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# **“YOUTH FOR PEACEFUL EUROPE”**

## **Study session on cooperation towards sustainable culture of peace**

Report of the study session held by  
Youth Peace Ambassadors Network

in co-operation with the  
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest  
19-24 March 2018

This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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## I. Executive summary

**Youth for peaceful Europe - study session on cooperation towards sustainable culture of peace** was organised by the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network with contribution of the Youth Peace Camp Alumni and in cooperation with the European Youth Centre Budapest of the Council of Europe on 19-24 March 2018.

The study session was organised as YPAN believes that young people could be actors in addressing challenges in European fragile peace processes, such as post-conflict transitions in Balkans, frozen conflicts in Cyprus, in the region of both banks of the river Nistru/Dniestr, in the South Caucasus and recently occurred conflicts in Ukraine.

It is important to emphasize that the study session was a space for connection between two long-term projects in the field of peacebuilding of the Council of Europe: the Youth Peace Ambassadors project (and Network as its outcome) and Youth Peace Camp alumni. As a network, we have been interested in developing common actions together with Peace Campers and peacebuilders bringing new perspectives to the field and enlarging the synergies to build sustainable culture of peace.

**The aim of the** study session was to empower young people involved in peacebuilding to contribute to the strengthening of the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence.

### **The study session had the following objectives:**

- To map conflict risks in the communities of participants and at the pan-European level and respond to them with innovative human rights education approaches that youth can apply in peace-building.
- To create a common space for participants to share their experiences, challenges, achievements and practices of peacebuilding initiatives on local level.
- To equip peacebuilders with tools related to conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning including the Council of Europe's relevant work and tools.
- To explore and build non-violent tools and methodologies to achieve democracy and human rights, including civil resistance.
- To equip participants with advocacy and project management skills and encourage them to plan common activities promoting culture of peace at the European, regional and local level.
- To establish sustainable cooperation between Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and Youth Peace Camp Alumni as well as peacebuilders with experience outside the Council of Europe youth field.

The study session gathered 36 participants from different countries all over Europe and beyond, so that they could find out the ways to cooperate towards sustainable culture of peace. They mentioned they were facing various challenges to peace on an everyday basis such as existing political conflicts, personal conflicts, lack of awareness of their local community of the importance of peace, missing competences to be the actors in conflict transformation, lack of information on existing political conflicts and how they affect the life of people.

Participants concluded that as a way to respond to the above-mentioned challenges, they would like to develop their curiosity on the existing challenges to peace and keep on sharing first-hand experience stories, to continue international cooperation towards peace, to explore more the idea of peacebuilding, to be able to appreciate diversity that they were representing. They also noticed that conflict transformation, peacebuilding and non-violent communication could be the answers to conflicts in Europe. Participants also expressed their will and need to keep on cooperating in the field of peacebuilding at the international level.

The recommendation that the YPAN and the participants of the study session have after its implementation is to create and design more spaces in which young people could exchange their experiences on conflicts and co-create international initiatives towards building the culture of peace.

## **II. Introduction**

This report is prepared by the team of facilitators of study session Youth for Peaceful Europe and contains information about each phase of the preparation, implementation and evaluation. It represents all the details about the 3 mentioned phases of the study session, but also gives further insight on participants and their follow-up projects.

### **The background to the session**

Even though the Global Peace Index ranks Europe as the world's most peaceful region, there are still lots of challenges in European fragile peace processes, such as post-conflict transitions in the Balkans, frozen conflicts in Cyprus, banks of the river Nistru/Dniestr, the South Caucasus, Sukhum/i, and Tshinvali, and recently occurred conflicts in Ukraine. Threats of peace are not only the issue of conflict-affected communities, as nationalism and a crisis of political legitimacy in Europe undermine peaceful coexistence as well.

Bearing all those aspects in mind, YPAN acknowledges the crucial role of young people in a new focus for peacebuilding efforts, especially with respect to social integration and violence reduction efforts. We would like to focus on intercultural dialogue and learning as a tool of conflict transformation and a tool of conflict prevention. In order to do so, we see the need to empower young people experienced in peacebuilding to contribute to strengthen the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence (with special focus on YPAN members and YPC alumni).

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) is an informal network of young peacebuilders across Europe who work with and in conflict-affected communities. The network was developed from the 'Youth Peace Ambassadors' project (YPA) of the Council of Europe. The network members are individuals and youth organizations working with and for young people in their communities. The YPA project was not a pioneer project of the Council of Europe in the peacebuilding field, as in 2003 the Youth Peace Camp (YPC) was initiated, which every year since 2003 allows young people and youth organizations from conflict-stricken regions to engage in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning, through which young people are able to gain positive experiences in living together.

Considering the projects above, both promotes and supports the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue. Since 2013 several members of YPAN are involved in Youth Peace Camps as facilitators trying to make connections and to build cooperation between YPAN and Youth Peace Camper participants.

Based on our understanding of peace, which is about the approach that peace is more than the absence of war, but also building inclusive societies, we strongly believe that the cooperation and strong connections of young people involved in YPAN and YPC will bring about changes in local communities and they support peace campers' engagement in peacebuilding on European and local level. Youth Peace Camp participants have experience in sharing their stories and listening to stories from the "other side", stories that they are not used to hear. They can also share their experience in connecting conflicted communities. They understand that the opportunity to share human dignity and human rights are a ground for dialogue. However, as it results from the report of the Youth Peace Camp 2016, there is a need to provide further learning opportunities for Peace Campers and young people more experienced in that field, as well as to create a network in which former participants could ensure greater impact for their local work.

With this study session we aimed to respond to that need. The YPA network has experience in implementing both projects as a network at the international level (long-term educational projects on democracy and peacebuilding, study sessions on peace activism and regional languages, regional peace conference in Balkans, training courses on culture of peace and online activities for Peace Day). YPAN is also present in the local communities through the activism of its members.

However, keeping in mind the evaluation reports of the YPA project, we mapped the need to strengthen the peacebuilding dimension of the network and connect with other participants trained by the Council of Europe and also with experienced peacebuilders from other fields, so that we could gain a broader perspective on culture of peace.

We have recognized that connection between these two target groups could create an effective and interesting process, that could improve building a dialogue among sides of the conflict and help communities to leave prejudices towards each other behind. We have recognized that we share common values and we have the willingness to be active in the promotion of human rights, peace and respect of diversity, we lack the opportunity to reach a wider audience and using which tools to become more effective as peace activists. Thus, we see the need of connection of YPAN members and Youth Peace Camp alumni. However, as Europe nowadays is not devoid of conflict and risks to peace, we believe there is a need for wide synergies to build culture of peace.

As a network, we are interested in developing common actions together with Youth Peace Camp participants and peacebuilders bringing new perspectives to the field. By enlarging the cooperation with Youth Peace Camp and other actors in the field, we envision to strengthen the YPA Network. This study session falls in the long-term strategic plan of the YPAN which focuses on youth empowerment, human rights, peace and dialogue and network development

in the upcoming 2 years. Combination of the experience in organizing peacebuilding activities, new perspectives of the peacebuilders out of the work of the Council of Europe, and the Peace Camp participants' expertise in working together with the "other side" of conflict will, on the one hand create space to map the needs of communities and on the other hand it will create safe space for sharing and learning new approaches of peacebuilding that fosters dialogue and mutual understanding. This study session will, on the one hand enhance the effectiveness of new members as peace activists and on the other hand, will create space to Peace Campers and other peacebuilders to join the network and to act together on local and European level for peacebuilding.

The Global Peace Index ranks Europe as the world's most peaceful region. But there are still lots of challenges in European fragile peace processes, such as post-conflict transitions, frozen conflicts in different communities, conflicts related to independence and autonomy. Threats of peace are not only the issue of conflict-affected communities, as nationalism and a crisis of political legitimacy in Europe are undermining peaceful coexistence as well.

Bearing all those aspects in mind, we see the crucial role of young people in a new focus for peacebuilding efforts, especially with respect to social integration and violence reduction efforts. We would like to focus on intercultural dialogue and learning as a tool of conflict transformation and a tool of conflict prevention. In order to do so, we see the need to empower young people experienced in peacebuilding to contribute to strengthen the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence.

The study session falls in the long-term strategic plan of the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network which focuses on youth empowerment, human rights, peace and dialogue and network development in the upcoming two years, as well as on combination of the experience in organizing peacebuilding activities and new perspectives of the peace builders out of the Council of Europe work.

## **The aims and objectives**

### **Aim:**

The study session aims to empower young people involved in peacebuilding to contribute to the strengthening of the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence.

### **Objectives:**

- To map conflict risks in the communities of participants and at the pan-European level and respond to them with innovative human rights education approaches that youth can apply in peace-building.
- To create a common space for participants to share their experiences, challenges, achievements and practices of peacebuilding initiatives on local level.
- To equip peacebuilders with tools related to conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning including the Council of Europe's relevant work and tools.

- To explore and build non-violent tools and methodologies to achieve democracy and human rights, including civil resistance.
- To equip participants with advocacy and project management skills and encourage them to plan common activities promoting culture of peace at the European, regional and local level.
- To establish sustainable cooperation between Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and Youth Peace Camp Alumni as well as peacebuilders with experience outside the Council of Europe youth field.

### The profile of participants number and other information

YPAN made sure of the inclusion of participants coming from different backgrounds and different fields of youth work environment. The selection of participants was done in a way that one third of them were Youth Peace Ambassadors Network Members, one third were Youth Peace Camp Alumni and the rest were young people involved in peace-building on different levels. Diversity was ensured during the selection and composition of the group to form a group with different realities in the participating communities, with different approaches in their work, representing different geography of the participating communities and cultural differences. Participants were expected to provide a contribution to the study session from their personal experience and knowledge of the topic and provide input to the construction of the follow up.

The group was formed of young people coming from Council of Europe member states (plus Kosovo\*, Sukhum/i, Israel and Palestine), who are involved in youth work connected to peace-building, conflict transformation or human rights. YPAN received 702 applications so it was very difficult to select the participants. The call was disseminated through various social media channels, with the help of the Youth Department and the YPAN FB Page post itself reached around 15.000 people.

How many participants did you apply for?	36
How many people applied for the study session?	702
How many participants were finally invited?	36
How many participants did actually attend?	36
What was the gender distribution of the participants: male/female/other	14 male 22 female
What was the average age of participants?	25
What was the average age of the preparatory team?	28

*\*All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*



**Number of participants by country of residence**

Signatories of the European Cultural Convention					
Albania	2	Georgia	3	Russian Federation	1
Armenia	2	Hungary	1	Serbia	2
Azerbaijan	2	Italy	2	Spain	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	The Netherlands	1	Turkey	2
Cyprus	2	Poland	2	Ukraine	3
France	1	Romania	1	Kosovo	3
Israel	1	Palestine	1	Sukhum/i	1

**Eligibility Criteria for participants were as follows:**

- Young peacebuilders including Youth Peace Ambassadors Network members and Youth Peace Camp alumni.
- Age of participants: 18-30 (however some of the participants may be over the age of 30);
- Having good command of English.
- Being motivated to cooperate with the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network or other represented individuals.
- Being motivated to act as multipliers and implement local, regional or international activities in their communities.
- Having practical experience in youth work and activism.
- Being able to attend the whole period of the study session.

**Presentation of the organisers**

**About Youth Peace Ambassadors Network:**

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) is an informal network of 71 young peacebuilders across Europe who work with and in conflict-affected communities. The YPAN was developed from the **'Youth Peace Ambassadors' project**. The project itself was proposed by the Advisory Council on Youth and endorsed by the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe in 2010 and lasted from April 2011 until December 2013. The mission of YPAN is to develop a culture of peace by empowering young people, promoting human rights, dignity, equality and respect of diversity through education, advocacy and other non-violent actions. The YPAN brings together 57 young people from 26 countries of the Council of Europe. Members of the Network are involved in work with and for young people within different structures: organizations, institutions, informal groups. Therefore, in the peace-building activities, the Network has a big support from youth organizations all over Europe.

More information can be found: [ypa.network](http://ypa.network)  
<http://ypbm.es/ypan/>  
<http://www.coe.int/web/youth-peace-dialogue>  
<https://www.facebook.com/YouthPeaceAmbassadorsNetwork>

The YPA project was not a pioneer project of the Council of Europe in the peacebuilding field, as in 2003 the **Youth Peace Camp** was initiated, which since 2003 every year allows young people and youth organizations from conflict-stricken regions to engage in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning, through which young people are able to gain positive experiences in living together. Considering both projects YPA and YPC, both promote and support the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue.

### III. CONTENT OF THE STUDY SESSION

#### The topic and list of the main contents/issues discussed

The study session covered so many issues regarding youth work, peacebuilding, human rights education and conflict transformation. On the first day, participants were able to discuss about how they understand some of the terms and definitions that we always use without questioning. These terms include peace, conflict, culture of peace, peacebuilding and peace education. Many of the participants had different understanding of the same term. They perceived them differently and interpreted according to their own realities and experiences. It was very valuable to discuss various approaches and points of view.

On the second day, participants built up on the “conflict” discussions they had started on the first day. They discovered the conflict as a dynamic body and discussed about the difference and relations between conflict management, conflict transformation and conflict resolution. The methodology used during these sessions let participants learn from one another with effective peer learning. Participants then discussed the real work examples. They mapped the conflicts happening in their own societies and in Europe, also trying to foresee possible future conflicts. After mapping the negative conflicts and possible threats to the culture of peace in our societies, participants discussed about their capacity as a peacebuilder to address those issues. They discovered the values, attitudes and behaviours a peacebuilder should have. On top of it, they shared their own experiences and discussed the path of the peace builder with ups and downs.

The following day the discussions started with Non-violent Communication and its applications. Participants played a simulation game which provoked them to get violent, and the long debriefing after the game gave opportunity for the people to dive deeper in the discussion about using non-violent communication as a tool for enabling cooperation. In the afternoon of the same day, participants also discussed the role of emotions in the communication as well as active listening as a concept. The fourth day of the study session gave space to the participants to share their contributions. Some of the main issues that triggered discussion in this session were as follows: Online Peacebuilding when it is impossible to meet offline (with special focus on Israeli- Palestinian Conflict, Application called “Kahoot” as a tool for intercultural learning and dialogue, Storytelling as a tool for peacebuilding, Nicosia Photo Walks and Culture HUB CY in Cyprus, Unarmed Civilian Protection and Intercultural Dialogue, Youth Human Rights Movement, peacebuilding project in Sukhum/i and Kosovo, Partners for People in Need Association, peacebuilding and rule of law and Theatre of the oppressed).

The following days of the study session created opportunities to discuss how to address the conflicts that were defined previously. The role of young people and youth work were on the table and it was discussed how youth can work to make a change. Participants were introduced to two main projects of the Council of Europe: Youth Peace Ambassadors Training Course and Youth Peace Camp. Then they discussed how to structure the cooperation between the people having taken part in these activities. Participants discovered the possible role of YPAN especially for keeping Youth Peace Camp alumni connected. These discussions also led us to the youth work structure in Europe and participants discovered opportunities and grants offered by Council of Europe as well as EU.

## Methodology

The program of the six-day study session was divided into three main phases, which responded to the objectives of the activity.

### **The first phase - common language for peace**

This phase gave participants space to create common space, understand the background of the others, identities and personal motivations, as well as experiences and challenges. Organisers made sure we all speak the same language as for the peacebuilding notions (culture of peace, conflict transformation, and non-violence). The participants also explored conflict risks in their communities which led us to decide on main issues we would like to focus on our actions after the activity.

### **The second phase - tools responding to the threats for peace**

The second part of the study session focused on equipping peace builders with tools responding to the threats for peace. We envisioned this part as a co-working space of the participants which would share their practices, achievements and challenges, and experts which would bring the new perspectives. The participants would explore practices in conflict transformation, with a special focus on human rights education, intercultural learning, but also activism tools, such as non-violent civil resistance. We saw it as a crucial point to create also space to understand that intercultural dialogue can be a tool of conflict transformation, thus we would ensure space to visibility of successful stories of dialogue preventing and transforming conflict.

### **The third phase - building innovative tools to achieve culture of peace**

Those tools would be later developed and embedded in the collaboration strategy among YPAN, YPC and other peace builders. Participants would plan future actions in working groups taking into consideration the risks discussed and their learning needs (for example for advocacy and project management skills). We would strongly encourage to plan actions with the Pan-European as well as local dimension.

## Programme

During the Study Session the team was trying to look for innovative approaches and developing the already existing educational practices. The most concrete example of this, which also received a high amount of positive feedback from the participant was using “Kahoot” as a tool for intercultural learning.

Kahoot is an online platform which allows users to create their quizzes and tests in various topics. Then all participants get online by using their phones or laptops and compete in a fun way either against time or against each other.

Participants liked Kahoot so much that they prepared night activities playing Kahoot the following nights as well.

The full programme of the study session is attached to the report as appendix II.

### Guest lecturers

There were two external lecturers at the study session:

**Serge Stroombants**, who is a lecturer at the Royal Military Academy in the department of Conflict Studies/ Chair of World Politics. He is the executive coordinator for the security and defence module for the Advanced Staff Course. He is an assistant-Professor at Vesalius College, Brussels with courses on NATO and the transatlantic approaches to security as well as on Global terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization. Serge also represents, in Brussels, the Institute for Economics and Peace, an Australian think tank producing annually several world-famous composite indices such as the Global Peace Index and the Global Terrorism Index. Finally, he is the founder and Chairman of SEKUR Strategic Security Consulting.

Serge was invited in order to show participants a different approach to peace because unlike most of the youth-led NGO's in the fields, Serge's Institution has an economic approach and promotes the idea of "peace is profitable". The team thought that this approach can be radical or even controversial for some of the participants but for sure would trigger a brainstorming and discussion on the topic. Also he was invited to introduce one of the advocacy tools for Peace which is the "Global Peace Index".

**Emil Balavac** - was the second expert. Emil is also a Youth Peace Ambassadors Network Board Member. He ran a session on Insider Mediation. His experience about the topic, comes from my everyday work in local community, as well as in the country, and its institutions, that is still struggling with the post war trauma, and where different conflicts still occur or are very possible. Apart from his work experience, he has an educational background. As a bachelor of International Law and Diplomacy he completed numerous courses on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms which include mediation. Additionally, in 2016, he completed a course on Insider Mediation at Clingendael - the Netherlands Institute of International Relations course titled "Negotiation and Mediation as an instrument for Conflict Resolution" within the framework of the UN Insider Mediators program. He continued working with the UN system in Bosnia and Herzegovina on promotion and incorporation of insider mediation in the work with local communities and youth in the country."

Participants enjoyed his session a lot, as well as the team. Everyone wanted to hear more about it however due to the time limit, he could share a relatively brief but compact set of information. The content was to the point and the whole session was in line with the needs and expectations of the team and the group.

### The link between the session's theme and the Council of Europe

The activity was directly linked to the Council of Europe work on protecting human rights and

building peaceful and inclusive societies. The idea of the activity was inspired during the Youth Peace Camp 2016 in Strasbourg. We believe that young people as active citizens can and should promote and protect human rights, intercultural dialogue and respect of diversity. It is important though, to explore efficient, creative and various ways in which young people could actively foster the above-mentioned values. Those are not only values of the YPA Network but – naturally as Youth Peace Ambassadors is the Council of Europe's project – values of the Council of Europe. Therefore, our work also strengthens the presence of the values of the Council of Europe in local communities. To widen perspectives and to strengthen cooperation between young peacebuilders in order to encourage youth in common peacebuilding activities we decided to make a joint study session of Youth Peace Ambassadors and Youth Peace Camp - YPC is a Council of Europe project and the study session was directly linked with the work of the Council of Europe. We need to highlight that the whole flow of the study session was based on publications provided by the Council of Europe, such as Compass, Bookmarks, T-kit on Conflict Transformation and We CAN! Taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives.

## IV. Results and conclusions

The study session and the work of its participants resulted in several outcomes and conclusions:

### Learning points of participants

- the participants gained new approaches in conflict transformation and in involvement of young people in peacebuilding in local communities which they translated into the form of follow-up projects;
- the participants exchanged the stories of their experiences in the conflicts at their local level which led to the understanding of the impact of conflicts on the young people in Europe;
- they acquired knowledge and skills about peacebuilding and learned about the realities of working in the field on local level based on exchanging of experience, good practices and challenges;
- the participants acquired the tools for implementing conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning, such as examples of workshops in the peace education field, resources (manual) to design future activities and YPAN as a source of know-how and partners for future actions;
- the participants acquired the tools for non-violent activism for achieving democracy and human rights, specifically nonviolent communication.

### New ideas, conclusions and projects emerging from the discussions and working groups

Participants realised that when working in the peacebuilding field there is a need to acquire competences that can be used on an ever-day basis to transform conflicts, such as non-violent communication. Participants also noticed the importance of peacebuilding projects in their local communities and they started to cooperate to design educational spaces for their peers and involve more people in the peacebuilding process, especially on international level. Participants were eager to explore each

other's realities, they were constantly looking for more opportunities to learn about the conflicts in different communities from the other participants who had first-hand experience of it; by learning about each other's realities they felt motivated to act on working on transforming it.

### **Designed follow-up projects**

The participants developed and planned joint actions of Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and Youth Peace Campers and other peacebuilders focussed on promotion of dialogue, peacebuilding and conflict transformation based on the principles of nonviolence. There are 11 projects planned on the local, regional and international level. Participants will apply for funding for several for Erasmus+ programme, thus it is realistic that the projects will take place (detailed description in point 4);

### **Acquired competences**

Participants acquired competences to work on the conflict transformation projects in their local communities and to design educational spaces for their peers and involve more people in peacebuilding process.

### **Cooperation and networking relations**

Cooperation and networking relations were established between participants (from YPAN, YPC alumni and new peacebuilders) which is visible in their work on the future projects

### **Wider perspectives**

Participants widened their perspectives and learned about the conflicts and peacebuilding practices in Europe, which was a motivating factor for them to be changemakers and peacebuilders themselves.

### **YPAN growth**

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network gained 8 new members who were participants of the study session and who are actively involved in the activities of the Network. Such an enlargement of the Network is very beneficial as the new members have proposed and implemented innovative activities (like online capacity building for the YPAN members), expanded the territories of the activities of YPAN (project implemented in Northern Kosovo) and brought new perspectives and competences to the Network as a whole.

What is important to mention is that several members who joined the YPAN after the study session became Board Members in YPAN, as they are very active in the Network and in the peacebuilding activities.

### **Ambassadors for the Council of Europe`s values**

More young people got familiar with the Council of Europe, its values and activities. Some of the participants are considering starting a project with the support of the European Youth Foundation or the support of the Youth Department for the local peacebuilding activities (Youth Peace Camp follow-up projects).

During the study session educational materials used were developed by the Council of Europe and the session also promoted values respected and promoted by the Council of Europe and its Youth Department. The session provided the participants with the knowledge about the Youth Department and its activities but also the possibilities provided by it. According to the plans for follow-up and participants reactions, the study session contributed to the aims of the Youth Department in terms of sharing the values and giving ideas for cooperation between participants and the Youth Department.

### **Suggestions or proposals for the Council of Europe**

The recommendation that the YPAN and the participants of the study session have is to create and design more spaces in which young people could exchange their experiences on conflicts and co-create international initiatives towards building the culture of peace.

Taking into consideration how many people applied and how big the interest for the study session was, the recommendation we would have is that the Council of Europe could support as many activities as possible in the field of development of the culture of peace.

## **V. Follow-up foreseen by the YPAN**

Since one of the aims was to develop sustainable cooperation among Youth Peace Ambassadors, Youth Peace Campers and other peacebuilders, this study session made a space for that cooperation which can be seen from the follow-up plans and future projects which are based on the mentioned cooperation.

The following activities were planned for after the study session:

### **Mentoring project groups**

There were 11 project groups established. The mentoring had been already provided to the participants during the study session and afterwards. The team members divided the projects they were following and were supporting the participants in developing their projects and co-working with them in preparing the applications. The mentoring included also regular video calls with the participants not to lose the momentum of the established bonding among participants.

### **Support in applying for new projects**

The participants were supported by the YPAN members in the preparation of the application forms for the project ideas developed during the study session. They were given the proposals for possible funding, supported with finding partner organisations for the international and regional projects of the participants. As some of the participants applied to be members of the YPAN Network, thus developing further cooperation, the scope of the network and its activities were also open for them.

### Further educational spaces

Several participants of the study session were also invited for the training course of the YPAN which took place in May 2018 in Spain. The training was a space for the YPAN members and the study session participants to plan and develop more actions on the field of prevention of extremism and radicalisation of youth.

The next study session of YPAN was also applied on the deadline of 1 April 2018 and its topic was found important also by the participants of the study session thus they cooperated with YPAN on application writing.

### Follow-up activities (planned and/or implemented)

#### **RESPECTING DIVERSITY, LIVING PEACEFULLY - implemented in March 2019**

The project [Respecting Diversity, Living Peacefully](#) was designed and implemented by the co-facilitator of the Study Session and Youth Peace Camp, Nevena Radosavljevic together with the co-facilitator of the Study Session, Agata Stajer and other participants of the Youth Peace Camp 2018 (Gentrit Behramaj and Petar Djordjevic). The project aimed to put together in dialogue young people from Serbian and Albanian backgrounds in Kosovo and train them in peacebuilding and conflict transformation. Furthermore, this project also put together alumni of the Youth Peace Camp and Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and showed again great, existing cooperation and collaboration in the field of peace education.

This project was implemented from 7-12 March 2019 in Leposavic and Gračanica, Kosovo. For more information about this project, check the [video](#).

#### **LOVES - implemented in December 2018**

[Love Speech is Beautiful project](#) (LOVES) was designed by the group of international youth workers and activists—members of YPAN— all of them previous participants (plus one facilitator) of the Study Session “Youth for Peaceful Europe” and working in the peacebuilding field. The aim of the project was to equip 24 youth workers with competences to raise awareness about hate speech in local communities in Europe and to empower them to take action against hate speech locally by analysing local realities, exchanging practices and planning cooperation with local authorities.

The project was implemented from 11-17 December in San Lorenzo de El Escorial (Comunidad de Madrid), Spain.

#### **STORIES FOR PEACE - implemented in May 2019**

[Stories for peace](#) is the project developed by the group of peacebuilders from Spain, Poland and the Balkans. The aim of the project was to empower 16 youth leaders to act as active European citizens in the field of communication for building culture of human rights by developing their competences in storytelling and peace journalism and advocating for the peaceful exercising of freedom of expression. This project was developed by participants and facilitators of the Study Session and will be implemented during the summer of 2019 in Spain.



### **MAPPING CONFLICTS - accepted and to be implemented**

With this project the participants and facilitators of the study session would like to address the expressed need of young people to gain deeper knowledge on the existing conflicts in Europe. The aim of the project would be to empower 30 youth leaders to act as new changemakers in the local and regional conflicts in Europe by using human rights and peacebuilding mediation and strengthening their skills in the conflict transformation and community building that includes all opinions and leads to the participation of all society (including people with less resources).

### **EUCODE - implemented in May 2018**

[EUCODE](#) training on combating radicalisation and extremism and the role of YPAN in it - implemented in June 2018; the participants of the study session were present also at the EUCODE training and as new YPAN members could contribute to the newly designed peaceful activities.

### **Be the Change! - applied**

Long-term training course for promoting Social Entrepreneurship as a tool to address youth unemployment in refugee and host communities in Euro-Med region. Be the Change! Project is designed to address the integration processes of the various groups of refugees and immigrants (will be referred to as newcomers) into European and Middle Eastern host societies. The project was developed by a team member and a participant of the study session in cooperation with YPAN.

### **Study session in media**

The Study Session was promoted mostly by using different [social media networks](#). The [call for the study session](#) reached the target group of almost 14,744 people, had 3037 engagements and 54 shares on YPAN Facebook page.

Many hashtags were used during the session which made the session even more visible and its outreach bigger. The hashtags were: #peacefuleurope, #ypan, #coe, #eycb, #ypc, #ypanetwork. Most of the activities were published on the Facebook and Instagram pages of the [European Youth Centre Budapest](#) and the FB page of the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network. During the study session [participants took the photos](#) with messages provided by "No hate speech movement". These photos and short stories about the study session were used for promoting diversity and cooperation.

One of the participants, Antigoni Michael [made a story about the study session](#) and posted it on Facebook, which reached 700 people only on the YPAN page.

## **V. Overall evaluation**

### **General remarks**

The study session was evaluated as "fully and "mostly satisfied" by all the participants. Participants emphasized in the evaluation that they saw this study as a space where they have improved their knowledge, found the safe space for expressing themselves but also learned about themselves. As they wrote in the evaluation, they learned about conflict transformation, peacebuilding, project management and non-violent communication. It was a chance for participants to meet other people, from different countries and ethnicities and learn about them, it was a chance to gain new skills and competences, but also to get familiar with the work of

the Council of Europe, Youth Peace Camp and Youth Peace Ambassadors Network. Most of the participants said it was interesting and useful and they learned new things and gained knowledge about peace-building.

The criteria for the study session were fully achieved and present during the implementation of this study session. The aims and objectives were clear from the very beginning and according to the evaluation of the participants, they were met at the end of the session. The whole program was organized by using the non-formal education principles and approaches and it included the values and methodologies proposed by the Council of Europe. The session was fully supported by the staff at the EYCB and participants did have the optimal working conditions.

### **Contribution of the session to the programme/mission of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe**

The work of the Council of Europe was introduced by the Educational Advisor. The study session had a few sessions dedicated to the work and values of the Council of Europe. Also, by representing the work of Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and Youth Peace Camp, the role of the Council of Europe as an important institution for the youth and peacebuilding was presented. Besides that, the opportunities given by the Council of Europe for follow-ups through the work of the Youth Department were introduced by the educational advisor and the team of facilitators. During the whole program of the human rights educational approach and materials provided and published by the Council of Europe were used.

## VI. Appendices

Appendix 1 - List of participants

Appendix 2 - Daily Programme

### List of participants

#### **“Youth for peaceful Europe – study session on cooperation towards sustainable culture of peace”**

Study session organised by Youth Peace Ambassadors Network  
in co-operation with the European Youth Centre Budapest

19-24 March 2018

European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

#### **Albania**

Anisa Hysesani

Anxela Rredhi

#### **Armenia**

Ani Shekoyan

Minas Minasyan

#### **Azerbaijan**

Eltaj Rustamli

Nuriyya Hasanov

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Irfan Osmanovic

#### **Cyprus**

Alda Cileker

Antigoni Michael

#### **France**

Ardit Kuqa

#### **Georgia**

Lana Chkadua

Otari Ubilava

Tamriko Kiknavelidze

#### **Hungary**

Mo'min Badarna

**Israel**

Donia Dagash

**Italy**

Federica Giordano

**Kosovo<sup>1</sup>**

Milos Stanojkovic

Flutura Sadiku

Aliu Vigan

**The Netherlands**

Eliska Jelinkova

**Palestine**

Awawde Hamze

**Poland**

Chau Ton Nu Lien

**Romania**

Diana Christoltean

**Russia**

Natalia Ustinova

**Serbia**

Ana Dulovic

**Spain**

José Barrios Sevillano

Jorge Aguado Sánchez

Nicolás Mba Bee Nchama

**Turkey**

Fatma Hazal Ozdemir

**Ukraine**

Olga Donets

Yuliia Formichova

Bernard Formichov

Rustem Seitmemetov

**Lecturers**

Emil BALAVAC, Youth Club "Under the same sun" and International Organization for Migration

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Serge STROOBANTS, European Representative of Institute for Economics and Peace

**Preparatory team**

Nino TSULAIA (Course Director)

Agata STAJER

Nevena RADOSAVLJEVIC

Yusuf Alper GURLEK

**Council of Europe Secretariat**

László MILUTINOVITS, Educational Advisor, Youth Department

Zsuzsa MOLNÁR, Programme Assistant, Youth Department

## Full program of the study session

**“Youth for peaceful Europe – study session on cooperation towards sustainable culture of peace”**

**organised by Youth Peace Ambassadors Network  
in cooperation with the European Youth Centre Budapest**

Day by day programme

### Programme

#### 18 March 2018, Sunday

*Arrivals*  
19:00          *Dinner*  
20:30          *Welcome Evening*

#### 19 March 2018, Monday

08:00          *Mindfulness*  
08:30          *Breakfast*  
9:15           *Welcoming Space (aims and objectives, expectations, contributions)*  
11:00          *Break*  
11:30          *Connection With Each Other – Teambuilding*  
13:00          *Lunch*  
14:30          *Space Clarification (what is the Council of Europe, who are we as a  
Network, YPC, peacebuilders, collaborating goal)*  
16:00          *Break*  
16:30          ***Invited Expert – Serge Stroobants** - European Representative of  
Institute for Economics and Peace – youth perspective in  
peacebuilding*  
18:00          *Reflection groups*  
19:00          *Dinner*  
20:30          *Favourites Night*

#### 20 March 2018, Tuesday

08:00          *Mindfulness*  
08:30          *Breakfast*  
09:15          *Speaking the Same Language (getting familiar with the notations,  
terminology)*  
11:00          *Break*  
11:30          *Mapping Risks and Conflicts and concepts*  
13:00          *Lunch*  
14:30          *Me as a Peacebuilder, Common Values in the Youth Work*  
16:00          *Break*

- 16:30 *Attitudes and What Does it Mean to Be a Peacebuilder (Ups and Downs in Peacebuilding)*
- 18:00 *Reflection groups*
- 19:00 *Dinner*
- 20:30 *Peace Museum*

### **21 March 2018, Wednesday**

- 08:00 *Mindfulness*
- 08:30 *Breakfast*
- 09:15 *Non-Violence*
- 11:00 *Break*
- 11:30 *Conflict Transformation*
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:30 *Parallel workshops: Non-violent communication, Conducting dialogue*
- 16:00 *Break*
- 16:30 *Parallel workshops: Circle of Forgiveness (Reconciliation), Active listening*
- 18:00 *Reflection groups*
- 19:00 *Dinner*

### **22 March 2018, Thursday**

- 08:00 *Mindfulness*
- 08:30 *Breakfast*
- 09:15 *Participants Space: Sharing Practices*
- 11:00 *Break*
- 11:30 *Participants Space: Sharing Practices*
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:30 *Free Afternoon*
- 19:00 *Dinner in the city*

### **23 March 2018, Friday**

- 08:00 *Mindfulness*
- 08:30 *Breakfast*
- 09:15 ***Invited Expert – Emil Balavac*** from Youth Club "Under the same sun" and *International Organization for Migration, on nonviolent tools for conflict transformation: "Insider mediation – transforming conflict in the community"*
- 11:00 *Break*
- 11:30 *Advocacy*
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:30 *Cooperation and Collaboration between Peacebuilders*
- 16:00 *Break*
- 16:30 *Project Design*
- 18:00 *Reflection groups*
- 19:00 *Dinner*

**24 March 2018, Saturday**

08:00        *Mindfulness*  
08:30        *Breakfast*  
09:15        *Follow-up Actions Development*  
11:00        *Break*  
11:30        *Follow-up Actions Development*  
13:00        *Lunch*  
14:30        *Funding and European Youth Foundation*  
16:00        *Break*  
16:30        *Study Session Evaluation and*  
18:00        *Closing of the Study Session*  
19:00        *Dinner*

**25 March 2018, Sunday**

08:30        *Breakfast*  
              *Departures*