



DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 203

Strasbourg, 13 September 2024

Peace Education and Conflict Transformation with Young People

A training course for educators, activists, youth workers and multipliers to improve their competence for the facilitation of peace education and conflict transformation through non-formal education

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

2 – 7 December 2024

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

6 October 2024 23:59 CET

CONTEXT

The Council of Europe was founded in the wake of the Second World War, born out of the conviction that “the pursuit of peace based upon justice and international co-operation is vital for the preservation of human society and civilisation”. It is a peace project, built on the promise of “never again” (...), as reiterated in the Reykjavik Declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 4th Council of Europe Summit in May 2023.

The lives of too many young people are still shaped by violence conflicts and their consequences. Millions of young people across Europe and its neighbouring regions live in war zones, have fled war, live in areas of frozen conflict or experience violence resulting from social polarisation, and are thus deprived of their fundamental human rights.

Youth organisations and educators, activists, youth workers and other multipliers active in youth work and non-formal education contexts play an important role in supporting young people in these situations, including through the promotion of peace education, confidence building and intercultural dialogue, in line with the Council of Europe’s values and standards (for example, [the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue](#), [the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#)) or those of international institutions (for example, the [United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security](#)).

Since the early 2000s, the Youth Department has developed a strong track record in programming on peace education, peacebuilding and conflict transformation, notably through its strategic priority on [‘Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies’](#) within its Strategy 2023. Activities such as the [Youth Peace Camp](#), currently in its 20th edition, the [Youth Peace Ambassadors](#) project which preceded it, and educational resources such as the [T-kit Conflict Transformation](#) are all products of the Youth Department’s ongoing commitment to this agenda, and its importance for the promotion of a culture of human rights. A [Consultative Meeting on Peace Education](#), organised in December 2022, recommended that the Youth Department pay more attention to the development of Peace Education going forward. In follow-up, the feasibility of preparing a Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation on Peace Education in non-formal learning and youth work is being assessed.

Against this backdrop, the Youth Department is organising a training course for educators, activists, youth workers and other multipliers working who want to develop their competence for facilitating peace education and conflict transformation using non-formal education approaches in the context of the work they do with young people.

THE TRAINING COURSE

The training course addresses educators, activists, youth workers and multipliers who wish to improve their competence in non-formal educational approaches to peace education and conflict transformation with young people in line with Council of Europe youth sector values and standards.

The aim of the training course is to support young people, their organisations and communities, and those working with them, to facilitate non-formal peace education and conflict transformation, thereby contributing to the development of a culture of peace and human rights, in line with the values and standards of the Council of Europe.

The objectives of the training course are:

- To support educators, activists, multipliers and youth workers active in a variety of non-formal education contexts to design and facilitate peace education and conflict transformation activities in their direct work with young people.
- To improve the confidence and competence of educators, activists, multipliers and other youth workers to address the situations of conflict they meet when working with young people, whether these be the consequence of social or geo-political conflict.
- To share and learn from participants' experiences of and approaches to peace education and conflict transformation, with a view to enriching and further developing the Council of Europe Youth Department's programming on peace education and conflict transformation.

PROGRAMME AND APPROACH

This course is designed to support participants to conceptualise, implement and evaluate educational work focusing on peace education and / or conflict transformation using non-formal educational approaches with, by and for young people within the peace and conflict transformation strategies of their youth organisations or the youth work context in which they are active.

The approach will be built on the quality standards of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, including experiential learning, individual reflection, peer exchange and participatory methods of learning.

During this course participants can expect to:

1. Develop their knowledge of international standards for peace education and conflict transformation, including but not limited to those specific to young people, and those of the Council of Europe.
2. Exchange and reflect on experiences of peace education and conflict transformation with young people in the context of non-formal educational work.
3. Develop their understanding of different approaches to peace education and conflict transformation, in theory and practice, notably those that focus on the development of a culture of peace and human rights.
4. Develop competence for facilitating peace education through and conflict transformation with and for young people through non-formal education on different kinds of conflict, whether geo-political or domestic socio-political conflict.
5. Exchange on strategies for supporting young people to be active participants of peace education, peace building and / or conflict transformation related efforts in their communities, countries or at the international level.
6. Engage in critical thinking and multi-perspective reflections on peace education and conflict transformation issues and dilemmas, especially those related to working in a non-formal education context with young people.
7. Learn about how to work with an intercultural approach, emphasising empathy, tolerance of ambiguity, and distance to social roles, when practising peace education and conflict transformation.

In preparation for the face to face training at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, selected participants can expect to be invited to follow a limited number of e-learning activities

on the Youth Department's e-learning platform. Furthermore, the platform will be used as a repository of materials during the course and for communication and networking purposes after the course.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The training course is organised for participants who are:

- Actively engaged in the preparation and facilitation of educational work of some kind on peace and / or conflict transformation within an organisation or in a youth work context;
- Experienced in and intending to function as multipliers of the knowledge and skills they gain in the training course to a wider group of educators or peers involved in educational work with, for and by young people;
- Interested in improving their educational work with young people related to peace education and conflict transformation within their organisation and / or youth work context;
- Other educational professionals or experts interested in introducing non-formal learning methodologies in peace education and conflict transformation activities with young people.

All participants should also be:

- Resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention;
- Aged between 18 and 30;
- Committed to attend for the full duration of the course and to active participation in all activities within the programme;
- Able to work in English;
- Motivated to develop their competences in peace education and conflict transformation, to share their experiences with other participants,
- Supported by a youth organisation or institution within which they can act as multipliers of peace education and conflict transformation.

The call is open to all interested applicants, but a number of places will be made available for educators developing peace initiatives emanating from or involved in the facilitation of the Youth Peace Camps organised by the Council of Europe's Youth Department on an annual basis. Candidates with strong support from a youth organization actively engaged in non-formal educational initiatives on peace education and conflict transformation will be given priority.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of participants, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

The training course will take place at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg on 2 – 7 December 2024. Participants are expected to arrive in Strasbourg on 1 December and to depart on 8 December 2024, and to attend the full course.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for travelling to Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe.

Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training course will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form if you require some form of specific support (an accommodation) in order to participate.

Enrolment fee

An enrolment fee of 60 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid during the training course.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

Application, procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply ONLINE at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/>. Applications must be accompanied by a letter of support from their sending organisation/institution, to be uploaded on the platform. This letter should clearly state why the organisation thinks the candidate is suitable for the course, how their participation will benefit the organisation and how they will support the candidate to multiply what they have learned at the course. Organisations wishing to nominate several applicants should state the internal priority between these applicants in a support letter so that they can be taken into account.

The Council of Europe will select **up to 35 participants** on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to ensure balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established.

Applicants will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by 15 October 2024.