stay longer in the YPA networking process.
- Community leaders, belonged to community organisations, or network, institution and/or informal group, able to act as multipliers.
- Coming from a conflict affected community; communities that are experiencing or recovering from armed conflict, frozen conflicts, racism and aggressive nationalism and

¹ The Council of Europe youth sector is governed by a system of co-management, bringing together representatives of member states governments (European Steering Committee for Youth) and of youth non-governmental organisations (Advisory Council on Youth) to propose priorities and programmes to be implemented. Further information available at: www.coe.int/youth.

² The Advisory Council on Youth is composed by 30 representatives from youth NGOs and networks that provide opinions and input on all youth sector activities. It is the organ that guaranties the voice of the young people in the Council of Europe. It is in charge to define, together with the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), whose members are ministry representatives and organisations responsible for youth matters, the priorities, objectives and budgets of the Council of Europe youth policies. More information at: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/co_management_en.asp#TopOfPage

hate speech. Discrimination and human rights violations experienced by Roma communities or young migrants and internally displaced people are also covered by the project.

2. Activities undertaken

A key aspect of the project was the training of the youth ambassadors using the experience with intercultural and non-formal education approaches of the European Youth Centres. The participants, divided in group A, B, and C, have been trained during residential seminars, complemented by distance learning using an e-learning platform and mentoring, while practicing with youth work in their organisations and communities.

Residential training seminars.

The participants of the YPA project, have followed a similar path of training, although starting at different moments. They also meet up to share experiences and support each other in learning, action taking and by doing so build up to act as a network.

The training program for each group has comprised of two residential training seminars separately. A third training seminar in 2013 aimed at consolidating learning according to the needs identified by participants as a result of their projects and initiatives, and which mixes participants from the three groups.

The trainings fully emphasise in their approach the principles of non-formal education, focusing on experiential and intercultural learning as basis for addressing topics such as human rights, conflict transformation and peace-building. It highlights the links between intercultural dialogue, human rights and conflict transformation as key elements in long-term sustainable peace processes, while exploring and developing participants' knowledge, skills, attitudes and values in each of these areas.

E-learning Units and mentoring.

To ensure continuity between the residential seminars e-learning and mentoring was provided. E-learning allows developing participants' knowledge on the main themes of the project, to foster communication and cooperation and to share practices. E-learning units first addressed common learning areas and, at a later stage, were tailored to participant's learning needs and experiences.

Every participant was coached by a mentor, which was also a trainers in the project. The mentors were responsible for monitoring the learning process of the participants, and accompanying their project definition and implementation. The mentor was in charge of six to seven mentees, and have followed them throughout the training process. These six or seven participants, also, formed mentoring groups, that had the function of peer to peer mentoring support.

Practice at community level

Participants were expected to transfer their learning into practice in their community, by initiating various activities to promote youth participation and to contribute to peace-building processes. Support is offered, in the form of peer group review and mentoring, to assist and contribute to reflection on the learning they can take out of the development and implementation of their projects.

In all three groups, participants developed a project idea they tried to implement in their local community. Groups A and B, in addition, have implemented a first small 'test' initiative in their contexts during their "practice phase".

Support measures and networking

Participants were provided, if requested, with support letters for funding applications for their projects or for when they contacted local officials and organisations. A simple procedure was in place allowing participants to request the use of the YPA and Council of Europe logos or

get help with contacting Council of Europe Field Offices and Representatives of the Joint Council on Youth.

The project included measures to support the creation of a network of youth peace ambassadors encompassing members of all three groups. The Networking seminar held in November 2012 should help to start-up the network by allowing participants to get to know each other, reflect, share and discuss the aim and role, objectives and initial action plans for the network.

In the fall of 2013 two seminars organised by the YPA network members were supported within the framework of the project allowing the network to further develop; a regional meeting of 'youth peace builders in the Western Balkans' and a thematic meeting on 'Peace building through a gender lens'.

3. The Achievements

The Youth Peace Ambassadors and their developed competences.

About 450 youth had applied for the project. 66 participants of the 76 youth selected, successfully completed the Youth Peace Ambassadors project. They attended at least two training seminars, completed 50% of the e-learning units and developed a community peacebuilding project idea, although not all these projects were fully developed and implemented. Participants came from 25 countries³ and were aged between 17 and 26 when they started. About a quarter of the original participants moved to a different organisation and/or country which complicated the continuation of their project and/or involvement in the YPA project.

All together the group of participants developed competences in the three different fields listed in the objectives; human rights promotion and protection, conflict transformation and peace-building, intercultural dialogue. Although intercultural dialogue was less well covered and the integration of the three fields could have been stronger.

The analysis of the learning achievements in terms of attitudes, skills and knowledge, shows that some attitudes (as motivation to learn more about conflict affected countries, openmindedness towards intercultural and minority issues) and skills (as project management, training, and partly on advocacy) were very much developed. The training seminars addressed conflict management and analyses. However knowledge, according to the participants, could have been developed more, specifically regarding peacebuilding in the positive sense related to the needs of young people.

Nonetheless around two third of participants, after the Youth Peace Ambassadors project, feel clearly ready and prepared to take action at local level, even the ones expressing some doubts or precautions are convinced and motivated.

The Participants projects

Thirty two project initiatives implemented by the Youth Peace Ambassadors participants were documented although more initiatives were developed. As a result of the Youth Peace Ambassadors project (the learning developed, the support received and the motivation developed during the course) at least half of the participants⁴ designed and implemented local community projects that are in line with the overall aims of the YPA project and the

³ List of countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo*, Lithuania, Northern Ireland - United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine. (*All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.)

⁴ Out of the 33 participants that answered the questionnaire "Project Description" launched at the end of the YPA project, 32 had undertaken their youth project. The number of projects implemented is probably higher than 32, but it is difficult to estimate it, as the proportion of participants that have not implemented a project is probably much higher among the non-respondents.

quality criteria developed for the participants' projects. Thematically, 32% of the projects are about human rights issues, and 29% about intercultural dialogue. Peace-building is tackled directly by 11% of the projects, and youth policy by 3%. A quarter of the projects didn't clearly fit in one of these categories and instead included a mixture of cultural, sport or youth empowerment initiatives. The majority of the participants projects are related to educational activities (57,1% of the defined YPA projects are training courses, 21,4% are awareness raising activities), and about 10 percent were advocacy-related actions (7,1% of the projects refer to campaigning, and 3,6% to advocacy). Most of the projects have a local and international dimension but they rarely transcend beyond the youth directly participating in the project.

The projects tackling human rights were the most diversified (55% HRE, 33% awareness raising and 11% advocacy). About 20% of the projects have succeeded in involving people from minorities as participants in their projects.

The most specific target groups of the projects related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation are internally displaced people (two projects in Georgia, one in Azerbaijan). as well as bringing together people from different sides of a conflict, in the case of older conflicts (this has been the case in several conflicts in the Balkans, or between Armenia and Turkey).

Most participants projects tried to reach out to the local (youth) community through posters and flyers, Facebook posts and some sites, to raise awareness and ensure participants to their activities. Some activities got local media coverage and had a opening attended by local officials and/or Council of Europe representatives. At European level a website⁵ was created providing information about the YPA project and other initiatives of the Youth Department in the field of Peacebuilding. An YPA Facebook page was created by the participants; it is regularly updated with information about the network and its projects.

YPA participants have been involved as trainers and organisers the Regional Youth Peace Camps Albania and Kosovo. Participants from the Caucasus and Balkans were further more involved as junior trainers in two YPC's at the European Youth Centres.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network

The Youth Peace Ambassadors networking conference held in November 2012 saw the launch of an informal YPA network. Since then the network has started functioning: 3 working groups are formed: Partnership (linking to other organisations and to the Council of Europe), Communication (internal and external) and Engagement (coordinating YPA network projects). Between 15 to 20 people are actively involved at any given time, and about 80% of the activities that were planned in the consolidation seminars held in 2013 have been implemented. These planned projects included the organisation of a thematic seminar on gender based violence and peacebuilding, a regional seminar in the Western Balkan region, a Study Session, a training course in Ukraine in 2014 and an action Day for 21 September the international Day for Peace in support of the No Hate Speech Movement. While there is concern over the sustainability of the network, some facts are promising: the members of the network share a common identity feeling, YPA members have been able to fundraise for quite a lot of projects. (For example a second Study Session in 2015 organised in cooperation with other Youth organisations and various training proposals have been submitted for funding in the fall for 2014.) The YPA network has succeeded to reach a large group of youth stakeholders through the Facebook page managed by YPA, which reaches more than 900 young people. The network members are open to new forms of participation in the network and considering either cooperation with new youth organisations, and/or to open membership to new members. Young people who have not participated in the YPA project itself, but in activities organised by YPA participants, have shown repeated interest in the YPA network.

⁵ Youthpeace.coe.int

The cooperation with key stakeholders, promoting the values and work of the Council of Europe and the role of Youth in the field of Peacebuilding in Europe.

At least seven Council of Europe field offices have been contacted. Interaction with the field offices has been very different depending on the country, the involvement of the representative, or the needs of the participant's project. Four field offices responded favourable and visited YPA activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan, Albania and Serbia. New partnerships are being built with organisations with very similar profiles as the YPA participants. The opportunity to collaborate with existing initiatives of the Council of Europe (such as Youth Peace Camps, World Forum on Democracy and the No Hate Speech Movement) has been very positively appreciated by participants, and is a positive step towards a more sustainable commitment of participants with the Council of Europe values and activities.

Some advocacy initiatives have been launched, mostly short term such as awareness-raising on International Days, letters of protest for the banning of Twitter in Turkey. Members of the YPA network were able to take a stand and initiate short term initiatives such speaking up against the use of teenagers in the frontline of violent demonstrations in Northern Ireland, letter to Ukrainian embassies which succeeded in getting an answer in Azerbaijan. There is motivation among participants and a big potential for speaking up against human rights violations.

4. Evaluation:

The Youth Peace Ambassadors project was evaluated by two consultants. The external evaluation was reviewed during an evaluation meeting attended by a selection of participants, trainers, representatives of the Advisory Council and members of the secretariat.

The main achievements and shortcomings of the YPA project are highlighted in the following table grouped by the objectives of the project:

<i>The Youth Peace Ambassadors and their developed competences</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the competences of 50 <i>youth peace ambassadors</i> in human rights promotion and protection, conflict transformation, peace-building and intercultural dialogue, as well as other specific competences according to the participants' needs, related to their role as future ambassadors; 	
Achieved because:	Shortcomings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 66 Young people from 25 countries completed the project. · Participants and trainers identify new learning in a large variety of fields. · Participants have put into practice learning related to awarenessraising for human rights and management of projects. · A lot of emphasis was put in the development of attitudes and skills · Around two thirds of participants felt clearly ready and prepared to take action at local level after the training · About 20% of the implemented projects include minorities among their participants, several targeted youth directly affected by conflict, as internally displaced, or divided communities · Participants launched at their own initiative joint advocacy issues related to peacebuilding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The programme of activities and the fact that participants came from a wide variety of different local contexts resulted in a project that was too broad in scope. · Involving (very) young participants means there are limitations and lack of experiences and knowledge. Young people also travel, need to complete studies and some even military service. Expecting them to become community activists therefore is a challenge and maybe cooperation with their sending organisations should have been secured more. · There was insufficient integration of Human Rights, Intercultural Dialogue and Peacebuilding issues in the programme of the training seminar and the project overall. In addition there was insufficiently focussed on how peace or its absence influence youth needs. · The two consultants found that participants lacked

and human rights.	<p>self-reflection over the learning process, and lacked the ability to define their learning as a competence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Participants replicated the kind of projects they knew, most training courses, not the ones that were more meaningful to their context such as exchanges, partnership building or advocacy. · The project assessed, in the preparation and implementation phase, insufficiently the needs of youth in situations of conflict wanting to engage in peacebuilding and those needs therefore were taken insufficiently into account when developing the programme of the training seminars.
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The Participants projects	
- To support and give visibility to at least 50 local youth-led projects for peace-building in conflict-affected areas and communities;	
Achieved because:	Shortcomings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 66 Participants developed a project idea and at least half of the participants implemented their local projects in line with the overall aims of the YPA project. · The human rights and intercultural dialogue dimensions are usually well defined in the projects. · Quality criteria were defined for the YPA local projects that helped participants and trainers to initiate the process of defining the project and determining their scope. · The visibility of the projects was reasonable to good at local level including a few times news coverage in local media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Quality criteria defined for the YPA local projects mixed minimum requirements and quality indicators and it was insufficiently understood by participants how the criteria translate to their realities. · In general terms, the projects were weak in their needs assessment and measuring concrete outcome and follow up · The peace-building specificity of the projects is in general terms quite weak · Only 32 projects were sufficiently documented by participants therefore the visibility of the local projects was weak at international level. The youthpeace website is not always up to date.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network	
- To create and support a European network of <i>youth peace ambassadors</i> to secure the sustainability and medium-term impact of the project.	
Achieved because:	Shortcomings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The network was established. · 3 working groups are taking action. · About 80% of the initial activities planned have been implemented. · New project initiatives have been developed and submitted for funding. · The members of the network share a common identity feeling and plans for inviting more members to join being developed. · The network succeeds to reach 900 youth stakeholders through its Facebook page. · Youth and organisations contacted on behalf of the network express interest to continue cooperation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The general objectives of the network are still quite loose and there is a gap between the general objectives and the working groups which makes it difficult to meet the objectives · The level in which the YPA members represent their organisations is quite weak which effects sustainability and outreach. · There is quite a lot of concern over the sustainability of the network, which includes lack of an action plan, situation of membership and funding.

The cooperation with key stakeholders,
- To support the field presence and activities of the Council of Europe by fostering cooperation with key stakeholders, partners, non-governmental organisations working in the field of peace-building in order to promote the values of the Council of Europe;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop the impact and the expertise of the Council of Europe's youth sector in conflict affected areas through non-formal education activities with young people 	
Achieved because:	Shortcomings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · At least 7 CoE field offices have been contacted. · Partnerships are being built with new youth organisations · Participants have been involved in other Council of Europe initiatives as the No Hate Speech Movement, Youth Peace Camps, World Forum on Democracy, and others. · The diversity of the participants allowed them and the Youth Department to learn about the different realities across Europe of youth living in conflict affected communities. · Lots of new educational materials were developed for this course or existing materials adapted bringing a human rights and/or intercultural dialogue perspective to a situation of conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cooperation with the participants' organisations, with the grassroots local community, or with peacebuilding or human rights organisations has been less than expected. · Participants felt little support from their sending organisation but also many did not communicate efficiently back to their organisations what they gained. · Not all participants were rooted in the community they wanted to work with · Funding for community level projects was difficult to secure. · Existing organisations in the peacebuilding field were not sufficiently identified and involved in the preparation and implementation phases of the YPA project. Participants could have been attracted from these organisations, and cooperation with them more promoted. · Participants did not always manage to formulate the mutual benefit of involving other organisations and/or the field offices in their project. · The programme of activities moved to little from conflict analyses towards assessing the meaning of positive peace and the needs of young people therein.

<p><i>promoting the values and work of the Council of Europe and the role of Youth in the field of Peacebuilding in Europe.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote the presence and the role of young people as positive actors of change in peace-building processes; - To strengthen the role of young people in identifying and speaking up against human rights violations, including discrimination, hate speech and those human rights violations affecting especially young people and children; - To advance youth policy's role in peace-building and conflict transformation; 	
Achieved because:	Shortcomings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · At least 32 projects were implemented reaching out to conflict affected communities in which the human rights and intercultural dialogue dimensions are usually well defined. · Participants launched joint advocacy issues related to peacebuilding and children/youth (regarding Northern Ireland and violence in Ukraine) and human rights (rights to education and media freedom) · YPA participants spoke at the World Forum on Democracy, were involved as trainers and organisers in two Youth Peace Camps in the Balkan region and two at the European Youth Centres, and were very engaged in the European Action day for Peace on 21 September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There is a lack of reflection over how violence affects youth, and about the role of youth in peacebuilding that could lead to youth policy demands. · Most of participants are not aware of the existing advocacy channels for influencing youth policy. · Cooperation with local councils as also members of the Joint Council on Youth was rarely established. · The programme did not sufficiently highlight the objective to advance youth policy and reflect with participants on how it could be achieved.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations.

The Youth Peace Ambassadors project has reached its aim to support the creation of an YPA network of specifically trained young people that promote the values of the Council of Europe in conflict-affected areas and communities. The participants went through an intensive personal growing process and a significant number of projects have been implemented in the local communities and more are being developed. At the same time, due to the ambitious and broad scope of the project, some of its objectives have been less realised than planned.

The diversity of the participants and the realities they came from was difficult to respond to, although it also provided an important opportunity for learning for the participants, trainers and the Youth Department. The educational programme empowered most participants to take action after the seminars, especially educational activities. This is evident from the participants projects developed and the campaign activities and projects implemented through the YPA network. However the outreach to the community and the visibility of the projects of the participants could have been better, especially at European level, as also the networking with other organisations and the Council of Europe field offices. The Youth Department gained valuable experiences and understanding of the realities of young people living in communities effected by conflict, however more work with young people and research is needed to fully comprehend what positive peace means for the reality of young people and how best to respond to their needs, for example through youth policy.

Therefore while the Youth Peace Ambassadors project was able to fore fill most expectations, more could still be done by the trained youth in the YPA network, the Joint Council and the Youth Department secretariat to promote and support the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue.

To further secure and strengthen this overall aim of the Youth Peace Ambassadors initiative, the following recommendations were listed by the consultants and participants, trainers, Advisory Council representatives and members of staff attending the evaluation meeting.

For the design of similar courses in the future, it was recommended that

- The staff and Advisory Council should revisit how decisions were made when defining the format of the project (specially the design of an educational programme for the purpose of creating a reliable and sustainable network, the number of participants, groups and parallel courses) and try to draw some conclusions on how better to translation a political decision into an educational programme; it is probably more adequate that the Advisory Council sets the objectives and not the formats of such educational processes
- When Human Rights, Intercultural Dialogue and Peace building are combined, in future projects, to identify and work on the synergies and intersections between those three fields avoiding too general and divergent approaches in the projects.
- The educational aspects that did not function so well could be strengthened (e-learning platform, peer reviews, personal learning plan...) by bringing together lessons learnt from other long term training courses
- When involving very young persons in a long term project to anticipate the learning needs and changing personal circumstances of this target group, consider closer cooperation with their sending organisations.
- Trainers and the programme should insure that the policy dimension is sufficiently addressed if it is one of the objectives of the project.
- Trainers should promote participants' reflection over their learning process (what did they learn, how was this relevant to them, what will they put into practice...).

In relation to local projects developed within the framework of international courses, it was recommended:

- To anticipate in the design of community oriented local projects the existing and/or potential link and interaction between young people and the rest of the community and between the local and the international levels.
- To clearly identify and define the underlying notion of quality applied to participants projects and based on that to articulate in a motivating and operational way the quality standards and criteria linked to it.
- To define the quality criteria as a range of gradual degrees of accomplishment (rubric) rather than as a checklist (Yes/No), so that they can guide the continuous improvement of the project.
- Although not all projects need funding, and several other funding institutions exist, to define the quality criteria together with the EYF and make sure the criteria are concrete enough, and fit to some extent the EYF priorities and vice-versa.
- For the EYF to consider supporting advocacy projects, which are usually very difficult to fund at national level, and are crucial to foster democracy in the member states.
- For the Youth Department to help link up participants trained by the Council of Europe through different programs (incl. TOTHRE, YPC, RYAP) that implement local initiatives.

In relation to peacebuilding activities, the recommendations made were:

- To prioritise strategic fields of action. It would be relevant to identify and address the aspects related to armed conflict or other forms of violence which are affecting young people. For example through consultation with YPA participants, NGO's active in the field and field offices. This should be done in the preparation and during the implementation of projects addressing peacebuilding.
- To explore how peacebuilding issues could be addressed through youth work, for example by integrating peacebuilding activities in existing human right education programmes run in the relevant regions.
- To define the build-up expertise in the field of peace building by launching a reflection process which would depart from the individual learning of YPA participants, trainers and educational advisers and make this available for potential partners and youth in the field and future peacebuilding projects of the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe.
- To reinforce the triangle policy-research-practice: The Youth Department could launch a field research with the help of the YPA participants on how violent conflict affects young people covering also possible youth policy responses.

For the general follow-up of the YPA course, it is recommended:

- To conclude, update and improve the existing documentation of the course in order to consolidate the increased impact and developed expertise of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.
- To improve the valorisation of the project, for example by; updating the web site, posting the existing reports of the seminars, publishing the reports of the YPA projects on websites of culture of peace good practices; elaboration of new documentation with good practices or personal testimonies together with an overall description of the achievements of the course.
- To build on the result of the evaluation of the YPA project, identify what the YPA project can contribution to the existing youth policies at European level, define a key message and actions to take and to promote these within the Council of Europe structures and among other stakeholders.
- For the Youth Department to provide more information, and opportunities to use the existing Council of Europe advocacy channels for Youth Policy development (Youth Policy Reviews, etc.) for YPA network members.

Specifically on the YPA network, it is recommended:

- To strengthen the reflections and discussions on the long term vision of the YPA network. This should imply more specific objectives about the reality the network members want to improve, and a multiyear action plan that would allow working towards these objectives.
- To resolve several logistical issues, such as improving communication within the network, external communication including their own website, and participating in external media channels, ensuring a fairer distribution of tasks.
- To ensure the sustainability of the network regarding members. Two strategies can be envisioned: strengthening the relation with the sending organisations, and/or to open the door to new members, according to certain criteria.
- To set concrete mechanisms of cooperation -even if only for now small concrete tasks- between the youth sector of the Council of Europe and the YPA network. Those initial experiences should contribute to shaping and defining a possible frame of future cooperation.
- To strengthen the peacebuilding dimension of the network, YPA participants can contact peacebuilding organisations and find synergies to strengthen their respective goals and tasks.
- To build a strategic relation with external actors beyond short term-projects. For this, it could make sense to revise the objectives of the network, and according to them identify in each case who could be the strategic key stakeholders.
- To identify, prioritise, and address the most relevant actors for the YPA network (local communities/ CoE field offices/ NGOs / Youth policy representatives) and share with them the main results of the YPA project and introduce the YPA network.
- To connect with other participants trained by the Council of Europe through different programs such as Youth Peace Camp, ToTHRE, ENTER! and Roma Youth Action Plan.