



DDCP-YD/ETD (2017) 209

Strasbourg, 21 November 2017



Youth Peace Camp

Engaging young people and youth organisations
from conflict-stricken regions in dialogue
and conflict transformation

FINAL REPORT

EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

30 April – 7 May 2017



Chairmanship of Cyprus
Council of Europe
November 2016 - May 2017

Présidence de Chypre
Conseil de l'Europe
novembre 2016 - mai 2017

The implementation of the activity was supported by the Chairmanship of Cyprus of the
Council of Europe and the Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA)

Copyright of this publication is held by the Council of Europe. No parts of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted for commercial purposes in any form or by any means, electronic (CD-ROM, Internet, etc) or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or any information storage or retrieval system, without the permission in writing from the Council of Europe: youth@coe.int.

The views expressed in this manual do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe.

Photos: © Educational Team of the Youth Peace Camp 2017.

Reproduction of material from this publication is authorised for non-commercial education purposes only on condition that the source is properly quoted.

Copyright: Council of Europe, 2017

Acknowledgements

The report was prepared by Ramon Tena, senior trainer, in cooperation with Laszlo Milutinovits, Educational advisor at the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. It gives an overview of the various aspects of this project and its main outcomes. It provides also some recommendations for future editions of the Youth Peace Camp. The information on this report gathers also the views from the educational team and includes the participants' evaluations.

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to this report, in particular to the facilitators and participants of the Youth Peace Camp 201; to colleagues at the Youth Department of the Council of Europe: to Rui Gomes for coordination and for Claudia Montevecchi for administrative support.

We have made all possible efforts to trace references of texts and activities to their authors and give them the necessary credits. We apologise for any omissions and will be pleased to correct them if requested.

CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
II. ABOUT THE YOUTH PEACE CAMP.....	8
Aim and Objectives	12
Information on the educational team.....	12
Information on the participants.....	15
Institutional context.....	16
Programme.....	18
Methodologies	27
Challenges	29
Participants evaluation.....	32
III. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	38
IV. APPENDICES.....	45
APPENDIX 1: PROGRAMME.....	46
APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	50
APPENDIX 3: DIALOGUE DAY BROCHURE	55
APPENDIX 4: FOLLOW UP SHEET.....	57
APPENDIX 5: PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION	60
APPENDIX 6: FOLLOW UP PROJECTS.....	64





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Peace Camp 2017 took place in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg (France), from 30 April to 7 May 2017. The camp brought together 71 participants from the following countries and communities: Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots), Kosovo*, Serbia, South Caucasus region and Ukraine (in particular the Luhansk and Donetsk regions). The camp created a safe space where participants could develop their competences in peace building, explore the ways in which conflict affected them, dialogue with young people coming from “the other side” and increase their competences in project planning. The programme implementation was lead and coordinated by an Educational advisor from the Youth Department, supervised by the Head of the Education and Training Division. The process and the work of the educational team was supported by a senior trainer from the Trainers Pool, who also took a shared responsibility in coordinating the work of 10 facilitators - one from each of the participants’ communities. The Camp had three main parts: for the first three days, participants worked on team-building and increasing their competences in understanding conflict and intercultural communication. The core of the Camp was Dialogue Day, a journey devoted to dialogue between participants on how conflict has affected them as young people. The day focused specifically in promoting bi-community dialogue between young people coming from communities at conflict.

The last three days of the camp aimed at providing tools for participants to develop their own projects in conflict transformation. Special attention was paid to the No Hate Speech Movement and combatting hate speech in relation to promoting understanding and peace building. As a result of the Camp, participants developed their competencies in human rights education, conflict transformation, intercultural learning and dialogue and came up with a variety of follow-up initiatives focusing on peacebuilding to be realized in their communities.

In 2017 the Youth Peace Camp was one of the priorities of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, and included participants from Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots).¹

* 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.

¹ Priorities of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (22 November 2016 – 19 May 2017) CM/Inf(2016)30:

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016806be078



ABOUT THE YOUTH PEACE CAMP





The Youth Peace Camp as an activity is singular regarding its longevity; it has been developed every year since its inception in 2003, reaching in 2017 its 15th edition.

More than 500 young people from Caucasus, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South-East Europe have

increased their competences as peace-builders in these 15 years. The Camp is also unique in the profile of participants: rare are the educational activities of the European Youth Centres that are addressed to young people with little or no experience in the field of the activity, and the Youth Peace Camp is one of them. Finally, the Youth Peace Camp is one of the rare long-running projects of the Youth Department directly involving specifically young people from conflict-affected areas.

Project background

Young people growing up in regions affected by armed conflicts, being exposed to and enduring the consequences of extreme forms of direct, cultural and structural violence, are often confronted with dramatic life-forming experiences, emotions and challenges. Such experiences may strongly influence their views and behaviour towards their own and other communities, their relation to conflict and peace and to their own identity. The Youth Peace Camp was developed on the assumption that, when supported adequately, young people can break free from cycles of hatred, blame and intolerance and become multipliers for dialogue, peace and reconciliation in their own communities.

In their role as peer leaders and in learning about conflict and peace, it is important for young people to be able to relate to, and to be confronted with the life stories, experiences and aspirations of other youth from their own region and other conflict areas. One of the Youth Peace Camp key features has been to provide young people with the opportunity to better understand conflicts and their transformation by listening to and living and learning together with other young people affected by conflicts.

For the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, the Youth Peace Camp has been a significant learning opportunity to better understand the challenges that young people from conflict-affected areas are confronted with as well as to gather knowledge about the local and national realities in the participating countries. The understanding developed by the institution has led to the strengthening of the work of the Council of Europe in the regions concerned.

The links developed with participants, facilitators and local organisations were very valuable elements in this regard. This informal network has supported the Council of Europe in its work with youth organisations in those countries, especially those supported by the European Youth Foundation. The experience gained from the Youth Peace Camp has also contributed to the development of other activities such as the Youth Peace Ambassadors project.² The visits of members of the Advisory Council on Youth³ to the Youth Peace Camp have helped the statutory bodies of the Youth Department to become more familiar with the stakes of the project and be more aware of the realities of young people living in conflict-stricken regions. The outcomes of the Youth Peace Camp are encouragements for the Youth Department of the Council of Europe to continue and deepen its work in peacebuilding.

² More information on the project: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-peace-dialogue/youth-peace-ambassadors>.

³ The Advisory Council on Youth is a Council of Europe body made up of 30 representatives from youth NGOs and networks in Europe which provide opinions and input on all youth sector activities. More information: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/advisory-council-on-youth>



THE YOUTH PEACE CAMP 2017

Aim and Objectives

The Youth Peace Camp engages young people and youth organisations from conflict affected regions in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning during and after the camp.

Specific objectives of the camp include:

- Developing awareness and basic competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of participants in human rights education, conflict transformation, intercultural learning and dialogue, including a critical understanding of personal and collective identities and their role in conflicts
- Enabling participants to share personal experiences of conflict and violence and coping strategies in a positive and safe atmosphere of living and learning together
- Introducing and sharing existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities
- Motivating and supporting participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in peace-building activities with young people encouraging them to implement follow-up initiatives
- Presenting the Council of Europe, in particular its youth sector and its efforts towards strengthening youth work in the field of conflict transformation and intercultural dialogue.

In 2017, the camp paid particular attention to the role of hate speech in armed conflict and was meant to create links with No Hate Speech Movement campaign at European and national levels.

In the framework of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, the camp also involved participants from Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots).

Information on the educational team

The educational programme of the Youth Peace Camp 2017 was prepared and run by a group of 10 facilitators (one from each of the participating communities), a senior trainer and an Educational advisor



from the Youth Department (5 female, 7 male). The Head of Education and Training Division of the Council of Europe's Youth Department supervised the work of the team throughout the process.

The facilitators and trainer were selected through an open call distributed in the Trainers Pool of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the network of previous Youth Peace Camp participants. As a result, among facilitators were several participants in previous editions of the Youth Peace Camp, as well as former facilitators, with experience also in the organisation of regional Youth Peace Camps.

The composition of the team ensured a right balance between more and less experienced facilitators. It was a learning opportunity for all members in the team, and the level of involvement of each facilitator adapted to his or her previous experience.

Both of these features - connection of facilitators with previous editions and mixed experience in the team - were a clear added value and it's recommended that it's maintained for following editions.

The preparation process included two preparatory meetings at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (France): the first 3-days one in January and another 2 days meeting before the start of the Youth Peace Camp. The first preparatory meeting⁴ concluded with a clear programme and a first draft of the elements that needed to be developed in each session.

⁴ For more information, see document DDCP-YD/EDT(2017)21.

Between January and April, there were on-line meetings and regular communication to develop the different elements of the Camp. The educational advisor and the senior trainer were responsible of the development of session outlines, together with one or two facilitators per session.

Following on the work of previous year, for this edition it was extremely important to develop formal and informal team-building activities within the team. This fuelled cooperation and confidence between team members, gave a sense of shared mission and facilitated communication and dialogue. This was extremely important to manage the stressful moments during the Camp.

Also, in contrast with the previous years, efforts were made to balance the role of the trainers and the facilitators in running workshops and plenary sessions. Namely, facilitators were expected to take less of heavy role in running the sessions which gave more space for them to spend informal time with participants. In the concept of the camp informal time and activities is almost as important as the non-formal educational programme, therefore it is crucial that the team is not working in isolation from the group. Even though some of the more experienced facilitators sometimes felt that they could have contributed more to the sessions, the overall experience showed that it is worth continuing to develop the concept of the camp in this direction.

Another important feature that ensured the success of the Camp was the fact that the relationship between facilitators from opposing communities was very good.

Information on the participants



The Youth Peace Camp 2017 gathered 61 participants from 10 different communities. They were selected among 539 applications. Although slightly less than in 2016, over the last years, there's been an increase in the number of applications for the Camp. Yet, this year

we also saw a significant imbalance in the number of applications from the different communities.

Applications were first reviewed by the educational advisor and the senior trainer. At a second stage, a list of pre-selected applicants was sent to facilitators for a final selection of 6 participants and 2 for the reserve list. The final list was sent to the Youth Department for confirmation or any suggestions on adjustments.

Participants came from the following communities: Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots), Kosovo, Serbia, South Caucasus region and Ukraine (in particular the Luhansk and Donetsk regions).

As in previous years, the Camp wanted to give an opportunity to young people with little or no experience in international activities. Participants were selected mainly from NGO's (to facilitate follow-up actions), but the door was opened also for young people active at local level, even if not linked to an NGO. As specified during the preparatory meeting in January the selection criteria were the following:

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Core criteria in the call (English language competence, availability, age...);
2. Preference to youth coming from NGO's, but also accepting individuals who are active at local level (ratio 4:2 approx.);
3. Preferably not from the same NGO;
4. With clear and SPECIFIC ideas regarding follow-up;
5. Accepting youth who may have different/more critical attitudes towards dialogue with the "other side", although not a majority.

- South Caucasus and Ukraine



For its 2017 edition, the Youth Peace Camp had participants from Sukhumi, Tskhinvali and also a variety of regions in Ukraine. Although this created some challenges, it was greatly appreciated by all participants. The Council of Europe's Directorate of

Political Affairs provided support throughout the preparation and implementation of the activity, both in contacting potential participants and in facilitating the administrative procedures that allowed them to travel to Strasbourg.

In the case of Ukraine the organisers intended to involve a diversity of young people, potentially representing different opinions in relation to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Therefore, a number of IDPs, young people from all over Ukraine and in particular from the Luhansk and Donetsk regions were invited and participated in two groups with the support of two facilitators.

- Cyprus

Special to this year's edition was the participation of a group of 12 Cypriot young people (6 Greek Cypriots and 6 Turkish Cypriots). Even if it's a conflict that has not seen armed conflict in the last decades, it had a great impact in the development of confidence between the two communities, and it was a learning process for them and all other participants of the camp.

Institutional context

In 2017, the Youth Peace Camp was organised at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The closeness to the headquarters of the Council of Europe allowed for high level officials to visit the Camp and share some time with participants. The institutional speakers that visited the camp this year included:

- *Gabriella Bataini-Dragoni*, Deputy Secretary General
- *Mathew Johnson*, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation

- *Alexandre Guessel*, Director of Political Affairs
- *Antje Rothemund*, Head of the Youth Department

During the camp, we also received the visit from a representative of the statutory bodies from the Youth Department: *Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir*, from the Bureau of the Advisory Council on Youth.

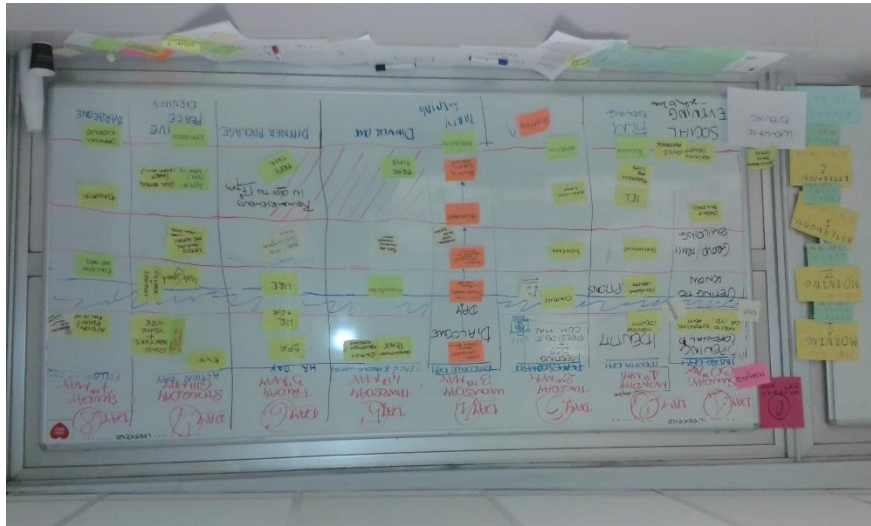
Finally, as the Camp was among the priorities of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus, *Theodora Constantinidou*, sent a written message. In the framework of the Chairmanship, participants were invited to a reception organised by the Permanent Representation of Cyprus.

The Camp also received the visit from *Marios Epaminondas*, Officer for European and International Affairs at the Cyprus Ministry of Culture. Mr. Epaminondas – who is also active in a local NGO on conflict transformation- had a meeting with the Cypriot participants and discussed the opportunities for supporting possible follow up activities.

Institutional speakers helped participants make sense of the importance of the Camp in the framework of the Council of Europe's confidence-building measures in conflict zones. They were also useful in helping participants understand the institution promoting the camp. Finally, all these events contributed to give a high institutional visibility to the Youth Peace Camp, where it performed as one of the main stories in the Council's website and Facebook page.

Programme

In 2017 the Camp had one day less compared to 2016, but followed a structure that proved successful in past editions. Participants spent the first days with getting to know each other (and exploring personal identity) and working around basic concepts to understand conflict transformation such as communication, the building of individual and group identities, perception, conflict and violence.



All this work prepared them to tackle Dialogue Day; during this day dialogue was promoted among participants on how conflict affected them, focusing specifically in creating conversations with “the other side”. After a highly emotional and very demanding Dialogue Day, participants had a free day.

Once participants had a clear understanding on the roots of conflict and violence, they started to answer the question on: what to do next? Participants started to work on possible answers to build peace in their communities, understanding how to apply tools such as mediation, human rights education or the No Hate Speech Movement. In this framework, the last days where spent on reflecting and planning possible actions they could develop once getting back to their own communities.⁵

⁵ For more information on follow-up ideas and actions, please refer to Appendix 6

On the arrival day, a welcome evening was organised. Participants were welcomed to the European Youth Centre and introduced to the educational team. After some ice-breaking activities, participants enjoyed snacks and wine to mingle with each other.

An important piece of information was given to participants upon their arrival: when introducing to each other, don't mention the community they were coming from. This was a way to start meeting with other human beings, irrespectively of the place they were coming from. During the camp, any reference to the country of origin was also to be avoided.

This was the first day of the Camp. After an opening of the Camp by the Head of Education and Training in the Youth Department, Rui Gomes, and by the educational advisor, Laszlo Milutinovits, a session was organised to introduce the programme and to get a grasp of participants expectations and fears. The afternoon was devoted to activities to create the group and strengthen the trust between participants.



At the end of the day, reflection groups were introduced. These were random groups where, with the help of one of the facilitators, participants reflected on the content on the day, the issues happening during informal moments, as well as the emotional and educational path that participants were following. The reflection groups – that remained unchanged during the entire Camp - were one of the elements that participants appreciated most.

The day ended with a theme party based on the '80s with music and games.

The first session in the morning started with a guided meditation where participants reflected on their own path in building their identity. This set the tone for what in general was a very deep and emotional day.

Participants worked on some basic concepts to understand what may generate and fuel conflict. During the morning, they started to reflect around the build-up of individual and collective identities. They reflected on the fact that we may have different individual identities and that these may enter into conflict with the collective identity we have as a group (or community, nation, country...).

In the afternoon, participants started to work on communication. For this they had firstly a session on perceptions, followed by a short theoretical input on how perceptions jeopardise communication. The day ended with a role-game (*The Derdians, T-Kit on Intercultural learning*) to work on intercultural communication, see how it functions and the challenges that it sets.

By the end of this day, participants from “confronted” communities started to voice that they wanted to meet with each other and some informal encounters began to happen.

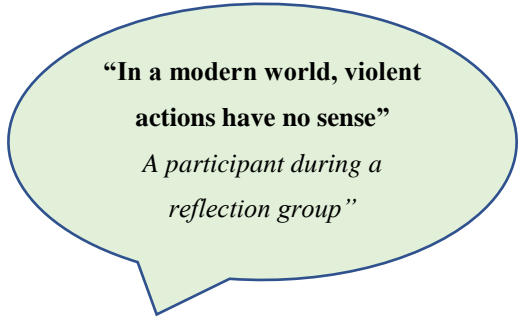
“We need to talk; it’s not our personal fault what has happened between our two countries”

An Armenian talking to an Azeri participant during a debriefing of an



It was time for participants to deep-dive into the issues of conflict and violence. Since it was the first working day at the Council of Europe, we received the visit of the Deputy Secretary General, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni and the Head of the Youth Department, Antje Rothmund. The Head of the Department welcomed participants to the Youth Peace Camp and in her speech, the Deputy Secretary General emphasised the values and principles that underpin the Council’s work. She addressed participants in a very informal way that they appreciated, although some of them expressed their wish that more space for questions and answers should have been provided after the speech.

After this session, participants learned to analyse conflicts using the “iceberg model”. They also understood the link between conflict and needs not met. As one of the main features of conflict is violence, a session was devoted to

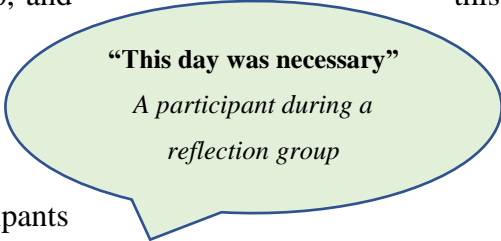


understanding the different faces of violence and what’s behind it (mainly fear). The last activity of the day was planned in preparation for Dialogue Day. The session focused on non-violent communication, and specially on active listening.

In preparation for next day’s activity, a brochure was prepared and given to participants during reflection groups. The issue of what would happen during Dialogue Day was also tackled.

By the end of the day, we received the visit of Alexandre Guessel, Director of Political Affairs (DPA) at the Council of Europe. The original time of the visit (Friday) was changed to this evening due to his unforeseen obligations. The DPA was involved in the Camp for identifying possible participants from Eastern Ukraine and helping in managing travel procedures for participants from the South Caucasus. He explained participants the role that his Directorate is developing in conflict management in participant’s regions. He also answered many questions from participants regarding the Council of Europe’s position on different conflicts.

Dialogue is at the core of the Youth Peace Camp, and this day was at the heart of all efforts in equipping participants to understand and feel conflict transformation. It was one of the hardest days in the Camp, but also one of the activities that participants valued more.



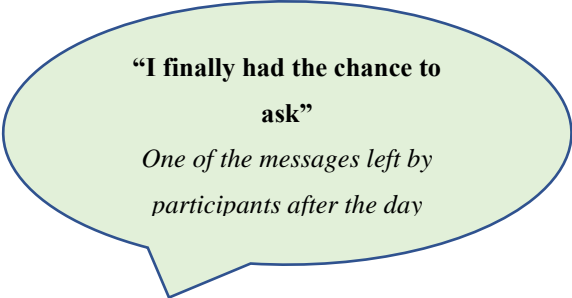
“This day was necessary”
A participant during a reflection group

The day started with a short reflection on the difference between debate and dialogue. This was followed by some short questions on how participants were feeling about Dialogue Day.

The original plan was that participants would start sharing on more emotional grounds – “*how did the conflict affect me?*”, to end the day with a more rational thinking “*how does conflict affect young people?*”. This would be done both in mono-community, mixed community and bi-community groups. However, as the educational team was in constant contact all day, each facilitator adapted to the needs of each group, especially in bi- and mono-community groups.

The first meeting was in mono-community groups, where personal stories were shared. After a short break and gathering in plenary, the same question was explored in mixed community groups. 40 minutes before lunch, participants gathered again with their communities to share any emotions and feelings.

After lunch, participants met shortly with their communities to prepare the bi-community groups, thus promoting a dialogue between the two communities that were confronted. For this step, there was no consensus in the educational team on whether the dialogue should focus on the emotional or rational aspects, as each conflict and each community was different. Therefore, each facilitator had freedom in tackling this bi-community groups in one way or another.



“I finally had the chance to ask”
One of the messages left by participants after the day

The day ended with an open space where participants could reflect in plenary about the day, using artistic expressions. Participants were free to write “messages in the wind”,

play with clay, write Haikus or poetry, paint together, do collage, write into a “wall of questions” or paint mandalas. This session was aimed at allowing participants to slowly stem out the pressure they had during the day.

This was one of the hardest days in the camp, both for participants and for the educational team. Yet, it was one of the most valued elements of the whole camp.

After dinner, there was a self-organised party. The following day was free for participants. They only gathered by dinner time to attend a concert by the Cypriot band *Monsieur Domani*, followed by a reception by the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.



This day started the third block of the Camp. Participants had already worked on conflict and communication, had endured a Dialogue Day and were ready to start working for peace and conflict transformation.

The first session was originally devoted to the approaches of the Council of Europe in conflict areas, but since the director of the DPA had visited the camp on Tuesday, the team organised an inspiring session to learn about different peace-builders. After the break, we built on the morning work and participants reflected on the profile of a peace-builder, taking into account its needed knowledge, values and skills.



After a longer coffee break to allow participants to get their travel reimbursements at the Palais de l'Europe, the camp focused on human rights

education as a tool for peace building. We divided participants into 3 different groups and each group developed one different activity from Compass or Compasito. The session ended with a presentation on human rights education and its role for conflict transformation.

“We got rid of fears”

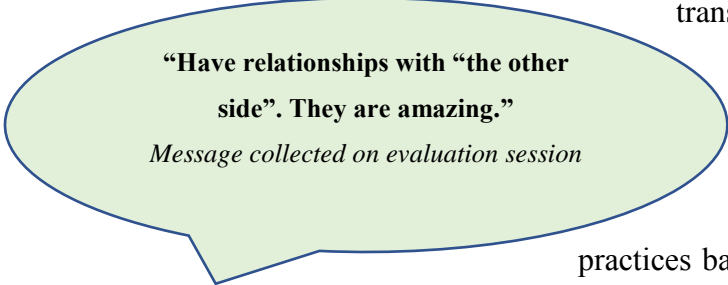
A participant during a reflection

During this day, we started to see how the activity was transforming individual attitudes. This was useful for participants to see that in this kind

of human rights educational activities the content is important, but the process itself can act as a tool to achieve the activity's objectives.

During the evening, we organised a “Creative Peace Evening”. This was originally a compulsory activity. However, we adapted to the mood and team dynamics and made it into an optional one if participants wanted to learn more on conflict transformation. It consisted in three different short activities that were delivered twice.

After understanding peace, we got deeper into the possible responses for conflict transformation and started to work on more specific actions.



“Have relationships with “the other side”. They are amazing.”

Message collected on evaluation session

The first part of the morning was devoted to presenting different good practices based on facilitators’ experiences. One group examined social entrepreneurship projects, other local peace-building initiatives, a third one explained some projects that received grants from the European Youth Foundation, and other projects that started from previous Youth Peace Camp editions.

During the morning, we also received the visit of Natalia Militello, from the European Youth Foundation, who presented the work of EYF and the possibilities to support local and regional actions.

The rest of the morning was focused on the No Hate Speech Movement. After a presentation of the campaign by the educational advisor, participants could choose among 6 different activities based on the No Hate Speech Movement campaign or from the Bookmarks and the WE CAN! manuals.

During the afternoon, we started to work on specific follow-up actions that participants could organise after the Camp. After introducing some concepts on project-management, a World Café was organised for participants to discuss around how to turn an idea into a reality. After this, participants started to think on their own ideas and decided if they wanted to work individually, in joint groups or in a single action with their own community.

In the morning, participants focused on refining their own projects and spend most of the morning with their own working groups. The educational team was available for advice and support, but participants where comfortable working on their own.

At the beginning of the day, participants were given a “Project Development Tool” that helped them in considering the different aspects of their actions. This tool can be found in Appendix 4. By the end of the morning, a “market of projects” was organised. Participants hanged flipcharts with their ideas. They could visit each other’s flipcharts and add post-its with suggestions or asking to join the project.

During the afternoon, we started the evaluation of the Camp. At first, participants did a written evaluation, that was followed by an on-site evaluation. Participants visited different corners and put posted on flipcharts asking them for:

- *What I appreciated*
- *What I would change*
- *Messages for other participants*
- *Messages for the educational team*
- *Messages for myself*

The camp was closed by Matthew Johnson, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, and Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir, from the Advisory Council on Youth. During the evening, all participants gathered around a Barbecue dinner, offered by the European Youth Centre.



Methodologies

The Youth Peace Camp is a highly challenging activity, both for participants and for the educational team: the subject of the activity is extremely emotional and can be hard to tackle for many participants as they may have to come back to painful memories or experiences. The length of the activity (8 days), the number of participants (61) and overall size of the group (over 70) add to the challenges faced. Accordingly, methodologies needed to be adapted to this context.

The Youth Peace Camp was organised following non-formal methodologies and having Human Rights Education as its main guiding principle. The methodologies used aimed at creating a safe space that facilitates:

- Understanding and reflecting around concepts of conflict transformation, peace, dialogue and communication;
- Promote participants curiosity, especially when confronting young people from communities at conflict;
- Self-reflect on the ways that conflict shape our understanding on reality, and promote an inner change that reinforce participants' commitment with peace.

In order to reach these objectives, the educational team was more than aware that the formal programme was as important as any interaction happening during informal moments. We had to make sure that participants had some evening activities where they can mingle with each other (especially on the first days) and at the same time ensure that they would have enough free time during the evenings so that they can know each other in a more relaxed and flexible environment.

Another important issue that we had in mind was the importance to manage wisely the team of facilitators.⁶ In order to facilitate informal contacts and to get a grasp of what was happening between and inside of each community (and also inside each participant), it was important that facilitators could spend time with participants. In addition, it was also a highly emotional and stressful activity also for team members.

⁶ With such a big group and a complex programme, managing the team of facilitators was one of the issue we took more care of. For more information on this, see the section on “challenges”.

For this reason, we made sure that at least 4 or 5 facilitators were free every evening and that each facilitator had at least 2 or 3 free evenings.

We devised a system by which facilitators would have free moments each day. The reason behind this was that they could have time to prepare their different sessions and manage its energy levels. Due the level of stress and high emotion for both facilitators and participants, this free moments would also help facilitators to deal with any emergency issue that may happen.

All sessions were co-facilitated. Sessions were attended by people leading the session, the Chair of the day, and the facilitators/trainer developing the following session. We finally made sure that the Chair of the day never had to develop an activity during the day.

In a trend that has repeated over the last years, during reflection groups participants required more theoretical inputs (both on the conflicts that were represented and on the content). The Youth Peace Camp is not a formal training on international relations and conflict management, so the educational team preferred to focus on the development of abilities, awareness raising and self-reflection. However, we partially answered to this request by adding some rather theoretical presentations of 15-20 minutes in connection to sessions on mediation, identities, human rights, hate speech or communication.



Challenges

A. Balance between trainers and facilitators

One of the main concerns we had in mind when developing the activity was to reach a good balance between the tasks performed by facilitators and the tasks performed by the educational advisor and the senior trainer. The level of experience within the team of facilitators was very varied: some of them had been in Youth Peace Camp for several years and were active trainers at local level whilst others had little or no facilitation experience.

We wanted to avoid that trainers had a stronger role and more experienced facilitators would feel useless or bored. At the same time, we didn't want less experienced facilitators to find themselves in difficult situations that wouldn't know how to manage.

Finally, we wanted to set up a system by which facilitators would have free time to spend with participants without this having a negative influence in the team dynamics or activity development.



We found an answer to this dilemma at the preparatory meeting and it proved to be the right answer during the Youth Peace Camp itself: Each session would be developed by one trainer (senior trainer or educational advisor) plus one or two facilitators. Sessions would then be co-facilitated by the members in the educational team that developed them, with the facilitator having a stronger role depending on her experience and level of comfort.

After the sessions and reflection groups, all the educational team would have an evaluation meeting before dinner. After dinner, only those facilitators leading sessions during the next day (as well as the Chair of the Day) would meet, leaving the rest free to mingle with participants and recover some energy.

B. Number of participants

This year's Youth Peace Camp reached more than 60 participants. Sometimes, managing such a large group was challenging, both during sessions and at informal moments. Besides the fact that many facilitators had to be involved to work with small groups, any problem was magnified by the large number of participants. For example, on the third day, we had a participant whose cell phone was allegedly stolen (it was finally found lying in a couch) and as he started looking for it all over the youth centre, the whole group got affected and rumours spread quickly.

C. Institutional visits

During the Youth Peace Camp, we received the visit of several official speakers. Participants appreciated these visits as they helped them understand better the institution where the Camp takes place. At the same time, this year some of the visits left a feeling of frustration among participants (e.g. when there was not enough opportunity to ask questions) and the educational team had to manage it.⁷

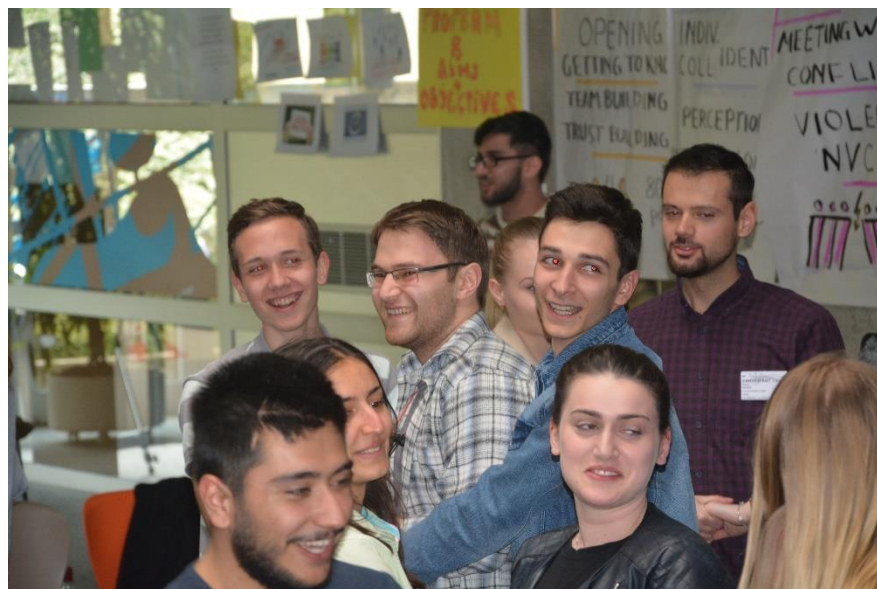
D. Participants dynamics

A Youth Peace Camp is always a challenging experience when it comes to dynamics in the group of participants. This year was not different. On the third day, a participant's wallet was lost or stolen and this created a strange feeling in the group. From that day, every time a participant found that some of their property was missing something he/she claimed that it was stolen, which always turned out not to be the case. This created a problematic dynamic in the group of participants in which it was more challenging to work on issues like confidence.

After the dialogue day, we also had several participants that were ill and stay in their rooms (7 at its peak, being more than 10% of participants). We had to call on doctor's visit to the Centre. It should be focused that the EYCS staff, specially at

⁷ There will be more on institutional speeches in the Recommendations section

reception desk where very supportive and helpful. The fact that some participants skipped sessions added to a challenging moments when it comes to group dynamics.



E. Free day

The 5th Day, right after Dialogue Day, was a full free day for participants. The objective was that participants would have a break after a very demanding and emotional Dialogue Day. Since we didn't want the group to be totally disconnected we planned the break on the day that ended with a reception offered to the group by the Cypriot Permanent Representation.

The free day was useful for participants (and also for the educational team, who could have half a day to recover some energy). Yet, it had some unwanted effects: first of all, the group dynamics changed and the group got a bit disconnected, both between themselves and to the Camp. The days following Free Day saw some individuals skipping sessions. Many of them were absent due to illness, but some others left the EYCS to visit Strasbourg or Paris without asking for permission or at least notifying the team. This raises questions about the selection process and the motivation of some of the participants and should be considered in the future.

This was intensified by the fact that there were some misunderstandings regarding the reception offered by the Cyprus chairmanship: the reception room was too small

compared to the number of people invited, and it was hard for participants to talk to each other, thus not being the “meeting place” after the free day that the team expected it to be.

The educational team managed this both on an individual basis (through communications between missing participants and its community facilitators) and on group communications (in reflection groups and plenary). By the 7th day everything was back on track but the educational team had the feeling that one day and a half was somehow lost.

F. Participants from South Ossetia and Ukraine

This year the Youth Peace Camp had a participant from Tskhinvali, partly thanks to the efforts by the DPA. Since it was the only participant from there, at some time she felt “lonely”. She was together with the group from Sukhumi, but their experiences were very different, so she didn’t feel really connected to anybody in their “community group”.

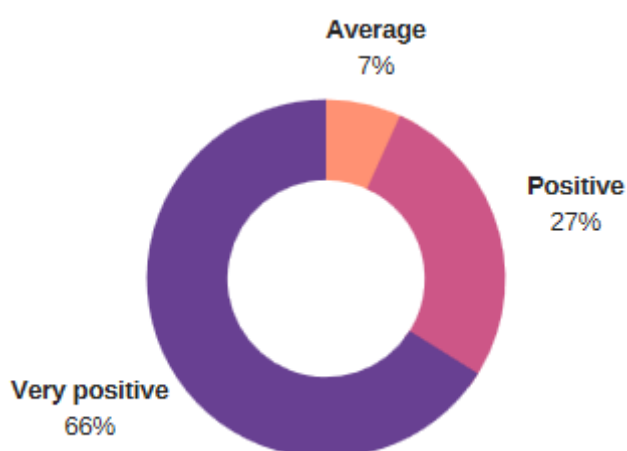
We also faced challenges regarding the Ukrainian group (and partly also the Cypriot communities). This is a complex conflict, as it could be seen during the camp. We had 12 participants from Ukraine, six of them from regions that are not under the control of the Ukrainian government. We were expecting to have people from “the two sides in the conflict”, but actually, they were feeling as a single community. So, there was no “other side” to work with. Some comments pointed that it may be necessary to invite young people from Russia, or Russian and Ukrainian speaking participants from the country.

Participants evaluation⁸

This section of the report reflects the evaluation by participants, as gathered both in the written and in the flipchart evaluation conducted the last day. The evaluation also draws on the comments made during reflection groups.

⁸ We want to thank Nour Ali, trainee at the Youth Department for her help in gathering and processing participants’ evaluation forms. Summary of participants’ written evaluations can be found in Appendix 5.

In general terms, participants were greatly satisfied with the Camp. For a vast majority, the activity was “Positive” or “Very positive”.



To a great extent, participants considered that the objectives were fulfilled, especially when it came to promote dialogue and connection between participants.

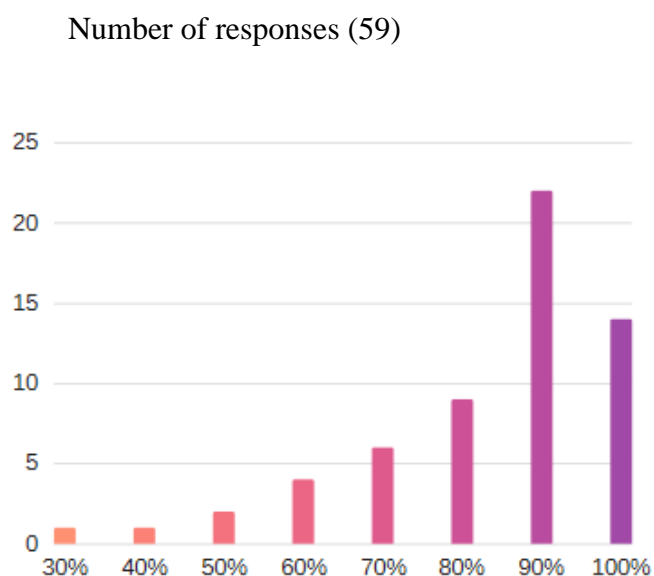
In your opinion, the objectives of this Youth Peace Camp were achieved as follows:
59 answers (1 = not achieved at all, 5 = fully achieved)

Objectives	Average
The Youth Peace Camp engages young people and youth organisations from conflict affected regions in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on HRE and intercultural learning	4,59
To develop awareness and basic competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of participants in HRE, conflict transformation, intercultural learning & dialogue, including a critical understanding of personal and collective identities and their role in conflicts)	4,32
To enable participants to share personal experiences of conflict and violence and coping strategies in a positive and safe atmosphere of living and learning together	4,57
To introduce and share existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities	4,22
To motivate and support participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in peace-building activities with young people encouraging them to implement follow-up initiatives	4,42
To present the Council of Europe, in particular its youth sector and its efforts towards strengthening youth work in the field of conflict transformation and intercultural dialogue	4,31

Expectations

According to evaluation forms and to informal conversations held with participants, expectations were met to a great extent.

Expectations of this Youth Peace Camp were met up to: (0%-100%)



Programme and flow

Participants were mostly (61 %) to fully (19%) satisfied with the programme in terms of learning outcomes. Similar answers were gathered when asking about participants better understanding of the role of the Council of Europe and its increase in confidence to continue working in the themes of the Camp.

The general feeling during reflection groups was satisfactory, but some participants were expecting to have a “more serious” Camp, for example in terms of promoting more and deeper dialogue on conflicts between participants and receiving more theoretical knowledge about conflict transformation. Most participants were not experienced in non-formal educational methodologies and the activity meant leaving their comfort zone, which was not always easy.

This Youth Peace Camp was a positive experience in:

	Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
Participation	0	0	4	21	34
Intercultural learning	0	1	12	15	31
Human rights education	2	4	11	19	23
Reconciliation	0	4	14	27	14

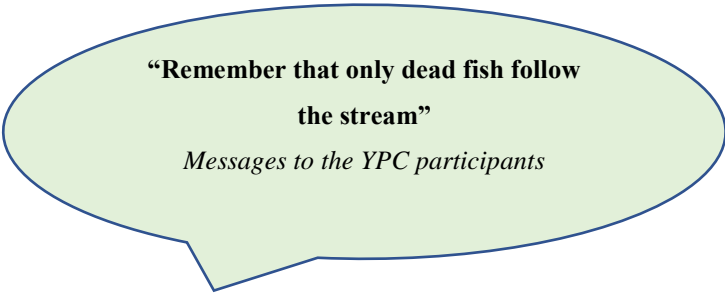
Most and least useful element

Participants appreciated elements like the contacts they made and the dialogue opportunities that were created during the Camp. They also were satisfied with the confidence and self-knowledge they gained during the activity.

In general, participants were happy with the positive and energetic atmosphere that was created during the Camp, as well as the positive attitude and support from the educational team.

On the least useful elements, the evaluation from participants mentions the lack of knowledge, and the fact that they would be expecting to work a bit more on conflict transformation abilities and tools. They rated poorly also institutional visits, as they felt this was an element that didn't add to the programme.

Transformational activity



**“Remember that only dead fish follow
the stream”**

Messages to the YPC participants

For most participants, the Youth Peace Camp was an activity that was useful to gain self-knowledge and to start changing some personal attitudes. Some comments on the last day referred

to their need to change their own perceptions or their attitudes when facing life challenges. They also focused on the need to stand up and work for change, going against the flow if necessary.

It is said that activities like the Youth Peace Camp can be life-changing experiences. This is a feeling that the educational team had after receiving many participants comments. Just to point one of them that can be very enlightening is that one participant mentioned “*the Youth Peace Camp made me a better person*”.







RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Institutional speeches

Inputs by institutional representatives are an integral part of the programme of the Youth Peace Camp. These visits are useful because they give participants a global overview of conflicts in Europe, and a vision of the institutional framework where these kind of confidence-building measures take place. They also provide a contact with politics and the tougher elements in the international arena. Finally, they are very beneficial to give institutional visibility to such an important activity.

At the same time, one needs to take into account that these visits may generate frustration among participants. Sometimes it's due to the strong messages these guests give to the audience. Others it may be due to wrong expectations and time and structural limitations to a proper dialogue.

For this we recommend that the educational team allows some time in the planning and programme to prepare participants for institutional guests and make sure that participants have realistic expectations. At the same time, appropriate time for questions and answers and debriefing may be reserved in the planning.

2. Team-management

Promoting a strong team spirit was instrumental for this year success of the camp. This aspect should be taken into account by future educational teams, as well as the need for a necessary balance in work and informal time that allows the team to run the camp in an efficient but mentally and physical healthy manner.

3. Profile of participants & dates

This year, some of the facilitators in the educational team had the feeling that not all participants were the best young people to be there. The overall feeling was that participants were not really affected by conflict. For the success of the Camp, and specially for its effect in peace-building it should be ensured that participants are people who has been really affected by conflict.

This may mean opening the door to more experienced participants, or even to some participants that at first hand may not be believers in peace. It may make the Camp much harder, but also more meaningful.

On the dates where the Camp takes place, this year it was organised in spring to make it fall into the Cyprus chairmanship. This had no effect on the development of the Camp, but some facilitators claimed that it had a negative effect on the number of applications: young people may be free in summer but busy with studying or working in spring.

Weather conditions were also mostly inappropriate for outdoor activities in the springtime, which basically forced the large group to constantly stay indoors and limited the opportunity to have any informal programme outdoor on the free day.

4. Hot versus frozen conflicts

One of the issues for debate this year was the pertinence of inviting participants from communities that have not seen recent armed conflict, especially countries that have been participating in Youth Peace Camp for many years. Is there still something to explore? Should these countries be invited to another edition of the camp? This year showed that even in conflicts that may seem “frozen” there are still misunderstandings between people from the different communities. For example, this year Greek and Turkish Cypriot participants explained that they had learn tremendously from each other, in a learning process that would be difficult on their own countries.

One suggestion was to organise different Youth Peace Camp with conflicts that are in similar situations. However, seeing different realities is useful for participants.

5. More Dialogue Day needed

This year participants wanted more and more dialogue with the other side. It was time and again explained that even if only one “Dialogue Day” was organised, this dialogue and learning of people from other communities was constantly happening: during activities, at informal moments, during the free day...

However, it may be useful to deepen on the concept of “Dialogue Day” on two directions: allowing for more spaces to promote direct contacts between communities, and allowing for more spaces where deep conversations between participants from communities at conflict (more bi-community dialogue) could take place.

6. Give more tools

With the format as it is, the Camp works a lot on transforming participants in their approach to conflict, and gives them tools to promote peace-building in their communities. It will be also interesting if even more practical tools are given for this youth peace builders: mediation skills, campaigning abilities, conflict analysis, advocacy strategies... This may mean re-organising the whole concept of the Camp, for example by transforming it into a Long Term Training (LTT) with several residential seminars and on-line work in between.

7. Organised follow up

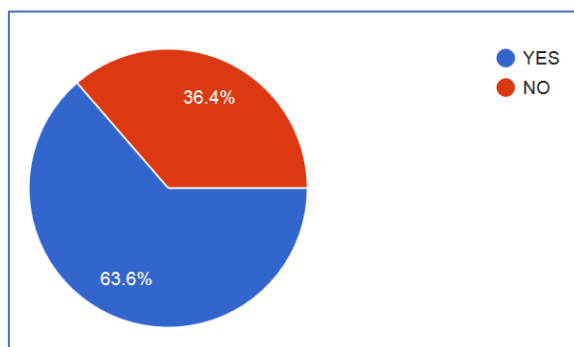


Follow up may be one of the weakest points of the Youth Peace Camp. This year, we spend one day working on project planning and follow up, but to deepen on the effect of camp in the local communities it may be necessary to build up on follow up. For example, by

assigning facilitators as mentors that would be in charge of following its participants for the next 4 months, or by having local support organisations in the field that would help participants turn its ideas into reality. Another idea that came up during evaluation is the need to reflect on how to create an Alumni network that could support participants after the Camp.

Nevertheless, it is also probable that many participants keep on being active but the information about the different actions and initiatives is not gathered in a systematic way. In a follow up questionnaire participants (even if a minority of them) reported that

63 % of them got involved in follow up activities. Therefore besides providing time and proper support for the participants in working on their ideas at the camp, it is equally important to keep I touch with them and ask for information about the local and regional activities they organize or get involved in.



Question: Have you been a part of any follow up action (local, national or regional/international) since your latest Camp?

8. Free time // free day

This year one of the strongest challenges we faced was on the free day. On the one hand, both participants and the educational team badly needed a break from a very demanding first part of the Camp. On the other hand, it “disconnected” the group both to each other and to the Camp.

This is an issue that needs to be considered by future educational teams. One suggestion was to give two half free days.

9. Outreach / visibility

The Youth Peace Camp is probably one of the most attention-grabbing activities organised by the Council of Europe. Not only by the Youth Department, but also by the whole institution. Thus, it deserves to have much more visibility inside and outside the Council of Europe.

This year the Youth Peace Camp had wide visibility in the framework of the Council of Europe. On a couple of times (for example during the visit of the Deputy Secretary

General) we were reported as main story in the Council of Europe's website and Facebook pages. The fact that the camp was part of priorities of the Cyprus chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers also helped to the general feeling that information on the camp was widespread among Council of Europe's high ranking officials and member country representatives.

A filming crew was also hired to shoot two videos: one descriptive video and another more conceptual video on the meaning of a youth peace camp.

This may be one of the issues to discuss when organising future Camps. For example, the educational team, together with the staff of the Youth Department can contact the Press Department to plan internal and external actions to "explain" the Camp. Facilitators could also actively promote the Camp in their local communities before and after the Camp. For example, after the Camp several articles were published in the Kosovo, Cypriot and Andorran press.

Concerning the video, one recommendation for future editions is to work more on communication between the filming crew and the educational team, as at some time we felt that we were working on parallel. A Youth Peace Camp is a very demanding activity for the educational team and everyday there's a number of issues that had to be dealt urgently. Should a video be prepared in future editions, it may be helpful to include the filming crew at earlier stages in the preparation of the camp.





APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROGRAMME

Saturday, 29 April 2017

Arrival of participants

16:00 Registration of participants and administrative formalities

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Informal welcome evening

Sunday, 30 April 2017 – Introductions

09:30 Welcome and opening of the Youth Peace Camp 2017, with Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training Division, Youth Department

11:00 Break

11:30 Introduction to the peace camp framework and methodology

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Group building: Developing communication and trust

16:00 Break

16:30 Group building: Developing communication and trust

18:00 Introduction to reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Social evening

Monday, 1 May 2017 – Identities

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up

09:30 Understanding individual identities

11:00 Break

11:30 Exploring collective social and cultural identities and their dynamics

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Exploring perceptions

16:00 Break

16:30 Exploring intercultural communication

18:00 Preparation for meeting institutional speakers

18:30 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Free evening

Tuesday, 2 May 2017 – Peace and Conflict

09:00 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up

09:15 The role of the Council of Europe in peace-building – exchange of views with
- Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General
and message by

- Ambassador Theodora Constantinidou, Permanent Representative of
Cyprus

10:15 Approaching and understanding conflict (introduction)

11:30 Approaching and understanding conflict

11:00 Break

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Conflict and violence

16:30 Break

17:00 Non-violent communication

18:00 Approaches and principles of the Council of Europe in conflict-stricken areas,
input and discussion with *Alexandre Guessel*, Director of Political Affairs

19:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 3 May 2017 – Dialogue

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up

09:45 Communication and dialogue

11:00 Break

11:30 Dialogue

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Dialogue (continued)

- 15:15 Short break
- 15:30 Dialogue (continued)
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Dialogue (concluded)
- 18:00 Debriefing of the Dialogue sessions
- Reflection groups
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Evening programme – Party

Thursday, 4 May 2017 – Free Day

- 19:00 Concert with the band Monsieur Domani (Cyprus), followed by a reception by the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Council of Europe

Friday, 5 May 2017 – Peace and Human Rights

- 09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up
- 09:30 Peace and conflict transformation
- 10:30 Debriefing in buzz groups
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Understanding peace and conflict transformation approaches and models
- 13:00 Lunch
 - Travel expenses reimbursements and visit of the Council of Europe headquarters
- 15:00 The role of human rights education for peace-building
- 16:00 Break
- 18:00 Reflection groups
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Evening programme – Creative peace evening

Saturday, 6 May 2017 – Action day

- 09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up

09:30 Presentation of the European Youth Foundation with Natalia Militello, Head of the European Youth Foundation (tbc)

10:15 Good practices in youth work

11:00 Break

11:30 Introduction to the No Hate Speech Movement

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Introduction to the management of youth projects

16:00 Break

16.30 Taking action 1.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Evening programme – Taking action with the No Hate Speech Movement

Sunday, 7 May 2017 - Follow-up, Evaluation and Closing

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up

09:30 Taking action 2.

11:00 Break

11:30 Presentation of follow up ideas and feedback

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Evaluation of the camp

15:15 Official closing of the Youth Peace Camp, with

- Matthew Johnson, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation

- Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir, Advisory Council on Youth

16:00 Free time

20:00 Barbecue Dinner and farewell party

Monday, 8 May 2017

Departure of Participants

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Participants

Name	Organisation
Nurana Jafarova	N/A
Eltaj Rustamli	N/A
Murad Rustambayli	N/A
Turkan Mammadli	AzVision
Bahrüz Samedov	NIDA Civic Movement
Zuleykha Shirinova	N/A
Nato Inasaridze	Youth Civic Activism Network
Giorgi Gogsadze	N/A
Elene Koridze	AIESEC
Gurandukhti Betchvaia	N/A
Goga Katalandze	'Avangard'
Nino Toradze	Helping Hand
Inga Kelekhsaeva	N/A
Akhuba Sabina	RA State Committee on Youth Policy
Lomiia Arzamet	The Children's Fund of Abkhazia
Akhba Alisa	N/A
Avidzba Aiten	NGO "Discover Abkhazia"
Chkadua Lana	Public organization 'Avangard'
Viktoria Kapikyan	RA State Committee on Youth Policy
Lianna Grigoryan	N/A
Lilit Martirosyan	KASA Swiss Humanitarian Foundation
Hamlet Simonyan	'For Armenian soldier' military-patriotic NGO

Name	Organisation
Sona Arakelyan	LOGOS Armenia
Gayane Vardanyan	Peace Dialogue NGO
Shushanna Tevanyan	Student council of Yerevan State University
Zgjim Gashi	World Vision International
Musa Shpresa	N/A
Vigan Aliu	ITED Kosova
Haxhimusa Gresë	Kosova Young Lawyers
Gjylisha Cena	GAIA Kosovo
Orges Sejdiu	Kosovo United States Alumni (KUSA)
Stefana Stamenković	Diakonie Kosova Youth Center
Marko Jovanović	Youth Council in municipality of Ranilug
Kostadin Stanković	Center for Social Engagement
Aleksandra Lazarević	Youth Educational Club Synergy
Naser Maslar	Informal group, Gorani Association 'Unity'
Aleksandra Radosavljević	Developing society center
Yevhenii Monastyrskyi	Ukrainian Catholic University / Democracy Study Center at German-Polish-Ukrainian Society
Myroslava Statkevych	Eastern Ukrainian Centre of Civic Initiatives/ The Coalition 'Justice for Peace in Donbas'
Artur Aheiev	Donbass State Pedagogical University
Yulia Babukh	N/A
Iryna Chyrieva	The Liberal Democratic League of Ukraine
Valeriia Moroz	World Youth Alliance Europe
Oleksii Katkov	N/A
Svitlana Lebedenko	European Law Students' Association, Moscow, National Research University Higher School of

Name	Organisation
	Economics
Myroslav Nikolaichenko	Center of European Cooperation
Olha Kukuiuk	Bar Association “Donetsk Central Law Society”
Valeriia Afanasieva	Civil Organization «Youth of Donbas»
Yevheniia Kut	NGO «Donetsk-SOS»
Antigoni Michael	N/A
Rita Areti Neophytou	N/A
Eleni Philippou	Global Shapers Nicosia
Panayiotis Krashias	Youth Business Network Cyprus
Rafaella Ilia	N/A
Nikolas Falas	N/A
Nevin Özbaylı	N/A
Alırıza Eren	N/A
Muammer Nihat	N/A
Hilay Aylanç	N/A
Arda Çileker	TDP Youth Organization
Hasan Cankoy	N/A

* 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.

2. Educational team

Name	Role
László Milutinovits	Educational Advisor, Education and Training Division, Youth Department
Ramon Tena	Senior trainer
Alban Kryeziu	Facilitator
Burak Berk Doluay	Facilitator
Chrisie Sea	Facilitator
Elena Kuvichko	Facilitator
Namiq Abdullayev	Facilitator
Nevena Radosavljevic	Facilitator
Nino Tsulaia	Facilitator
Oleksandr Fomichov	Facilitator
Vahan Kostanyan	Facilitator
Yuliya Ielfimova	Facilitator

3. Council of Europe

Name	Organisation
Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni	Deputy Secretary General
Theodora Constantinidou	Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Cyprus (excused)
Matthew Johnson	Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation
Alexandre Guessel	Director of Political Affairs
Antje Rothmund	Head of the Youth Department
Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir	Advisory Council on Youth

Natalia Militello	European Youth Foundation
Rui Gomes	Head of Division Education and Training, Youth Department
László Milutinovits	Educational Advisor, Education and Training Division, Youth Department
Claudia Montevercchi	Administrative Assistant, Youth Department

APPENDIX 3: DIALOGUE DAY BROCHURE

Youth Peace Camp - Guide to the Programme of the Dialogue Day

"If you ask me, what was my best memory about Youth Peace Camp, I will remember that my T-Shirt got wet by the tears of my friends, who cried hugging me. I realized that our tears were the same, that we are same and just living on different sides of the conflict, that we are engaged in without our own will."



Youth Peace Camp - Guide to the Programme of the Dialogue Day

Your guide to the Dialogue Day



Why a Dialogue Day?

Having the chance to meet the "other side" is one of the main motivations to join the Youth Peace Camp for many. This is a unique opportunity of sharing our story with them while hearing their version of the story.

There is usually a lot of anticipation for the "dialogue day" and these sessions are remembered as the most valuable by participants. The programme of the first three days lays down the foundations for a dialogue process in which participants have the opportunity to share their personal experiences of the conflict with other participants.

The "dialogue day" is constructed around a progressive process that includes different stages: **exploring the concept of dialogue, sharing personal stories** in mixed community groups, in mono-community groups and in bi-communal groups (involving participants from both sides of the conflict) and the groups are supported by facilitators.

The day is concluded in a **reflective space** that allows participants to express their emotions and reflect individually and collectively on their dialogue experience through art in a positive and relaxed atmosphere.

"Stories engulf both our hearts and minds. We talk a lot about stories in mediation and conflict transformation. We believe in the need to tell and hear stories. We work to create a space that honours the experience shared in people's stories."

(John Paul Lederach, Reconcile, Herald Press, 2014)

"I listened to the experiences of people from conflict regions and this somehow changed my attitude towards the conflict between my country and the other side. I had a chance to look at my country from the other point of view."

"I felt really good engaging in dialogue when both parties discussed their common problems and reflected through arts. I was ready to cry because it touched me greatly."

We will be working in a variety of settings during the day. This will include meeting in mono-, bi- and mixed community groups as well as the use of different rooms in Youth Centre, so it is important that you always keep an eye on facilitators. Please follow instructions and make sure that you always know where to go and when.

Schedule of the daily programme:

Plenary intro: Debate and Dialogue

Session: Mono-Community - Personal Stories

Break

Plenary intro + Mixed Groups - Personal Sharing

Lunch

Mono-Community reflection

Bi-Community dialogue

Break

Plenary closing and creative reflection space

Reflection groups

Rooms to be used:

We will be using a variety of rooms and spaces in the whole building.

"After several years of my Dialogue day I have realized that I didn't express enough my words, my love, warmth and good attitude towards friends from the "other" side and this hurts me. This is your time to open your heart."

"I learned to talk as an individual and not on behalf of a whole population where I come from. Change my self not others."

APPENDIX 4: FOLLOW UP SHEET

Please complete the following questions

Name of the Project:

Aims and objectives of the project:

Why is your project needed? To what needs of your target group will it respond?

What are the expected results of the project?

Names of team members and emails

Human Resources

Please list all the people that you need in order to deliver your project.

Who we need	Their role

Finding Resources

Please list all necessary resources that will be needed to deliver your project.

Resources Needed	Their purpose

Potential Challenges

Think and list the things that could negatively affect the deliverable of your project.

Challenge	Plan to meet this challenge

What kind of support you would need from the team of Facilitators or the Youth Department?

Project timeline

Your project timeline should include detailed schedule of your steps to achieve your goal. This will also serve as a guide for you to follow as a team.

Date	What has to be done

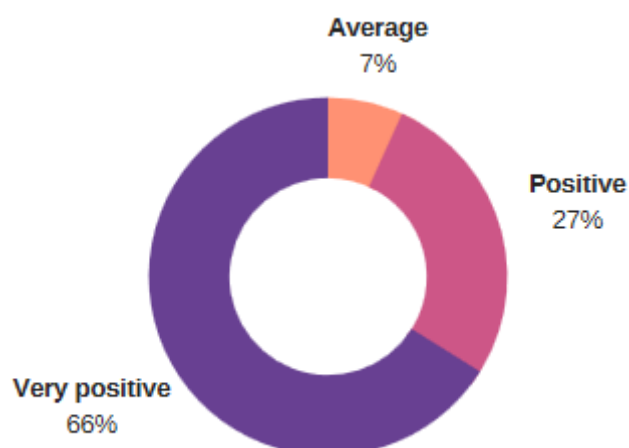
APPENDIX 5: PARTICIPANTS' EVALUATION

Youth Peace Camp (30 April – 7 May 2017)
Strasbourg

European Youth Centre

Participants Evaluations Summary (59 completed forms)

1. Overall, my experience of this Youth Peace Camp was:

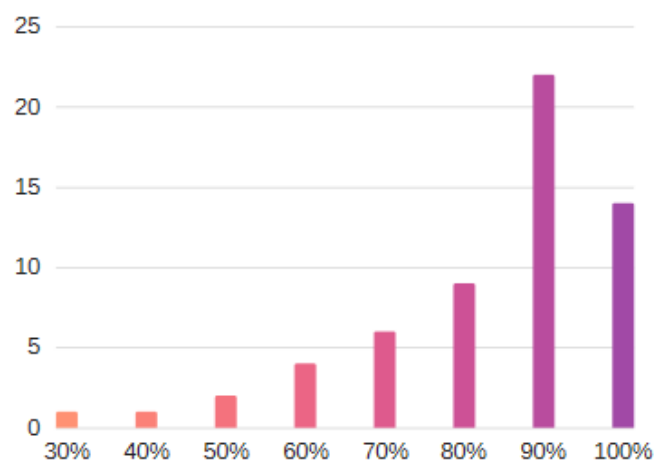


2. In my opinion, the objectives of this Youth Peace Camp were achieved as follows: 59 answers (1 = not achieved at all, 5 = fully achieved)

Objectives	Average
The Youth Peace Camp engages young people and youth organisations from conflict affected regions in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on HRE and intercultural learning	4,59
To develop awareness and basic competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of participants in HRE, conflict transformation, intercultural learning & dialogue, including a critical understanding of personal and collective identities and their role in conflicts)	4,32
To enable participants to share personal experiences of conflict and violence and coping strategies in a positive and safe atmosphere of living and learning together	4,57
To introduce and share existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities	4,22
To motivate and support participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in peace-building activities with young people encouraging them to implement follow-up initiatives	4,42
To present the Council of Europe, in particular its youth sector and its efforts towards strengthening youth work in the field of conflict transformation and intercultural dialogue	4,31

3. My expectations of this Youth Peace Camp were met up to: (0%-100%)

Number of responses (59)



Comments: "- Expected more training and advice from the Council of Europe on how youth can solve conflicts

- Need for facilitators with specific knowledge of human rights and conflicts studies
- The session "face to face" with the opposite side of the conflict region was too short, couldn't share thoughts enough
- Smaller groups for more comfort in sharing
- There could be more activities linked to HR, and team buildings activities for every country
- Was expecting more learning and less playing."

4. The programme and methods were appropriate to facilitate learning:

Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
0	1	3	36	19

*Comments: "-the Dialogue session was very interesting and important
-Some games during the activities were not that much appropriate".*

5. I gained confidence and competences to continue working on the themes of the Camp:

Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
0	2	10	23	24

6. I understand better the role of the Council of Europe and the relevance of its work:

Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
1	3	10	24	21

Comments: "A shame that not all participants' questions were answered"

7. This Youth Peace Camp was a positive experience in:

	Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
Participation	0	0	4	21	34
Intercultural learning	0	1	12	15	31
Human rights education	2	4	11	19	23
Reconciliation	0	4	14	27	14

Comments: Several participants complained about “not being listened to” nor being given the space to discuss and debate with each other.

8. My assessment of the learning environment is that:

	Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
Everybody had the opportunity to actively engage in the process	0	2	4	25	28
Everybody's opinions were respected	1	1	6	19	32
The atmosphere was positive	0	1	2	16	40
I did not feel discriminated in this group	2	1	2	19	35
Conflicts or disagreements were addressed constructively	4	10	2	24	19
The Dialogue day was well facilitated and successful	0	0	8	18	30

Note: 3 answers are missing for the last line (Dialogue day), participants might not have seen it because of the page layout.

Comments: “-Dialogue day: the other side didn’t understand our feelings. Felt discriminated because of misunderstanding. - Atmosphere was positive depending on the themes”

9. The facilities of the European Youth Centre were appropriate...

	Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
Working rooms	0	0	1	14	44
Bedrooms	0	0	7	13	39
Restaurant and meals	5	9	12	8	25
Reimbursement of travel expenses	0	1	5	12	37
Reception and security	0	1	4	3	51
Other: Bicycles	0	0	0	1	0
Other: Facilitators	0	0	0	0	1

Note: 4 missing answers for “Reimbursement of travel expenses”.

10. What I take home from this Youth Peace Camp: (In recurrence order)

- Better understanding of other side, team work, positivity, inspiration to take action. Motivation to “promote peace”, energy to take steps towards implementing projects in home country
- Many contacts, friendships, positive emotions.
- Self-confidence.
- “More memories and friends than knowledge”
- Methods for peacebuilding, practical issues related to peace building and conflict transformation.
- Experience of active learning and multicultural common action.

11. What I missed in this Youth Peace Camp is: (In recurrence order)

- Space for Dialogue and debate
- “Deeper knowledge”, more information and theoretical knowledge about conflict resolution and HR
- More free time
- Proper meals
- Clearer instructions, with a correct use of English
- Being more involved in case studies and gain analytical skills
- Thematic parties; Activities in town with the group; more interactive activities

12. Other comments:

- “-Excellent first part of the programme, 2nd part was weak*
- Gender balance should be kept in country groups*
- Exclude surnames from the badges, it makes conversation tough for people from Azerbaijan, Armenia*
- No necessity to meet with representatives of Council of Europe deputy secretary general, it causes frustration and negative atmosphere between participants*
- Majority of people have very subjective opinions and obviously lack academic knowledge*
- Guest speakers could be more diplomatic.”*

Note: The question 11 was often misunderstood as “what I am going to miss from the camp”. Apart from the food experience, a lot of gratitude and enthusiasm expressed, and love towards the facilitators.

APPENDIX 6: FOLLOW UP PROJECTS

1. **Joint weekend for peace** (Stefana Stamenkovic, Kosovo)

This short-term project has the aim to connect youth from different communities living in Kosovo (Albanians, Serbians, Roma, Bosnians and other), in order to develop tolerance between them by discovering their cultural similarities and differences.

The concept of the activities is based on the activities, knowledge and skills acquired during the Youth Peace Camp 2017. Facilitator's role is to support the project if needed and to be part of it as a trainer.

2. **Youth against violent radicalism and extremism** (Marko Jovanovic, Kosovo)

In this project, qualified professors will teach young people how radicalism and violent extremism can influence young people and nations. We will promote the No Hate Speech Movement and equality for all. This project is an idea created after Youth Peace Camp 2017 participation. The role of the facilitator is to organize the workshop and present the No Hate Speech movement, which will be held during the project.

3. **What is Populism?** (Arzamet Lomiia - Sukhumi)

This video created as a result of the Youth Peace Camp creates some infographics to explain the roots of populism and its relation to hate speech. It is included in the activities developed in the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PJ6ET1TOPo&feature=youtu.be>

4. **Summer Camp for Youth** (Sona Arakelyan - Armenia)

A Camp combining peacebuilding and the discovery of hate speech and ways of countering it. The implementation depends on EYF funding.

Additionally, in a survey questionnaire (October 2017) former participants and facilitators reported on the following projects as ones that were linked to the follow up process of the Youth Peace Camp in 2016 and 2017:

5. **International Youth Camp by Great Silk Way Youth Union**, 30 participants - students and youth workers. The "International Youth Camp" was a project

designed to bring together youth from different parts of the world in order to discuss and share their ideas and concerns about issues related to intercultural dialog and multiculturalism. Participants were encouraged to discuss and thus increase the awareness of the issue. It also aimed at exploring ways in which these active and emerging youth can act together as advocates for multiculturalism and tolerance at the local, regional and global level.

6. **United for Peace** by Center for Intercultural Exchange. The aim of project was to widen the perspectives of youth leaders on conflict management and inter-religious dialogue in a peace building context through exchanging experience and analysing concepts using non formal education for youth work.
7. **Human Rights Youth Forum 2017** - This project gathered 40 young people from Serbia and Albania who worked together in 3 different workshops for 3 days and came up with joint recommendations for the region that tackle specific problems youth are facing in both countries. The aim of the project was to provide safe space for communication concerns, problems and ideas of these young people and to equip them with skills related to human rights promotion and protection so they can become young multipliers in their local communities and spread the knowledge and new skills among their peers. Participants came from different regions of both countries (both urban and rural areas) and had previous experience in international mobility opportunities (to a certain extent). This event enabled peace-promotion and conflict-resolution as topics close to both nationalities were discussed and social walls were torn down, whereas friendship bridges were built up.
8. **Three follow up meetings with the two Cypriot groups** to discuss for a common project in the buffer zone. Aim of the project was to present our common identity through art.
9. **No Hate – Project Against Gender-based Discrimination.** The aim was to enhance the knowledge and understanding on how gender and conflict correlates within a framework of local realities, and finding out ways to combat sexist hate speech. Number of participants: 20 young people.