



DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 163

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YOUTH PEACE CAMP

**COMMUNI
TY**

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

About the Youth Peace Camp

The [Youth Peace Camp](#) is the flagship activity of the Council of Europe youth sector on promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. The Youth Peace Camp project was born in 2003 in the framework the programme of the Council of Europe's confidence-building measures and has been providing a unique opportunity for young people from conflict-stricken regions to meet and understand the process of transforming conflicts.

Since then, the Youth Peace Camp has taken on various formats, from virtual to conferences, but never losing sight of the focus on empowering young people regarding the acquisition of skills in the fields of peacebuilding, intercultural learning, dialogue, and conflict transformation, within a human rights framework.

This process of empowerment seeks to motivate and support participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in peacebuilding activities with young people, encouraging them

to implement follow-up initiatives and disseminate the learnings acquired, promoting the ideals of the Youth Peace Camp at the local, regional, and national levels.

The generations who have passed through the Youth Peace Camp shared the desire to promote peace and dialogue and contributing to associating other young people to these processes. This has been the case, for example, of the Local Youth Peace Camps implemented after the 2019 camp, but also many other initiatives undertaken by former peace camp participants.

About the Community

The need and opportunity of creating a community of practice, or a group of alumni of peace camp participants has been proposed and discussed multiple times, but it never generated enough support or momentum to see the light.

The renewal of the role of peace building with young people that has been undertaken in 2023 with a Consultative Meeting on this topic, reinforced by the expected preparation of Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the role of peacebuilding by and with young people, has contributed to revive the idea of a peace camp community. Among others, the community could have the following functions:

- **Supporting participants in their follow-up activities:** the members of the community could be a bridge of contact and support for participants in the immediate post-event phase, through advice, motivation, resource-mobilisation, mentoring opportunities, etc. This is of obvious relevance at local and national level.
- **Showcasing previous follow-up projects:** the community is an opportunity to showcase previously implemented follow-up projects, serving as a source of inspiration and learning and support.
- **Establishing group(s) of experts and advocates:** sharing best practices across generations will be valuable for implementing the mentioned follow-up projects. Additionally, the community can also serve as a source of local and European expertise on peacebuilding, conflict transformation and their relation to youth policy and youth work. Such expertise can be valuable in confidence-building and peace education projects and processes, such as the ones related to the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.
- **Optimising the impact of the peace camp:** by supporting, monitoring and advising other participants, the community members will contribute to the credibility and impact of the peace camp and, especially, of the quality and relevance work undertaken by young people themselves.

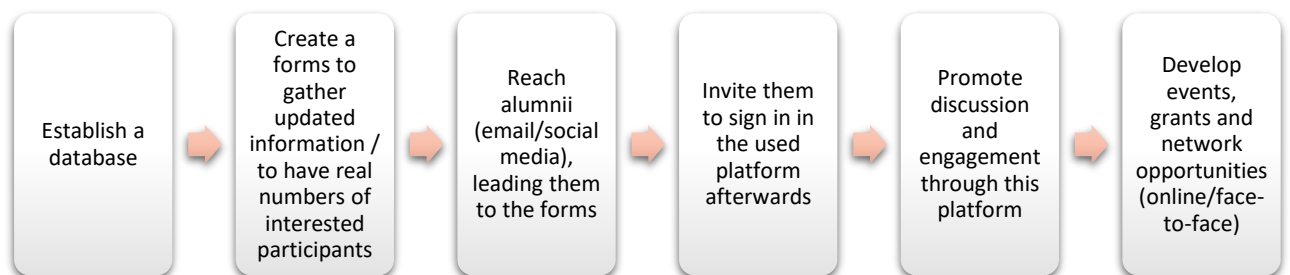
The members of the Community are better able to impact and support processes and participants at local and national level because of the local social, cultural and political context. The "European" Community should thus be the sum of local alumni groups and only makes sense through those local groups.

Methodology for implementation

In order to create this community or network, it is necessary to establish a list of former participants of the peace camps and to enquire about their interest and motivation to join the possible future Peace Camp Community.

Initial research at the Council of Europe has identified some 500 participants between 2003 and 2010.

We are now proceeding to consult those former participants about what they think about such a community. This consultation will allow us to decide if and how to continue and, in particular, the interest of former participants, a key element for the feasibility of the Community.



After this consultation, the Community could be formally launched at the beginning of 2025.

Timeline

July-August 2024: Consultation with former Youth Peace Camp participants and facilitators.

September 2024: analysis of the responses; preparation of a report for the Joint Council on Youth.

October 2024: Meeting of the Joint Council on Youth.

November-December 2024: Guidelines for local/national alumni groups; Setting up of a platform for the Community.

February-March 2025: official launching of the Community.

To express interest or register in the Youth Peace Community, please complete this online [Registration form](#) before **1 September 2024**.

More information: eyc.programme@coe.int