

YOUTH PEACE CAMP

COMMUNITY

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.

The Youth Peace Camp unique approach is the possibility for young people to better understand conflicts and their transformation by listening to and living together with young people affected by other conflicts elsewhere. The European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest provide an adequate and safe environment for the young people from different conflict-stricken regions to learn together about conflict, to share their experiences in approaching them with other young people and to build their capacity to engage and/or develop future conflict transformation projects and initiatives.

In the past decade, the Youth Peace Camp has taken on various formats, from physical through virtual to large-scale conferences, never losing sight of the focus on empowering young people through experiential learning process and acquisition of competences in the fields of peacebuilding, intercultural learning, dialogue and conflict transformation, within a

human rights framework. This 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 values of the Youth Peace Camp at the local, regional, and national levels.

Having in mind that many young people who have partaken in the activity share a common desire to promote peace and dialogue, creating an online community where different generations of Youth Peace Campers can socialise and support each other would maximise acquired learnings and their multilevel impact.

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.

The aim of the community would be to foster long-term engagement, collaboration and capacity-building among generations of the Youth Peace Camp by creating an online space that supports networking, capacity-building and follow-up actions, and promotes best practices, thereby maximising the impact of participant's capacities and ensuring sustainability of the Youth Peace Camp's outcomes.

Among others, the community could have the following functions:

- **Providing a networking platform:** the members of the community would be able to interact and exchange through a hub for sharing capacity-building and engagement opportunities, events and initiatives organised by the Council of Europe and youth organisations in Europe, thus promoting continuous involvement in peace education and conflict transformation.
- **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.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Community would gather past generations of the Youth Peace Camp, i.e. previous participants of the activity in the period 2010-2024. These concern mainly young people and youth workers who:

- Come from and/or work in conflict-stricken areas in Europe;
- Are members of local, national, regional or international youth organisations working in the field of peacebuilding;
- Are organisers and/or facilitators of local, national or international activities with young people focused on peacebuilding, intercultural dialogue and conflict transformation;
- Have participated in the Youth Peace Camp and/or any other similar youth peacebuilding activity supported by the Youth Department (for example a local peace camp, the Youth Peace conference, online Youth peace week, training course on peace education and conflict transformation, other).

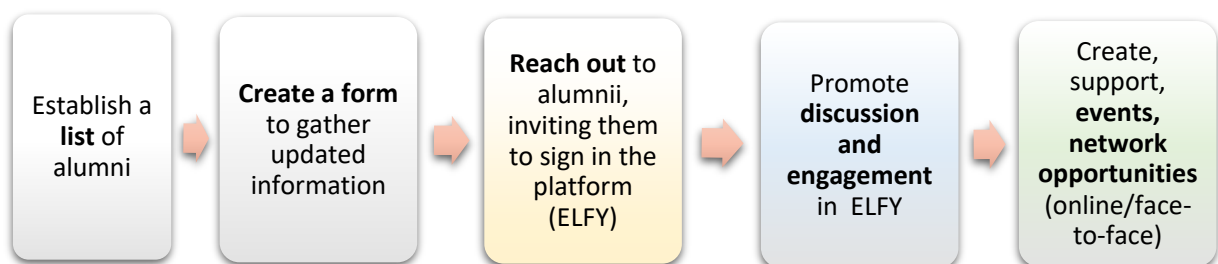
The members of the Community are better able to impact and support processes and participants at local and national level because of the local social, cultural and political context. The "European" Community should thus be the sum of local alumni groups and only makes sense through those local groups.

METHODOLOGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

In order to create this Community, 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 590 participants between 2024 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

- **February 2025:** Registration of former Youth Peace Camp participants and facilitators.
 - **February - March 2025:** Setting up of a platform for the Community; Developing initial content for the Community.
 - **March - April 2025:** Official launching of the Community.
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To express interest or register in the Youth Peace Community, please complete this online [Registration form](#) before **February 28 2025**.

More information: eyc.programme@coe.int