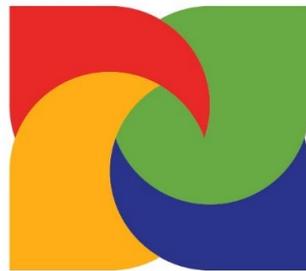




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Strasbourg, 22 August 2023

Youth Peace Camp 2023



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

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg
4–11 July 2023

REPORT

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Source of photos: Educational Team of the Youth Peace Camp 2023

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This report was prepared by Yuliya Ielfimova, in cooperation with Ramon Tena, trainers in the Youth Peace Camp 2023. It provides an overview of the various aspects of this project and its main outcomes. It includes also some recommendations for future editions of the Youth Peace Camp.

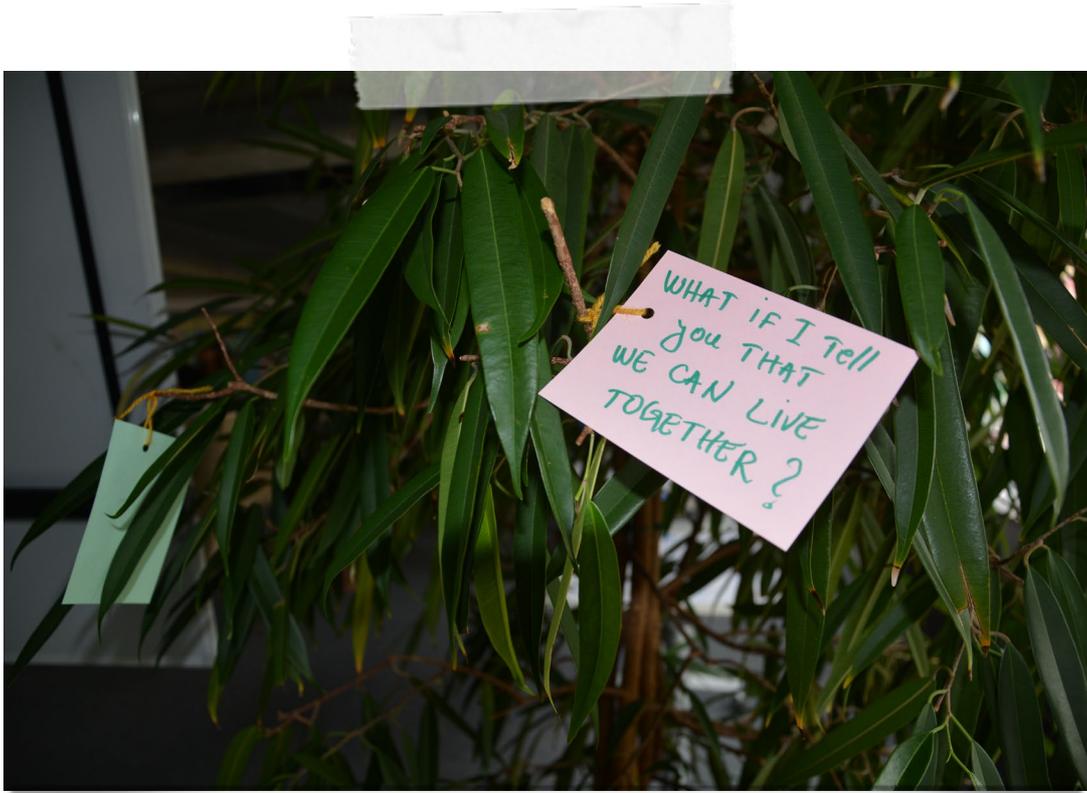
We would like to express our gratitude to all those who contributed to this report, in particular to the facilitators and participants of the Youth Peace Camp 2023, and to colleagues at the Youth Department of the Council of Europe: to Rui Gomes for coordination and for Claudia Montecchi for administrative support. Also, a special thanks for Reka Heszterenyá who is responsible for some of the most amazing pictures in this report.

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.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Peace Camp (YPC) 2023 took place in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (France), from 4 to 11 July 2023. The camp brought together 43 participants from the following countries and communities: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots), Kosovo¹, South Caucasus region and right bank of the river Nistru/Dniestr. Throughout the camp participants could develop their competences in peace building and conflict transformation, explore the ways in which conflict affected them, establish a dialogue with young people coming from the other side” and increase their competences in the role of multipliers and peer leaders in implementing peace-building activities with young people in their communities.

The YPC was facilitated by 9 facilitators - one from each of the participants communities- and two trainers, supported by staff from the Youth Department. The programme of the YPC consisted of three main parts:

1. Building a common ground, team building and trust building, exploring the diversity in the group and increasing the competences in understanding conflict, communication and preparation for the dialogue.
2. The Dialogue Day - the core of the Camp.
3. Development the competences on supporting the role of the participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in implementing peace building activities with young people in their communities and planning the follow-up initiatives.

During the YPC the participants delved into their stories of the conflict and exchanged their personal experiences with young people from the other side. This interest of listening the stories of other was very high from the first day of the camp which created a significant impact on the process, fostering productive dialogues about the conflict and potential resolutions. This experience developed a strong feeling of understanding and empathy in the group which led to the constructive thinking on possible initiatives for follow-up both on the individual level and on the bilateral level between the groups from both sides of the conflict.

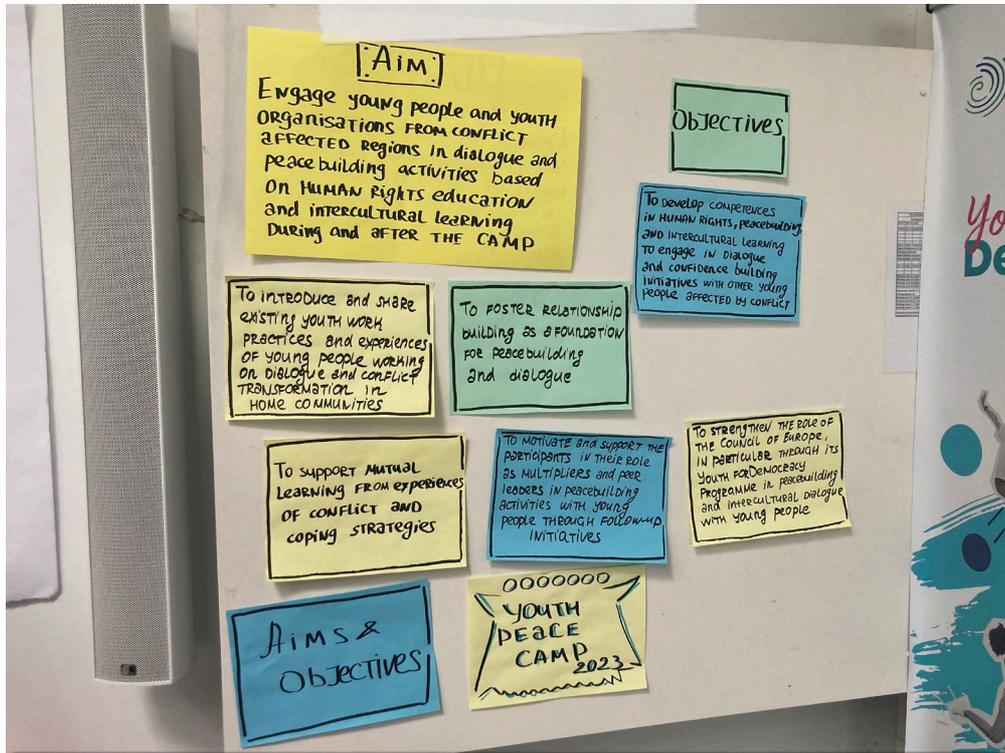
In the process of follow-up initiatives development. the participants insisted on having the process of initiatives’ planning in bi-community groups, which highlighted the strong need of the participants in maintaining the communication and searching for joint solutions. This year the focus was given to follow-up, focusing on searching for join solution and maintaining the process of dialogue between the representatives from both sides of the conflict.

The participants explored deeply their own story within the conflict and shared their personal stories with youth coming from the other side. This had a strong effect: constructive conversations on the conflict and possible solutions to break the circle of misunderstanding started in the programme and also spontaneously among participants from different communities. This also had a positive effect in creating commitment towards multiplying actions (joint and individual) upon their return to communities. Although a tiring and very emotional day the result was a boost in empathy, trust and mutual understanding between the young participants.

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.

The last three days of the camp focused on developing participants capacity to develop their own projects in conflict transformation. This year more attention was given to follow-up, focusing especially on strengthening the relationship between facilitators and participants from their own communities.

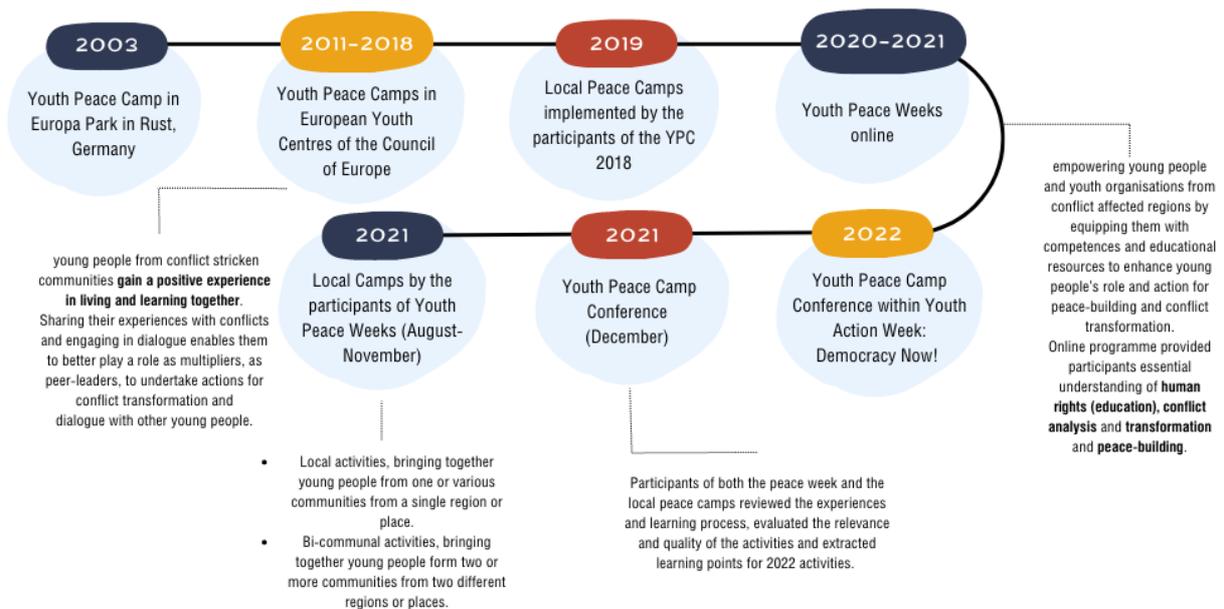
The outcomes of the Camp were positively evaluated with by the participants and facilitators. The participants highlighted healthy, inclusive environment which was created during the camp that created space for understanding and appreciation of experience of each other. They valued the content and the flow of the programme and for some of the participants the YPC was a transformational experience. The facilitators believed that aims and objectives of the camp were fully met and they were inspired by the evolution of the group through the Camp.



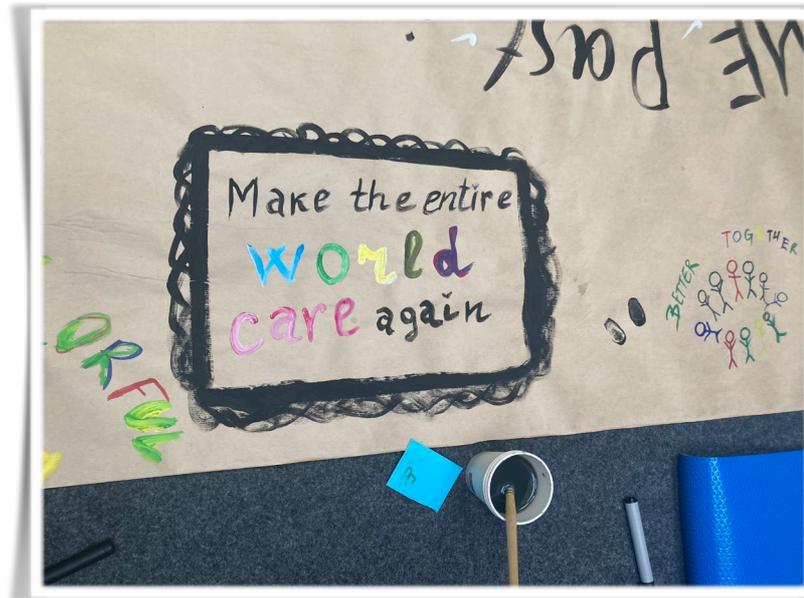
ABOUT THE YOUTH PEACE CAMP

The Youth Peace Camp is a confidence-building measure of the Council of Europe Youth Department that supports participation of young people from conflict-stricken regions very often representing the communities from the opposite sites of the conflict to decrease misunderstanding, tension, fear, anxiety, and conflict between two or more parties by emphasising trust and empathy. The Youth Peace Camps were initiated by the Council of Europe in 2003 at Europa Park in Rust, Germany. Since 2011 the camp is held at the European Youth Centres. In the past years, the peace camp project brought together young people (of ages 18-25) from the South Caucasus region, Cyprus, Kosovo², Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

The Youth Peace Camp allows young people and youth organisations from conflict-stricken regions to engage in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning. Through being engaged into the activities within the programme of the Camp, young people from conflict stricken communities gain a positive experience in living and learning together. Sharing their experiences with conflicts and engaging in dialogue enables them to better play a role as multipliers, as peer-leaders, to undertake actions for conflict transformation and dialogue with other young people.



² 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.



YOUTH PEACE CAMP 2023

Aims and Objectives of the Camp

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

Objectives

The objectives (personal, organisational and institutional) of the Youth Peace Camp are:

- To develop awareness and basic competences (knowledge, skills and attitude) of participants in human rights education, peacebuilding and intercultural learning to enable them to engage in dialogue and confidence-building initiatives with other young people affected by conflict.
- To support mutual learning from experiences of conflict and coping strategies;
- To foster relationship building as a foundation for peacebuilding and dialogue;
- To introduce and share existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities
- 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.

The educational team

The Youth Peace Camp 2023 was facilitated by the team of nine facilitators (one from each



participating communities), two senior trainers and with the assistance of the Educational Advisor from the Youth Department. The Head of Division Education and Training of the Council of Europe Youth Department supervised and supported the work of the team throughout the process.

The facilitators and trainers were selected through the open call 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 there those who had experience either as facilitators or as participants of the Youth Peace Camp in previous years or facilitated the online version of the youth peace camp - Youth Peace Week. Some of the facilitators had experience of organised regional and local Youth Peace Camps.

The team of facilitators were very diverse from the perspective of the experience: there were those who have more experience and those with less experience. However, the team was balanced

and complementary. Having such diversity of experience and background in the team was an added value for the process.

The team of trainers and facilitators was very well-selected, as everyone contributed positively to the process and showed support for each other even in most challenging situations. The atmosphere was respectful and empathetic and the communication both on individual level and on a group-level was well-managed. While each member in the team had understanding of YPC and the topics tackled throughout the programme, at the same time, each team member had a unique background, which strengthened the general team dynamics and teamwork.

The facilitators mentioned that experience of the Youth Peace Camp 2023 was highly rewarding in various aspects:

- Programme Involvement: engaging in designing and co-drafting session outlines, researching key camp topics, and exploring non-formal education.
- Facilitation skills: leading or assisting sessions with larger participant groups, developing the skills of facilitator, adapting to the needs of the participants.
- Team Collaboration: working within a diverse team of individuals from different backgrounds.
- Increasing the knowledge on the topics of the Youth Peace Camp
- Challenging own perspectives towards the conflict.

The main challenge faced by the team was caused by the uncertainty from the very beginning of how many communities will be involved in the Youth Peace Camp 2023. During the preparatory meeting in January in Strasbourg it was not clear if the communities of both sides of the river Dniestr/Nistru and Abkhazia and Georgia will take part in the Camp. Though the facilitators from the respective communities, except of the left bank of the river Dniestr/Nistru, were selected and attended the preparatory meeting in January but their role was not clear and they were not involved in the process of the programme development. It was already clear that it could affect the team dynamics in the preparation process as well as during the Camp.

When the decision was made on involving mentioned communities to the Camp, the online preparatory meeting was organised to engage new facilitators in the preparation process. However, there was a replacement of the facilitator from Georgian community and a new facilitator from the left bank of the river Dniestr/Nistru was selected and joined the team. Another challenge was caused by dropping out the Educational Advisor from the Youth Peace Camp and having a new team member in the educational team.

Such replacements in the team caused time for making redivision of the tasks and responsibilities in the team, more time and efforts were spent for the preparation and introduction of new team members in the process. It required additional efforts for team-building and time for the team to adapt to each other and work as a team. During the preparatory meeting in July the additional time was dedicated to team and trust building activities and creating the joint principles of co-working in the team. One of the key aspects which the team agreed upon is open and constant communication in the team, acknowledgement of personal barriers in the process of preparation and taking care of own and each other's wellbeing.

The preparation process included 2-days offline preparatory meetings in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (France): the first one in January and the second one before the start of the Camp. The preparatory meeting in January was finalised with the draft of the programme, elements of the programme and tasks division on the preparation to the camp. The facilitators recommended that one more day is needed for the preparatory meeting and having more time for getting-to-know the team and team-building activities. Between January and July there were organised two online preparatory meetings with all team members involved and separate meetings in small working teams focused on development of the separate elements of the programme, especially intensive meetings were between two senior trainers as they were responsible for developing session outlines together with different teams of facilitators and supporting the programme logic and cohesion.

Team-building and trust-building activities within the team were essential as they ensured the creation of good team spirit, feeling of the ownership of the programme of the Youth Peace Camp and the process, feeling of the shared mission and responsibility. Another aspect, which made the process of co-working fluent and less stressful, was the discussion of the safe space for work and agreement of the co-working principles.

Another important feature related to the team work, which made the Camp a success, was trustful and friendly relationships and attitudes between the facilitators from the confronted communities. Such behaviour showed a positive example to the participants of the dialogue and cooperation, especially when it was relevant to the communities which overcame recent hostilities and conflict escalations (Kosovo, Armenia and Azerbaijan).

Information on participants

The Youth Peace Camp 2023 brought together 43 participants from 9 different communities. They were selected from among 340 applications.

The number of applications from different communities was unbalanced but this is a general trend for the Youth Peace Camp. One of the reasons of such imbalance is the some of the communities are relatively small. At the end we received the following among of applications from different regions: Kosovo – 49 applications (40 from Albanian speaking and 9 from Serbian speaking communities), from both sides of the river Dniestr/Nistru – 21 applications (from Tiraspol there were 4 applications, among which only 2 were eligible; 1 application was from Gagauzian region; 16 application from the right bank of the river Dniestr/Nistru), Cyprus – 19 applications (13 from Turkish speaking community and 6 from Greek speaking community), Azerbaijan – 70 applications, Abkhazia – 15 applications, Armenia – 129 applications, Georgia – 36 applications. Due to the small amount of applications from the left bank of the river Dniestr/Nistru, the participants were selected in cooperation with the Directorate of Political Affairs and local authorities.

The applications were first reviewed by the Educational Advisor and the Trainer; they pre-selected the candidates based on the criteria of the expected profile of the participants. From each community there were 10-15 applicants preselected. The short list was shared with the facilitator

from the respective community. Each facilitator provided their comments based on the local context. Based on the recommendations from the facilitators the final list of 5 participants from each

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Core criteria in the call (English, availability, age...);
2. Priority given to youth with no international experience;
3. Balance the participants with less experience in the field and those having the experience;
4. Preference to youth coming from NGO's, but also accepting individuals who are active at local level;
5. Priority to youth affected/displaced by conflict
6. With clear and SPECIFIC ideas regarding follow-up.

community was selected. The rest of the candidates from the pre-selected list were located to the waiting list. The final list was sent to the Youth Department for confirmation or any suggestions on adjustments.

Participants were selected from the following communities:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots)
- South Caucasus
- Kosovo
- Both banks of the river Dniestr/Nistru

The priority this year was given to young people who had less experience or were new in the field. However, it was difficult to follow this criteria for the candidates from Abkhazia and from Cyprus as they were quite experienced in the field and it was difficult to find those with less experience. Another focus was made on having the diverse experience of young people in relation to the conflict.

The initial list of the participants underwent some changes due to either refuse to participate, expiring travel documents, issues with gaining visas for participants from Turkish Cyprus and Abkhazia. In case with Armenia and Azerbaijan there were selected candidates coming from the Nagorny Karabakh region but due to the change in the conditions for crossing the line they were not able to participate in the Camp and the replacements were made.

Another challenges was related to the participants from both sides of the river Dniestr/Nistru. 2 days prior to the Camp the group from Tiraspol cancelled their participation due to the political reasons, in spite of efforts made by the Youth and Political Affairs Departments. It influenced a lot the dynamics of the Camp especially the Dialogue Day for the participants coming from the region.

The team adjusted the process for the participants from Chisinau. However, they did not have the opportunity to talk directly with a person from the other side of the river.

In spite of this negative experience, which was faced with the involvement of the participants from Tiraspol it is recommended to invite again the participants from this region.

Regarding the participants from Cyprus, taking into consideration that the confidence building measures are quite advanced in the region comparing with other communities, it was strange for the participants why they were put in two different communities. Most of the activities which were focused on working in the community group, they had in one group of Cyprus. This experience was very useful for the representatives from other communities to observe the relationships between the participants from Cyprus and to see the dynamics of the conflict that has progressed to an advanced phase of being resolved.

The participants from Kosovo were the ones with less experience in the field. The group was rather diverse from the perspective of having participants not only from North Kosovo but also from Serbian enclaves, which showed a different perspective of the participants experience. However, it is recommended to balance the participants in relation to their experience and belonging to the field to ensure the implementation of the follow-up initiatives.

The participants from South Caucasus corresponded to the general profile of the participants. There was balance of experience in the group and they showed their readiness to the dialogue process. As the outcome the group produced several bilateral follow-up initiatives which a quite promising to happen.

Institutional context

Taking into consideration that the Youth Peace Camp 2023 took place in Strasbourg, it benefited from high-level official visits including:

- Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation;
- Albina Ovcearenco, Political Advisor, Political Affairs Directorate;
- Miroslav Papa, Director of Political Affairs and External Relations.

During the Camp we also had a visit from a Member of the Advisory Council on Youth Armine Movsesyan who joined the group on the seventh day of the Camp and stayed till the end of the Camp supporting the participants in planning follow-up initiatives.

The participants also had the visit to the European Court of Human Rights where they had the discussion with Emily Sotiriou, Registrar of the Court.

This visits supported participants with understanding the role of the Youth Peace Camp in the framework of confidence building activities of the Council of Europe as well as the importance of young people in peace-building processes. The participants could also raise the awareness about the role of the Council Europe in in peace, confidence-building, and dialogue.

Outreach and visibility

To support the visibility of the Camp everyday the post and stories were made on the [Instagram page of the Youth Department](#). The hashtag #youthpeacecamp23 was used for all posts.



PROGRAMME

Even though we had activities all day long, they were very interesting, especially the parts when we were all giving the answers. We had a chance to see how people from all the world think, how are they raised, usually after activity we used to talk to anything what was unusual to us. We learned a lot, what are our rights, and whom we can ask if they are violated. More important we learned about respecting and understanding others. The dialogue day, was truly hard for all of us, but most of us finally had a chance to ask, to see that things were basically same for those who suffer. Stories from the war, although with little difference had one in common – pain. Nothing could bring us more joy than a part when we were understood by the others, not judged, without questioning the truth. To be accepted and understand, by someone whom we thought hate us, we finally find that.



The programme of the Youth Peace Camp 2023 followed the same logic and structure as the previous editions of the camp. The first three days of the programme were dedicated to building

common ground in the group regarding the group and content of the camp. The participants were invited to the activities focused on getting-to-know each other, team-building and trust-building, exploring the diversity in the group from the perspectives of identities and interculturality, exploring the understanding of key concepts of the Camp, the place of human rights, and acquiring tools for effective communication and dialogue. All these prepared the participants to the core element of the programme - Dialogue Day. The Day was focused on creating space of sharing personal stories on how the conflict affected focusing in getting involved into conversations with «the other side». The Day was very emotional and demanding, so it is ended with the unwinding practices and the next was completely free for the participants.

The next days of the programme were focused on providing participants with the specific tools to prepare them for the role of multipliers when they are back to their communities. The last day was dedicated to development of the follow-up initiatives³.

Day 0

On the day of arrival, an informal evening was organised. The participants were introduced to the European Youth Centre and the educational team. Several getting-to-know and ice-breaking activities were organised. To set up the mood of the event the participants were invited not to ask and say during the introduction from which community they are coming, instead they were invited to say, where they feel local. This approach introduced the key philosophy of the camp of seeing the human being first.

During the informal evening the participants were suggested some refreshments to continue milling together.

Day 1 - Building a common ground

The first day of the Youth Peace Camp started with the welcoming words from RUI GOMES, Head of Division for Education and Training, Youth Department of the Council of Europe, who gave participants information on the Youth Peace Camp and told about the importance of their role in promoting positive changes in their communities.

The opening was followed by the Welcome Space, where the participants could explore key aspects of the Youth Peace Camp through the different thematic corners: programme of the camp, aims and objectives, methodology, share own expectations, fears and contributions for the camp, develop principles of co-working and co-living during the days of the camp, and get-to-know each other through the «Knowing me-knowing you» activity.

The next two sessions were dedicated to different team building and trust-building activities. The last session of the day were based on sharing participants understanding of the key concepts of the Youth Peace Camp through the World Cafe:

- Violence - For me, violence is when...

³ For more information on the follow-up initiatives developed by the participants, see the Appendix 6.

- Peace - When I think of peace, I think of...
- Conflict - When I hear conflict, I think of...
- Human rights - For me, human rights are...
 - Conflict Transformation - In my everyday life, I transform conflicts by...

At the end of the day the participants were invited to join reflection groups. During the reflection process the participants could evaluate the day's content, the learning process which the participants followed during the day on the emotional and mental levels. The reflection groups which were consistent throughout the Camp, were highly valued by participants.

The day finished with a social evening where the participants could get-to-know each other more.



Day 2 - Exploring Identities

All the activities during the day was a preparation to the dialogue day - excited to talk with everyone in a dialogue day»

(a participant)

The second day of the programme was dedicated to exploring and combining individual and collective identities, how they are developed, how they influence on self-perception and perception of other as well as interaction with others who are different from us. «During the identity sessions I questioned my identities.»

The sessions on identities followed with the session on intercultural learning which engaged participants in the simulation activity where they could explore the experience of enchanting different cultural norms. «The game brought the understanding of the analogy of the intercultural interaction.» The last session of the day was dedicated to perceptions and how they influence our perception of the conflict. «The perception activity provoked to dig deeper in fact checking.» «After the activity on perceptions, feels more prepared for dialogue day»

The day ended up with the reflection groups and social night. Some of the comments provided by the participants:

«There were some ideas shared and heard that changed the mindset.»

"Feeling more connected. Feel that can share sarcastic jokes and it will be well accepted.»

"Feeling more ready to ask questions about the conflict after the session on intercultural learning.»

«Having satisfaction for being here, enjoyed all activities.»

Empowered to be here

«Went into the depth in many aspects.»

«Felt comfortable and don t think about with whom they can eat.»

Day 3 Human Rights and Values for Dialogue



Human rights are not for privileged, they are for everybody.

Feel connected and care about the emotions of each other.



The day started with the walk and talk activity while walking to the European Court of Human Rights. In the Court the participants were met by Emily Sotiriou, Registrar of the Court. She introduced to the participants the work of the Court. The introduction to the Court was followed by the questions from the participants. Majority of the questions were connected with protection of human rights on the disputed territories.

After coming back to the youth centre the programme explored human rights and their values.

The last two sessions of the day was dedicated to understanding dialogue and its values. During the first session in the afternoon the participants discusses and role-played different situations related to violence and discussed how to transform violence into non-violence. During the last session the participants were invited to practice inner dialogue and empathy in relation to the person they had conflict with. Some of the comments made by the participants during the session:

- I thought about "the other side" for the first time.»
- «It was hard to deal with emotions and crying.»
- «It was important to observe conflict form the perspective of the third person.»

The day finished with the meeting in the reflection groups. During the reflection groups the participants also shared their expectations from the dialogue day.

- «There is an expectation of sharing the stories.»
- «Talking and listening to people not political statement.»
- «Feeling weird and worried about dialogue day - I am afraid of not being understood from the other side.»
- «How to be rational not dominant.»

Day 4 - Dialogues



The dialogue day is the core element of the programme of the Youth Peace Camp. This is the day where the participants are invited to meet from both sides of the conflict and share their personal story of the conflict. All the activities done during the previous day prepared the participants to entering into dialogue. This day was very emotional, it was the hardest day of the programme both for the team and for the participants, but it was valued by the participants the most and it had the biggest impact. The dialogue day made a positive impact on the willingness of both sides to implement joint projects.

The day started with the introductory session where the participants were presented the difference between the dialogue and debate through the activity where they had to embody how it feels to be in a dialogue and in a debate. Then the process of the day was introduced.

After that started the process of dialogue in mono-, mixed- and bi-community groups.⁴

The design of the day was the same for all communities, except of Moldavian group. Also, the team agreed of having time flexibility for every stage of the process referring to the needs of each group.

The participants first met in their mono community groups with their facilitator. The aim of the meeting was to hear participants' expectations, fears, think about coping strategies and mentally prepare them for the upcoming dialogue as well as to give them a space to ask questions or to provide support if it is needed. The participants mentioned that this stage was very important to start the process from the mono-groups.

After the first mono community group meeting, participants moved to five mix community groups joined by two facilitators. The main aim of the meeting in the mixed groups was to share personal stories or experiences participants had in relation to conflicts. The meetings were based on the methodology of peace circles.

The participants mentioned that the meeting in mixed groups helped to prepare to the meeting in bi-communities and to observe how it would be, helped to empathise. All facilitators mentioned that

⁴ Participants met in mono community groups (the facilitator with participants from a single community), mixed community groups (with members of all communities presents in the Camp) and bi-community groups (directly with members of the other side“).

these meetings were very emotional, yet they had a therapeutic impact on the participants. For some of the participants, it was the first experience of openly discussing their traumatic experience. One of the participants shared "I feel so sorry for the other side, too but I cannot say it out-loud in my community as it goes against the existing narrative".

Being listened and validated for a person who perceives himself or herself a victim is an important phase in the healing processes.

The Dialogue Day proved to be a transformative day, as the participants shared their stories with honesty. This unique gathering provided a safe space for participants to candidly express the profound impact of ongoing conflicts on their lives. As each participant recounted their personal experiences, emotions ran deep, underscoring the gravity of their stories. However, amidst the emotional tide, a remarkable atmosphere of empathy prevailed. Whenever one person took the floor to unveil their journey, the rest attentively listened, their faces showed understanding and compassion. Throughout this exchange of experiences, the participants came over barriers, broke their walls and found common ground, forging connections that have risen above the conflicts that they have to live with. It was the first time that they all had the chance to listen to each other to find out really how these conflicts affect their peers.

(Eralp Kortach, facilitator)

Before lunch, there was an additional mono-community gathering aimed at processing the emotions stirred by the earlier encounter. This session provided facilitators with a chance to review the preceding meeting and get ready for the upcoming bi-community afternoon sessions.

In the afternoon the groups joint bi-community meetings – to holding meetings between communities from different sides of the dividing line. The team decided that the meetings in bi-communities could be flexible time-wise and each pair of facilitators decided how to lead the meetings based on the needs and level of readiness of their groups.

«The dialogue workshop for bicomunity was a deeply impactful experience, as participants shared their personal stories on how the conflict touched their lives. The emotional narrative created a powerful atmosphere that fostered empathy and understanding among the group.

When participants shared stereotypes and narratives about the other side, we discovered that we had similar stories about each other.

Participants mentioned they realized better the harmful consequences of war and conflict on both sides. The presence of a participant with parents who are IDPs, another whose brother was in the Second Karabakh war, and yet another who lost an uncle in the first Karabakh war provided multifaceted perspectives. Despite all conflict-related traumas, participants shared a desire for sustainable peace.»

(Lala Safarli, a facilitator of the Youth Peace Camp 2023))

«We had many fears in this regard, as Serbs and Albanians weren't getting along this time. This was a result of current situation in the North of Kosovo and political escalations that are going on for one year already. This escalation brought a lot of tensions on the ground, but also among our participants. Still, most of our meeting went through in understanding and empathy, and realisation of what happened to the others, and how war and armed conflict in Kosovo has been still affecting them. We had a few moments where people weren't listening each other and trying to prove the point, but finally we found

common understanding and common ground. For me, it was a moment to understand how much we are lacking these kind of meeting, and how rare it is for Kosovo Serbs and Albanians.»
(Nevena Radosavljevic, facilitator)

For the participants the meeting in bi-community groups was very important to hear the other side. One of the participants mentioned that we should not be the one to lead the narrative.

Within the Cypriot participants' mono group, there was already an environment of discussions with their counterparts from the other Cypriot group. What struck them profoundly, however, was the revelation of the conflicts that others shared, and how these conflicts were shaping lives in ways they hadn't previously comprehended. In the bi-communal group, a powerful sense of unity emerged as each participant unveiled their intimate experience. These personal stories resonated remarkably, highlighting the undeniable similarities that transcended the historical and geographical divisions. The day concluded on an emotionally charged note, with a heartwarming group hug symbolising the newfound connections and solidarity that had grown among the participants, a testament to the great potential for empathy and understanding that can emerge from sharing personal stories.

T

The Dialogue Day for the participants from Moldova had a different dynamic. Instead of the having the bi-community meeting as there were representatives from the left bank of the Dniester river. The participants were invited to go through the activity, in which they could embody themselves with young people with different profiles from the left bank of the Dniester river and reflect how they would feel, what kind of life they would have in a relation to specific situations shared by the facilitator. After that, the participants were asked to share what they would ask and want to know and what the participants from other side would ask and want to know, if young people from the left bank of the Dniester river. There was a difficult process for the participants from Moldova as their expectations from the dialogue day did not fulfil, through curiosity about young people from another side was increased and understanding that they did not know much about the life of young people from the other side.

The day finished with the activity which was aimed at unwinding emotions after the dialogues. There was created the creative space by the team where participants could write their thought, which they wanted to keep, to write some messages to the world and put them on the Peace Tree, draw on the River of Dialogue, draw a mandala, draw, lay on the flour, express their thoughts and emotions.

The dialogue day was important and positive experience for the participants, with many describing it as a transformative and much-needed experience. Some participants expressed that the day had been essential for them. They gained valuable insights from each other's perspectives, fostering a deep sense of empathy within the group. Additionally, they noted that the experience

had provided them with the opportunity to move forward and to start thinking about possible cooperation together.



Day 5 - Free Time

That was a free day for the participants which they could spend on their own or with other participants to reveal and relax after the dialogue day.

Day 6 - Peace and Conflict Transformation

«We are not who we are in the beginning».
(a participant)



The first session of the day was dedicated to understanding the concept of peace. The participants were invited to the activity based on the method of image theatre where they created in small groups the statues which reflected the absence of peace and then together with the whole group transform it to the statues of presence of peace. Participants identified many aspects of the absence of peace such as violence, exclusion, discrimination, etc, as well as many aspects of the presence of peace such as harmony, solidarity, equality, unity, human rights, inclusion, democracy and more. Participants expressed how they liked the agency they were given to transform the statue from something negative to something positive. Participants shared how they liked the concepts of negative and positive peace, and commented on how peace is a process and there should be a spectrum with many points between absolute negative and absolute positive peace.

During the next session the participants explored different tools of conflict analysis through analysis conflict. The participants mentioned that *«it was good to explore conflict analysis tools, they are important if we want to deal with conflicts»*.

The afternoon sessions were dedicated to practicing the method of non-violent communication. The participants got introduced to the concept of non-violent communication. They got a space to link feelings and needs, and find their connections, discovered new ideas and mechanisms how to cope with conflicts that happen in our daily life. As expressed during de-briefing, participants linked the work during sessions to personal situations they would like to address when going back home. They also mentioned that NVC is something they can use in all aspects of their lives. I am thankful. The connection between needs and feelings was something they never reflected on, and it is crucial in how we function. They also expressed they will to practice the «giraffe» language more.



Day 7 Peace-building Programmes and Practices

*«We are not lonely any more. It is the best experience in my life.»
(a participant)*

The morning sessions were dedicated to the role in peace and peace-building and the opportunities for young people to participate. There were five invited speakers to contribute to the session:

- Christian Urse - Deputy Director of Political Affairs and External Relations;
- Albina Ovcharenko - Political Advisor, Director of Political Affairs and External Relations;
- Armine MOVSESYAN, member of the Advisory Council on Youth;
- Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training, Youth Department;
- Margit Barna, Project Officer of the European Youth Foundation.

Christian Urse provided an explanation of how the Council of Europe (CoE) contributes to fostering peace and confidence in Europe. He placed special emphasis on the importance of involving youth and promoting human rights education as crucial elements for sustainable peace-building. Additionally, he offered the participants a historical perspective on the CoE's role and highlighted the shared belief in establishing a united democratic society based on European values that prioritise the safeguarding of human rights. However, he also cautioned against taking the human rights for granted, particularly in light of the ongoing conflict in Europe, such as the Russian-Ukrainian war. Consequently, he emphasised the need for human rights activists within our own communities to strive for a society that upholds equality.

Albina Ovcharenko highlighted the significance of local initiatives in promoting community building and establishing a peaceful society devoid of violence and trauma in the aftermath of conflicts. Drawing upon examples from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Azerbaijan and Armenia, she shared insights into the concepts of dialogue and conflict transformation. She emphasised the importance of two key aspects: fragility and imagination. Fragility pertains to the empathetic approach required to address the challenges faced by communities that have endured the hardships of conflict. Imagination, on the other hand, acts as a valuable guide, providing creative perspectives on resolving and transforming conflicts.

In the Q&A session with participants she brought several examples of of the projects focused on peace-building which were implemented by the Council of Europe:

- peace-building journalism activities and brought examples from South Caucasus.
- In the Western Balkans, the Council of Europe successfully completed a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H). It brought together people from different communities to receive project management training. Their goal was to create collaborative proposals to promote cooperation among these communities, particularly by engaging citizens. The project also addressed shared environmental challenges in the region and highlighted gender equality as a cross-cutting issue affecting women's representation in these activities.
- initiative focused on the restoration of architectural heritage in Kosovo, where the participation of both the Albanian and Serbian communities residing in the region was encouraged to take part. This collaborative project was implemented in cooperation with

the European Union (EU) and involved multiple facets, including the preservation of cultural heritage and the enhancement of technical capacity to meet established standards. The primary aim was to safeguard the cultural significance of the architectural heritage in Kosovo.

The question in relation to transitional justice and human rights violations in the context of Kosovo was answered by Christian Ulsa:

Transitional justice is primarily driven by citizen engagement, with judicial efforts and accountability also playing crucial roles. The Council of Europe emphasises citizen involvement as the key catalyst for this process. Kosovo has submitted its application for CoE membership, but its recognition by members remains a challenge due to political and legal complexities. The latest developments in peace-building could impact the application and decision. Politicians can influence positive change by adopting alternative approaches and promoting diversity, going beyond maintaining the status quo in societies. Their actions can foster inclusive values within communities and societies.

The session was followed by the input from a guest speaker ARMINE MOVSESYAN, member of the Advisory Council on Youth on the youth participation for peaceful and inclusive societies, dialogue. Armine provided insights into the Advisory Council of Youth and the European Steering Committee for Youth, which function as a Joint Council of Youth. These entities utilise a co-management system, which brings together representatives to engage in discussions regarding their work, budgets, and financial support. The members are assigned various roles pertaining to events, seminars, advocacy, and other relevant responsibilities. Armine also shared examples of consultative meetings with numerous activists from different countries. These meetings aimed to develop diverse perspectives on conflict transformation practices that could enrich the Council's programme. Proposals were categorised into three levels: the policy level, the Youth Department's programme, and activities implemented by NGOs with the support of the European Youth Foundation.

Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training Division of the Youth Department, Council of Europe, shared some useful information about the resources that CoE provides for local initiatives that promote peace and human rights education in the local level with communities that are affected by conflict and strive for an equal and peaceful society.

Margit Barna shared information about her role as a project officer at European Youth Foundation and the grant opportunities for youth organisations (local, national or international NGOs) from 50 European countries. The key elements of the grants are that youth is both important as a target group and also stakeholder, non-formal education as a methodology and gender equality and inclusion as a cross-cutting issue. Priorities of EYF are: 1. Revitalising Pluralistic Democracy, 2. Young people access to rights, 3. Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies, 4. Youth work. Margit shared administrative instructions and other information regarding the deadlines and info-sessions.

The afternoon sessions were dedicated to the role of human rights education as a tool for peace building and sharing practices of peace-building initiatives by the participants and the facilitators.

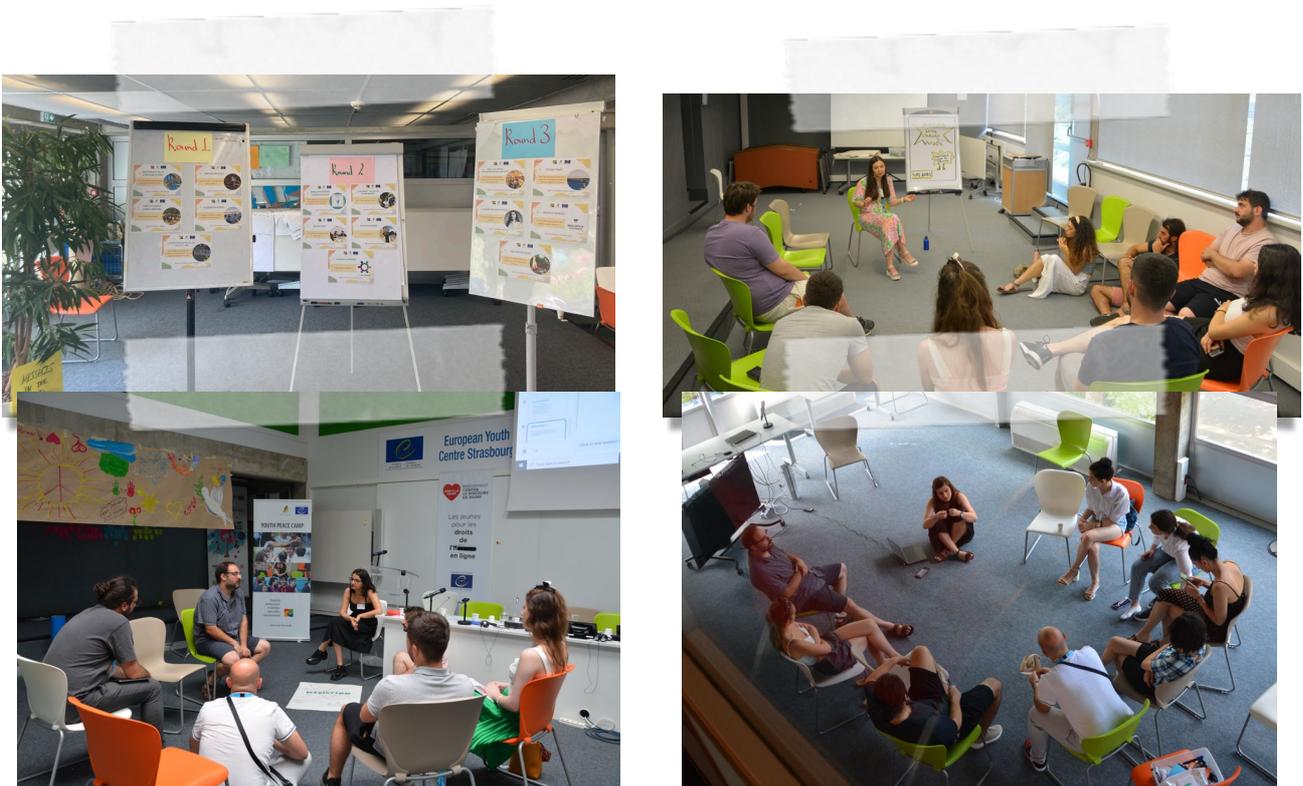
The participants were invited to experience the activity from Compass «Soon to be outdated». The brought a lot of discussions about the traditions in the communities of the participants which violate different human rights some of them are outdated but some of them still exist. The participants mentioned the importance of human rights education in order to bring the change and create the culture of human rights and dignity.

The participants got inspired by the shared practices on peace-building with young people. They very interested in this session as it allowed them to learn about activism and peace-building activities of each other. They got the ideas for follow-up mostly focused on engaging both communities.

The practices shared during the session:

1. «Mediation as a tool to avoid going to court», Ramon Tena Pera
2. «Hade lets peace Cyprus together», Lambros Asvestas
3. «Together for Peace», Dumitrita Paladuta
4. «Alternative History», Lala Safarli
5. «Youth Activism and the Call for Collective Care», Ariana Kvekveskiri
6. «Famagusta Students Together Initiative», Eralp Kortach
7. «Dialogue works», Erblin Ajdini
8. «Living Library - the tool for building dialogue», Yuliya Ielfimova
9. «Beyond the border», Chris Rotsakis
10. «Dialogue as a movement», Nevena Radosavljevic

The session of the day was dedicated to work in mono-community and bi-community in focusing on possible follow-up initiatives.



Day 8 - Follow-up, Evaluation and Closing

*«We are so different but similar. For the first time, I did not have hate towards the other.»
(a participant)*

The day was dedicated to developing follow-up initiatives. The process of developing the follow-up initiatives was focused on searching joined solutions for peace-building of the participants. To reach this aim the team decided to be flexible how to organise the process either in mono- or in bi-community groups.

In the beginning of the day the participants were invited to a mediation moment to visualise the change in the community. Then they continued in mono-community groups where they shared their visions and came up with the general idea/s of the initiatives. After that there was a moment of sharing the ideas in bi-community groups. Most of the initiatives shared were bi-communal. In total the participants developed 11 initiatives. To learn more about the follow-up initiatives developed by the participants check the Appendix 5 of the Report.

For the evaluation of the camp the participants were invited to recollect the programme of the Camp and for that the team prepared the slideshow with photos and read the poem which was written by facilitators Anush Petrosyan and Erblin Ajdini. After that the participants were invited to reflect their experience of the Camp based on four questions. Some of their comments:

1. What did I bring to the camp?
 - empathy
 - knowledge and inspiration
 - memories
 - experience
 - understanding of people here
 - knowledge about human rights
 - valuable memories
 - inspiring ideas for future cooperation
 - motivation
 - gratitude
2. What am I taking with me?
 - energy
 - love
 - kindness
 - laugh
 - compassion



- I made Armenia community aware of the same words we have "tuti arag"
 - open heart
 - different perspectives and accepting other perspectives
 - positive stories
 - peace
 - good vibes
3. What was missing that I propose to add for the next YPC?
- we did not have enough time to socialise with other people
 - I will miss hug from amazing people
 - more context about the other conflicts
 - too much reflections
 - I would love more mono- and bi-community meetings
 - I propose to invite official from conflict-affected countries
 - stronger theoretical context and scientific knowledge
4. What struck me or surprised me?
- people's energy
 - bi-community meetings
 - diversity
 - harmony between participants
 - feeling home that much
 - how similar we are and connected
 - willingness of people to contribute to something good
 - unity
 - we are all have similar/same problems
 - other cultures
 - the amazing hospitality
 - the organising was phenomenal
 - feelings

The last moment of evaluation was dedicated filling out the evaluation forms⁵ on the e-learning platform.

The camp was closed by closing words from Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation.

Closing poem

Anush:

The Youth Peace Camp started on 4th of July
 We saw faces we have never seen before
 We thought to ourselves "How will this one go?"
 And we started the day with a little hello

⁵ See Appendix 5 for a summary of the evaluation results .

Erblin:

In all our languages we said "Bonjour"
We started the journey and we went on a tour
A tour that we will now remember forever
A tour that will make our future even better

Anush:

The social events got us closer
Slowly faces turned into stories
Stories of our family, our personal stories
Stories that made us who we are.
We listened, we cried and we played the guitar.

Erblin:

We listened to songs, we played, we danced
We gave peace another chance
Another chance to redeem ourselves
Another opportunity to free our minds
To dream for sweet and better times
Where we choose words instead of weapons
When we choose healing instead of killing
When we choose love instead of hate
When we use time and not let it go to waste

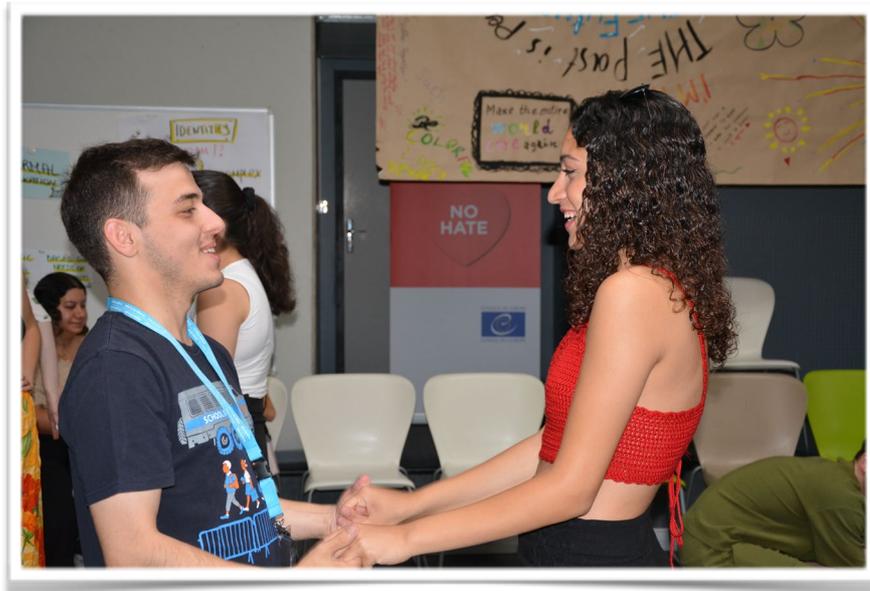
Anush:

Now we go back, a little bit sad, but curious and stronger
We are equipped with skills and plans
We return home with the power of change
We return home happier and humbler
As hopeful souls that empower the humane

Erblin & Anush:

Now as I am packing my bag
I have many memories to collect
But don't forget,
My home can also be your home
So whenever you feel like coming
I have already unlocked the door.

METHODOLOGY



«It was my first experience in such a big and diverse community, but I really felt home among these people and team. Feeling heard and having an opportunity to perform in the environment based on NFE makes me grateful to be here.» (A participant)

The general flow of the YPC 2023 programme was quite sufficient and reasonably aligned with the main aims and objectives of the project. The learner-focused approach, coupled with non-formal educational methodologies, made the overall experience highly engaging and interactive. Each session meticulously planned by the team evolved gradually, introducing new topics and content based on participants' previous experiences and knowledge.

The structure of the program was divided into three distinct stages: preparation for the dialogue, the Dialogue itself, and promoting peace-building values to foster follow-up activities among participants.

This well-structured approach allowed for a comprehensive and effective learning journey, ensuring participants were well-prepared for the main dialogue while also providing opportunities for further growth and application of peace-building principles beyond the program.

The Youth Peace Camp is very challenging active both for the educational team and for the participants from two aspects:

- the Camp requires from the participants a lot of emotional efforts as the participants reconnect to their memories related to their experience of the conflict and explore sensitive topics which can be painful and challenging;
- the duration (eight days) and the number of participants (43 or more).

The methodology of the camp is based on non-formal learning and human rights education. The methods used were aimed at creating a safe space which supported the participants in:

- exploring different concepts of conflict transformation, peace-building and dialogue;
- creating curiosity in exploring and learning different perspectives related to the conflict, sharing experiences and supporting mutual exchange especially with young people from conflict communities;
- supporting self-reflection process of the participants in the relation of their understanding on how conflict shapes our reality and reinforcing inner change towards the commitment of the participants to peace.

In order to fulfil this objectives formal and informal elements of the programme was considered. Also, the team was aware that the programme of the camp should be flexible to react on different dynamics and processes in the group. To have this adaptability the following approach was used:

- while facilitators had the reflection groups with the participants, trainers and the Educational Advisor and the meeting to quickly evaluate the day and point out elements which had to be addressed. After the end of the reflection groups, there was a meeting all together to evaluate the outcomes of the reflection groups before dinner. After the dinner, half of the team were involved in the preparation of the programme for the next day, and another half of the team could spend informal time with participants to recover and save the energy. Such division was made to support the well-being of the facilitators and energy level in the team.
- All sessions were co-facilitated by one or two facilitators and a trainer. Having a big group of participants and considering sensitivity of the topics tackled during the camp, it was decided to conduct majority of the session in two parallel groups and to have debriefing conducted by facilitators in small groups to ensure that everybody can speak up. After that each group brought harvesting from their discussions to the plenary to ensure that different ideas were shared and heard.
- This year some activities were focused on personal change and peace with the people who are more close to you (family, friends...), following the idea that it may be difficult to make peace with "the other side" if you're not in peace with your family or friends.

Some of the specific methodologies which were used during the camp: Peace Circles (during Dialogue Day), mindfulness (with some breathing and meditation exercises as a start for some activities on identity), Forum Theatre, World-cafe, simulation games.

The YPC 2023 programme and its methodology were well-designed and successfully implemented, effectively meeting the objectives of the activity. The thoughtful arrangement of sessions and the utilisation of learner-focused and non-formal educational approaches contributed to the overall success and positive outcomes of the project.



CHALLENGES

Both participants and the team considers that the Youth Peace Camp was a positive and successful experience. However, there were some challenges which team faces and had to manage.

The ownership for the programme and balance between trainers and facilitators

One of the biggest challenge we faced during preparation process and the camp itself if to insure balance in sharing the responsibilities between the facilitators, trainers and educational advisor and to ensure joint ownership for the programme. The level of experience in the team of facilitators was diverse: there are facilitators who had an extensive trainers' experience in the topic of the camp, previous experience of facilitation of the Youth Peace Camp and there were those who had little or no facilitation experience.

Taking it into consideration we wanted to avoid the situation where the trainers had a stronger role and experience of facilitators is neglected. At the same time we did not want the facilitators with less experience to find themselves in a difficult situation. Finally, we wanted to have the balance of the work load in the team so that the team members had enough time for rest and spending time with participants in free time.

The decision we came up with was to have the equal share of the sessions devison between the facilitators in teams of 2-3 and one of trainers. The devison was made also considering the presence of a facilitator during the day. We scheduled the days in a way that if facilitators were

responsible for development and leading the sessions during the day, next day they can spend time with the participants.

Also, from the very beginning the mode for horizontal and equal relationships were set.

Changes in the educational team

The team overcame several changes during the preparation of the Camp, this changes influenced on the team cooperation. Taking into consideration that Youth Peace Camp is very challenging event from the perspective of the number of participants, duration, sensitivity of the topics and a big team, good and trustful cooperation and communication between team members is a key for success. That is why proper team-building and trust-building with the team members is essential. The facilitators mentioned that during the preparatory meeting in January the team building activities were not enough. Additionally, before the Camp itself four new facilitators joined the team, a trainer. They were not present during the preparatory meeting in January, Additionally, to it there was a replacement of the Education Advisor.

The way how the team decided to overcome this challenge was to have on-line team meetings with the whole team, online meetings in small teams and additional team-building before the Camp in July.

Absence of one of the communities

Another challenge which the team and the participants faced, the lack of the participants from Tiraspol. This situation appeared two days before the start of camp and it was not expected. This situation influenced the general group dynamics and especially the participants from Moldova. The most challenging moment was connected with the Dialogue Day as there was nobody to have dialogue with and the participants from Moldova did not have the opportunity to talk to young people from another bank of the river. The team with the support of the Educational Advisor , Rui Gomes, adapted the methodology to have the opportunity for the participants to go though the empathetic experience and this about possible dialogue. However, it did not reach fully the objectives of the Dialogue Day.

General fatigue

The programme of the Camp is very intense and the methodologies and activities which are used requires a lot of energy, some of them are emotional and refers to participants' past experience. This type of methodology was new for the participants, also having four sessions per was too demanding for the participants. They also mentioned that during the reflection groups and in evaluation forms. The most difficult was the Dialogue Day. Managing emotions and different stress situations were challenging during the camp. To support the participants in this process the reflection groups were conducted everyday, the who a part of the session before the Dialogue was dedicated to stress coping strategies and after the Dialogue the team created the space for participants with self-facilitated activities to unwind and there was the whole day free after the Dialogue Day. Inside of the team there was an agreement to have open and trustful communication and devision of the tasks in the way that half of the facilitators are free from preparations in the evening.

Sensitivity of the topic and number of participants

The topics which were covered during the Youth Peace Camp were very sensitive for the participants they shared a lot of personal experience related to the conflict. In order to do it the team create safe environment for the participants to have the opportunity to share own stories and attitudes. However, it was difficult to ensure that everybody were heard during the discussions in the group of 43 participants. In order to create this safe space to share and to be heard, the team decided to have sessions which required personal reflections and going though certain experiences in parallel groups and to have the debriefing after the activities in small groups with harvesting key points of the discussion in the plenary. This approach served very good the purpose.

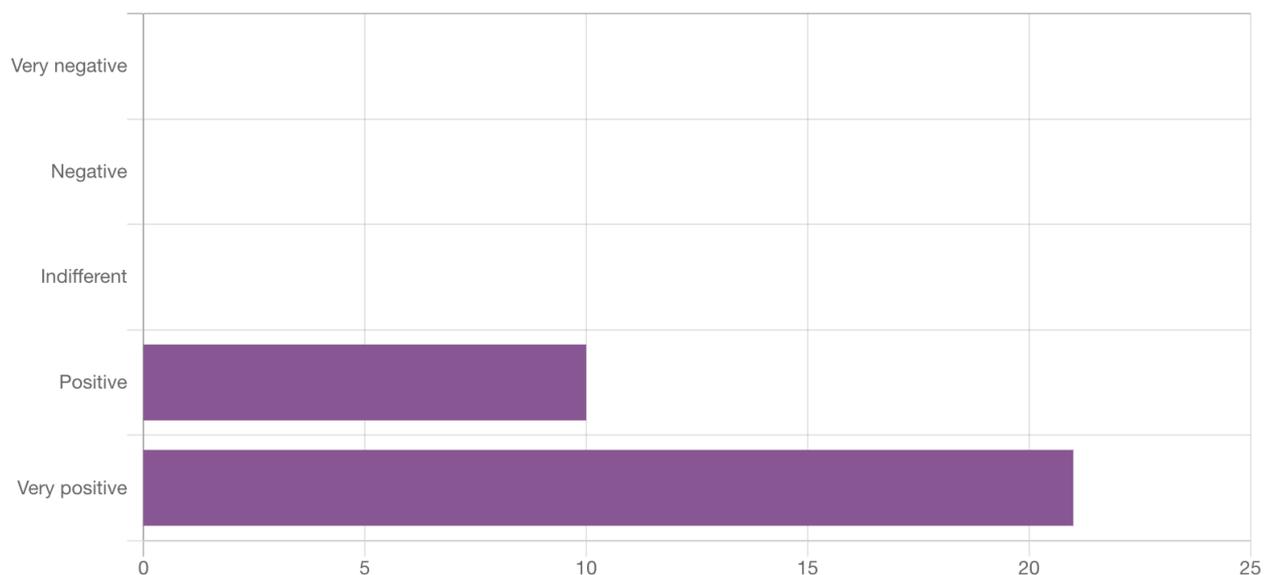
Low engagement of some participants

The team mentioned the lack of engagement of some participants in the process which was observed through arriving late to the sessions, constant use of phones (even in small group work), disappearing from the sessions. It was a small amount of the participants with such behaviour but it influence of the general dynamic of the group and the process.

The number and duration of some of the sessions per day should be reconsidered.

PARTICIPANTS EVALUATION

The evaluation of the Camp was done on the daily bases through the facilitated reflections groups which were conducted in the mixed groups and through the written evaluation in the end of the camp. Some activities during the last last session of the camp were also dedicated to the evolution.



The overall satisfaction of the camp evaluated positively by the participants. For the majority of the participants the activity was «Positive» (32.26%) and «Very positive» (67.74%).

The participants considered that the objectives of the Youth Peace Camp were met to a great extent, especially the ones related to relationship building among the participants as a foundation for peace-building and dialogue, sharing practices of a youth work on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities and empowerment on becoming the multipliers and peer leaders in peace-building activities with young people.

The detailed results of the written evaluation are to be found in the Appendix of the current report.





CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

E-learning:

The e-learning platform has proven to be a valuable asset for the Youth Peace Camp, offering a structured space for collating and distributing crucial documents and materials linked to the event. It functions as a versatile tool that facilitates participant interaction both before and after the Camp, as well as pre-Camp preparations. However, this year, the integration of the e-learning concept occurred relatively late, leaving insufficient time for its comprehensive integration into the overall learning process.

Additionally, participants were not informed in advance about the need to dedicate extra time before the YPC to complete tasks on the e-learning platform. Some participants found it overwhelming to navigate initially, considering their ongoing commitments such as visa procedures, exams, and work. For future camps, several recommendations are proposed:

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Additionally, participants were not informed in advance about the need to dedicate extra time before the YPC to complete tasks on the e-learning platform. Some participants found it overwhelming to navigate initially, considering their ongoing commitments such as visa procedures, exams, and work. For future camps, several recommendations are proposed:

- **Incorporate E-Learning Planning from the Start:** It is suggested to incorporate the e-learning platform planning right from the beginning and to communicate its usage in the call for participants.
- **Strategic Platform Usage:** Instead of primarily using the platform for communication before the program, emphasise its role in document collection, file sharing, and uploading materials relevant to activities and future reading.
- **Feedback for the activities** Incorporate feedback for activities hosted on the e-learning platform.
- **Scheduled E-Meetings:** Integrate scheduled e-meetings into the e-learning activities, reinforcing the idea of a pre-meeting online phase before the in-person gathering in Strasbourg.
- **Browser-Based Tasks:** Utilise in-browser tasks such as bingo to eliminate the need for participants to download files to engage.

In summary, while the e-learning platform offers notable benefits, future implementations should involve early planning and communication, strategic usage, and considerations to streamline participation and ensure a more seamless integration into the overall programme.

Programme

The flow, structure and the methodology used proved its efficiency. However, there are some suggestions which can be considered for the future:

- There was a feeling of fatigue in the group and tiredness due to intensive programme and process. Considering this the amount of session could be reconsidered and instead of

four sessions per day to have three sessions per day. The duration of the session can be also reconsidered: having longer sessions in the morning and shorter sessions after lunch.

- Many participants voiced concerns from time to time about having little theoretical input. While we as organisers know and understand what non-formal education is and that all of the activities are based on theory, it is suggested adding short theoretical inputs at the end of the debriefings for 5-7 minutes to reassure the participants that their discussions do contribute to existing theoretical discussions and inspire them to read and explore further when they return home from the Youth Peace Camp.
- Integrating small energisers during sessions as needed to maintain participant engagement and focus, particularly when attention wanes.
- Don't include the visit to the Court: in some aspects it was helpful, but disadvantages outweighed advantages. It broke somehow the flow and rhythm of the activity. Besides, it created some expectation that YPC was to be a more formal programme than it was foreseen.
- Reinforce the explanation on Human Rights Education. It took some time for participants to understand the type of programme they were participating in. Perhaps it would have been useful to spend some extra time explaining them that YPC was not a formal programme that would focus on factual understanding and analysis of inter-community conflicts.
- Recommend extending the camp duration by at least 2 days to allow more time for facilitators and trainers to share their peace-building experiences and expertise. This would also enable deeper discussions on main themes and related topics.
- Consider the flexibility of time for the Dialogue Day for each community groups including enough time for the meetings in mono-community groups and bi-community groups.

Team management

Having a cohesive, motivated, and resilient team proved essential for successfully managing the challenges encountered during the Camp. Additionally, transparent and open communication played a pivotal role in addressing potential conflicts within the team and proactively preventing their escalation. It has been mentioned in different parts of this report. Therefore we would like to highlight in the recommendations the importance of timely setting up of the team and a 3-days preparatory meeting latest 5-6 months in advance and on including team-building activities in the programme of preparatory meetings. Also, having two days preparatory meeting right before the Camp.

Balance and profile of facilitators

This year all facilitators who were involved in the Youth Peace Camp had previous experience with the Youth Peace Camp either as participant or as a facilitator of the Peace Camp or the Youth Peace Week. It is very important to have this balance of experience further on.

Profile of participants

For the Peace Camp it is important to involve the participants who has the personal experience with the conflict. Though it makes the participation very emotional and requires thoughtful facilitation but it shows that afterwards this participants performs strong dedication of being involved in peace-building after the camp. It was decided to have the participants who are new in the field. It is still recommended but it is also important to keep the balance with having those with certain experience from every community to ensure mutual support during and after the Camp especially with the maintaining the involvement in the field afterwards.

More Opportunities for bi-communal interaction

It was also recommendation in the previous report. This year the team has similar recommendation. Additionally to the bi-communal meetings during the Dialogue Day, it is needed to create several moments in the programme, e.g. during the development of the follow-up initiatives. This year the development of the follow-up initiatives was focused on constant communication and sharing in bi-communal groups and served to deeper understanding of the context and realities as well as created a spaces of searching for solutions together. It had positive feedback both from the participants and from the team.

Hot vs. Frozen Conflict

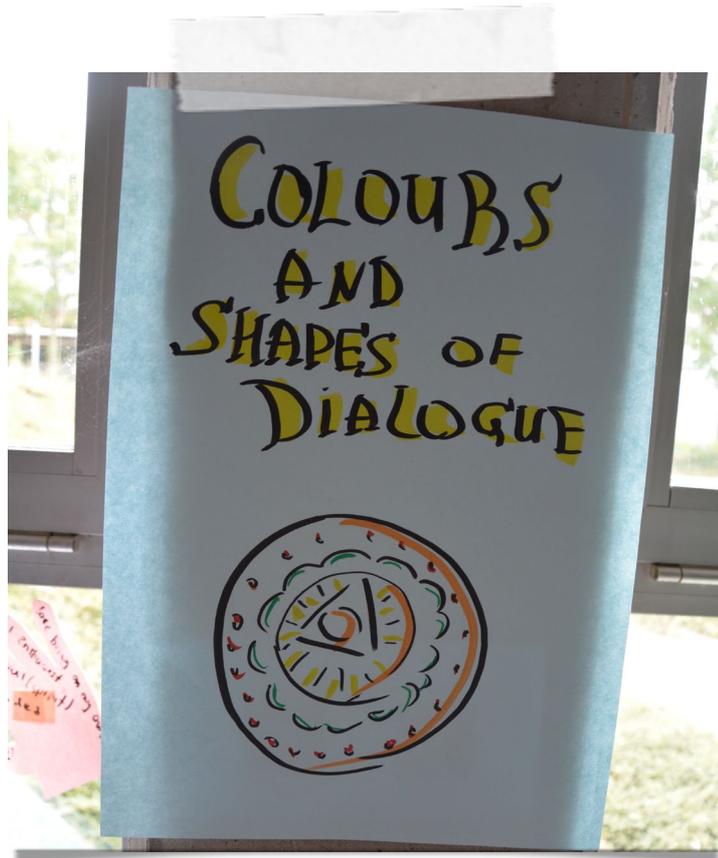
This year the conflicts which were represented at the Youth Peace Camp were very diverse from the intensity and dynamics: there were conflicts which had recent tensions and escalations (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kosovo), those which have been frozen for many years (such as Cyprus). Also, conflicts were diversified by the level and intensity of peace efforts from the side of the international community: those where the peace-efforts are strong and intensive and those which are weak.

Nevertheless, the experience of having such diversity was appreciated by the participants: for those who live in relatively peaceful zone it was an example of what could happen if the peace efforts are not done (Cyprus participants), for those participants who came from more intense conflict communities observing how the participants from different side interact with each other, could live and learn together was inspiring. For all the participants it was important to hear the stories of each other's experience. It was mentioned several times by the participants that we are coming from different contexts but share the same pain.

Supporting participants with their follow-up initiatives

The participants finished the camp with high motivation and desire to fulfil the planned follow-up. But when they come back to the communities they face different challenges with implementing follow-up starting from the lack of support on the local level and losing connection with other members of the team. We recommend the following:

- to provide additional mentoring support by the facilitators from each community;
- to enable participants to establish connections with local and national authorities, allowing them to present their initiatives and garner media exposure. This approach serves not only as a source of motivation but also as a means to identify and inspire potential future peace-builders. The involvement of Council of Europe field offices can be instrumental in supporting this endeavour.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PROGRAMME

Monday, 3 July

Arrival of participants

16:00 Registration and administrative formalities

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Informal welcome evening

Tuesday, 4 July – Building a common ground

09:30 Welcome and opening of the Youth Peace Camp 2023, with RUI GOMES, Head of Division for Education and Training, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
Introduction to the programme, institutional framework and methodology of the camp

11:00 Break

11:30 Getting to know (more of each) other

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Creating a framework for communication and trust

16:00 Break

16:30 Personal understandings and meanings of key concepts of the camp

18:00 Introduction to Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Socialising evening

Wednesday, 5 July 2023 – Exploring Identities

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme

09:30 Exploring and combining individual and collective identities

11:00 Break

11:30 Combining collective and individual identities (cont.d)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Intercultural learning and coping with diversity

16:00 Break

16:30 Intercultural learning and coping with diversity (cont.d)

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

Thursday, 6 July 2023 – Human Rights and Values for Dialogue

09:00 Arrival to the European Court of Human Rights

09:15 Screening of a film about the Court

09:30 The role and functioning of the Court, with EMILY SOTIRIOU, Registrar of the Court (with questions and answers)

10:30 Return to the European Youth Centre

11:15 Human Rights and values
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Values and resources for dialogue
16:00 Break
16:30 Values and resources for dialogue (cont.d)
18:00 Reflection groups
19:00 Dinner

Friday, 7 July 2023 – Dialogues

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme
09:30 Introduction to dialogue
11:00 Break
11:30 Dialogues
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Dialogues (cont.d)
15:15 Short break
15:30 Dialogues (cont.d)
16:00 Break
16:30 Dialogues (conclusion)
18:00 Debriefing of Dialogues sessions
19:00 Dinner

Saturday, 8 July 2023 – Free Time

FREE DAY

Sunday, 9 July – Peace and Conflict Transformation

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up
09:30 Understandings of peace
11:00 Break
11:30 Conflict and conflict analysis
13:00 Lunch
14.30 Conflict coping strategies and tools
16:00 Break
16:30 Conflict coping strategies and tools (cont.d)
18:00 Reflection groups
19.00 Dinner
20:30 Evening programme – Taking action for peace

Monday, 10 July – Peacebuilding Programmes and Practices

09:15 Presentation of the day's programme and warming up
09:30 The role of the Council of Europe in peace and confidence-building, with MIROSLAV PAPA,
Director of Political Affairs and External Relations
10:15 Youth participation for peaceful and inclusive societies, dialogue with ARMINE

MOVSESYAN, member of the Advisory Council on Youth

10:45 Peacebuilding activities and projects in the Youth Department s programme (including the European Youth Foundation)

11:15 Break

11:45 The role of human rights education for peacebuilding

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Peacebuilding essentials and practices

16:00 Break

17:00 Peacebuilding essentials and practices (cont.d)

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 Dinner

Tuesday, 11 July – Follow-up, Evaluation and Closing

09:15 Presentation of the day s programme

09:30 Local peacebuilding approaches and needs

11:00 Break

11:30 Planning and development of follow-up activities

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Sharing ideas and plans for follow-up activities

16:00 Break

16:30 Evaluation of the camp

17:15 Closing of the camp, with MATJAŽ GRUDEN, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe

18:00 Reception to mark the end of the camp

20:00 Barbecue Dinner and farewell party

Wednesday, 12 July

Departure of Participants

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Place	Organisation
Aleksandre Sivolapovi	Yerevan	Here, Now - for Liberty!
Anastasia Popa	Chisinau	N/A
Andjelija Vucinic	Zubin Potoc	Local Peace (Leposavic)
Ariana Kvekveskiri	Sukhum	N/A
Artim Pllana	Mitrovica	CSGD
Avraam Amalia	Cyprus	N/A
Bakhtiyar Mammadov	Baku	ESN Azerbaijan
Bojana Barac	Leposavić	Local Peace
Chris Rotsakis	Cyprus	Hade
Diğdem Güçlüeller	Cyprus	N/A
Dila Çavuşoğlu	Cyprus	N/A
Dumitrica Paladuta	Criuleni	Meraki Initiative group
Dušana Markagić	Sevce	Young Active Gracanica
Dzenita Sabani	Mitrovica	Caritas (Mitrovica)
Emilia Avilova	Baku	National Assembly of Youth Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA)
Eneida Deliu	Mitrovica	Global Shapers Prishtina
Gent Byci	Gjakovë	N/A
Giorgi Mamulashvili	Tbilisi	Youth Platform "New Generation for Peace"
Iakovos Orfanidis	Cyprus	N/A
Javid Akhmedov	Baku	N/A
Karai Feraysmailoglu	Cyprus	N/A
Lasha Svanishvili	Tbilisi	EU Neighbours East
Laura-Călina Scutelnic	Chisinau	N/A
Leon Chkadua	Sukhum	IQan
Margo Sargsyan	Yerevan	Armenian General Benevolent Union
Maria Ophilia Sfaltou	Cyprus	Zuyd Intitute of Applied Sciences
Mariam Ketsbaia	Tbilisi	Young European Ambassadors Initiative
Marianna Urfalyan	Yerevan	N/A
Milos Savic	Gracanica	Young Active Gracanica
Nicolae Rotaru	Chisinau	CUB- Partidul Coaliției pentru Unitate și Bunăstare
Olga Trandafilova	Avdarma	N/A
Olta Olloni	Prishtina	N/A
Omar Kharchilava	Sukhum	N/A
Poema Zhubi	Gjakovë	NGO " Active Youth of Gjakova"
Sargis Harutyunyan	Yerevan	Yerevan basic school

Sayyad Yusifli	Zagatala	Participation House
Serly Chohmalian	Yerevan	Aleppo Charitable NGO
Stylianios Charalampous	Cyprus	N/A
Tamar Gelashvili	Tbilissi	N/A
Tatevik Sahakyan	Yerevan	Walk for Civic Development
Tural Öykü	Cyprus	N/A
ValeriiaLakirbaia	Sukhum	N/A
Veronika Dzhindzhua	Sukhum	Fund of social and cultural initiatives
Zulfiiyya Rzayeva	Baku	NAYORA

EDUCATIONAL TEAM

Name	Main role
Ramon Tena Pera	Trainer
Yuliya Ielfimova	Trainer
Nevena Radosavljevic	Facilitator
Anush Petrosyan	Facilitator
Lambros Asvestas	Facilitator
Erblin Ajdini	Facilitator
Eralp Kortach	Facilitator
Lala Safarli	Facilitator
Gvantsa Davitelashvili	Facilitator
Lana Chkadua	Facilitator
Alexandrina Garuta	Facilitator
Alessandra Coppola	Team assistant
Rui Gomes	Team coordinator

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Advisory Council on Youth

Armine Movsesyan Member of the Advisory Council (MIJARC)

European Court of Human Rights

Emily Sotiriou Registrar of the Court

Directorate of Political Affairs and External Relations

Cristian Urse Deputy to the Director

Albina Ovcearenco Advisor

Directorate of Democratic Participation

Matjaž Gruden Director

Youth Department

Marie Farigoules Executive director of the European Youth Centre

Rui Gomes Head of Division Education and Training

Margit Barna Project Officer, European Youth Foundation

Claudia Montevercchi Project Assistant

Réka Heszterenyi Project Assistant

APPENDIX 3: DIALOGUE DAY BROCHURE

APPENDIX 4: FOLLOW UP SHEET

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

*“There was a long day
When we’ve said a lot of “hey”
I have an idea, an insight, a light
To share, to speak, to try.
There was a long discussion
Full of words and compassion.
We revealed, we cried, we laughed
In order to find at last our path.
And now I can say
That there is no need for hate
We are all different and the same
But we all are people, we play one game.”*

*Poem written at the end
of the Dialogue day
by a participant in 2016*



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

Your guide to the Dialogue Day



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

There are usually a lot of anticipations 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-community groups (involving participants from both sides of a conflict). Each group is supported by facilitators – who work in pairs with the bi-community groups.

“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)

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 the 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.



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

- 09:15 – Introduction to the Day
- 10:30 – Break
- 11:00 – Mono-community group meeting
- 11:20 – Mixed-community group meeting
- 12:30 – Mono-community group meeting
- 13:00 – Lunch
- 14:30 – Mono-community group meeting
- 15:00 – Bi-community group meeting
- 17:00 – Debriefing of the Dialogues
- 18:30 – Closing the Dialogue Day



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

Local peacebuilding development Follow-up activities	
Name of the project	
Team members (Who is working on this idea)	
<p>What is the project about? <u>(Aim of the activity)</u></p> <p>Briefly describe the goal of the project and how it contributes to the intercommunal confidence building? (for example through the target audience, cooperation between organizers etc.)</p>	
Why do you want to implement the project activities)?	<p>Objectives (you can add up to five objectives):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
<p>Time and place of the activity:</p> <p>When would you want to implement the activity and what s the location</p>	
Who is the target group? Who will be invited to your activity? (Who are the participants?)	
What activities will be implemented?	
What resources will be used? (Please add the financial resources or in-kind contribution)	
What are the desired results of your project?	

APPENDIX 5: IDEAS FOR FOLLOW UP INITIATIVES BY PARTICIPANTS

«**ECO – Dialogue exchange**» (Artim Pllana, Milos Savic, Dušanka Markagić, Dušanka Markagić, Bojana Barać, Eneđa Deliu, Olta Olloni, Poema Zhubi, Gent Byci, Andjelija Vucinic - Kosovo)

The aim of the activity is to foster Peace Building, build common ground between different communities in Kosovo.

The **objectives** of the project:

- Raise awareness about the environmental issues;
- Foster reconciliation process in Kosovo;
- Support dialogue efforts between different communities;
- Build basic knowledge-skills and competences on human rights;
- Mapping human rights violations;
- Create a campaign about environmental issues and Human Rights;
- Build a group of young people who are connected;
- Build understanding and empathy;
- Raise awareness on the importance of activism and volunteering.

The project includes the following **activities**:

1. Human Rights training and Ecological activities – Participants will be more aware about their rights as human beings, by also focusing on issues that affect all communities in Kosovo, such as environmental issues.
2. Youth exchange – Provide the youth of Kosovo with basic information and tools about human rights, dialogue and climate issues by facilitating workshops that issue human rights, ecological related topics present in Kosovo, foster peacebuilding initiatives between communities, build trust and dialogue between communities.
3. Campaigning activities- Organize an online campaign that will last up to two months focused on environmental issues and human rights education, raise awareness about the importance of volunteering and activism.

«**ONE Environment**» (Omar Kharchilava, Sukhum)

The main **goal** of the project is to contribute in finding solutions concerning the illegal landfill in the Gal region. Bringing different communities together at the negotiating table will positively impact on building trust between different communities.

The project includes the following **activities**:

1. Visiting of the illegal landfill in Gal.
2. Holding a round table.
3. Summarising the results in the form of a report and send to the appropriate authorities.

«**Peaceful Bridge**» (Aleksandre Sivolapovi, Georgia)

The **aim** is to raise awareness about dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding with young people from conflict regions of Georgia during Sep-Dec 2023.

Objectives of the project:

- engage young people from conflict regions of Georgia and neighbouring areas in informal meetings;
- share personal experiences and insights in dialogue, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding;
- raise awareness about the principles and practices of conflict transformation and peacebuilding;
- motivate and inspire young individuals to actively contribute to peacebuilding efforts in their communities;
- establish a "Peacebuilding" group to further promote the principles of conflict transformation within society.

The project includes the following **activities**:

1. Organise and facilitate informal (online) meetings with young people from conflict regions, providing a safe and engaging platform for open dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and discussions on topics of dialogue, conflict resolution, and peace-building.
2. Deliver informative and interactive presentations and workshops on the principles and practices of dialogue, conflict resolution, and peace-building, equipping participants with practical tools and techniques to address conflicts and contribute to peace-building efforts in their communities.
3. Establish a «Peace-building" group that serves as a platform for ongoing discussions, knowledge-sharing, and collaborative initiatives, enabling young individuals to actively engage with the principles of conflict transformation and collectively work towards building a more peaceful society.

«**BazaArt**» (Eralp Kortach, Dila Çavuşoğlu, Chris Rotsakis, Stylianos Charalampous, Lambros Asvestas, Digidem Güçlüeller, Öykü Tural, Maria Ophilia Sfaltou, Iakovos Orfanidis, Amalia Avraam – Cyprus)

The **aim** of the project is to bring together people from all communities to a Two-day event (Limassol & Nicosia) where they can shop in an art bazaar and also participate in a workshop focusing on cultural handcraft to encourage inter-communal interaction and sustainability.

Objectives of the project:

- increase inter-communal interaction for target audience;
- encourage curiosity for the Cyprus conflict;
- provide a platform for local artists across the divide to promote their work.

Target Audience: People living far from the line of the divide and are detached from the conflict (e.g Limassol, Kyrenia, Paphos). Open to everyone in Cyprus

The **activities** in the project:

1. Handcraft Workshops in Limassol
2. Clothes swaps
3. Bazaar
4. Walking tour of the old city of Nicosia
5. Conversation Café – Human Library on the UN Bufferzone

«**Lost And Found**» (Tamar Gelashvili, Gvantsa Davitelashvili – Georgia)

An application could be created where conflicting sides can upload artifacts. For instance, Abkhazian individuals who inhabit houses formerly belonging to Georgians or possess items of Georgian origin

could upload pictures to make them accessible to the Georgian side. Registration could be anonymous, allowing individuals who have been displaced from their homes in Abkhazia to potentially recover their belongings or any other artifacts, thus rekindling their memories.

Objectives of the project:

- **Promote Cultural Reconciliation:** By providing a platform for conflicting sides to upload and share artifacts, the project aims to foster cultural reconciliation between the Abkhazian and Georgian communities. By acknowledging and preserving each other's cultural heritage, it seeks to promote understanding, empathy, and dialogue.
- **Facilitate Artifact Recovery:** The project aims to assist individuals who have been displaced from their homes in Abkhazia by enabling them to locate and reclaim their personal belongings or significant artifacts. It strives to reunite people with their lost items, thereby supporting their emotional healing and sense of identity.
- **Preserve Cultural Heritage:** By digitizing and making artifacts available online, the project seeks to preserve the cultural heritage of both the Abkhazian and Georgian people. It aims to safeguard historical objects and memories that might otherwise be lost or destroyed due to conflict or displacement.
- **Encourage Dialogue and Understanding:** By creating a platform where both sides can engage and share their cultural artifacts, the project aims to encourage dialogue and understanding between the Abkhazian and Georgian communities. It provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about each other's history, traditions, and experiences, fostering empathy and breaking down barriers.
- **Promote Peace-building:** Through the promotion of cultural reconciliation, artifact recovery, and dialogue, the project ultimately aims to contribute to broader peacebuilding efforts in the region. By focusing on shared heritage and fostering connections, it strives to create an environment conducive to long-term peace, stability, and coexistence.

The project includes the following **activities**:

1. **Development of an Online Platform:** The project would involve creating a user-friendly online platform where individuals can upload and share pictures of artifacts. This platform would serve as a central hub for the project's activities.
2. **Outreach and Awareness Campaigns:** To ensure broad participation, outreach and awareness campaigns would be conducted to inform the Abkhazian and Georgian communities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, about the project. These campaigns may involve social media promotions, community meetings, and collaborations with local organisations.
3. **Artifact Upload and Documentation:** Participants would be encouraged to upload pictures of artifacts they possess or artifacts found in houses that have changed ownership. Clear guidelines and instructions would be provided for capturing and uploading high-quality images. Along with the images, participants would be encouraged to provide relevant information and details about each artifact.
4. **Virtual Exhibitions and Catalogs:** The project could organise virtual exhibitions or create online catalogs to showcase the uploaded artifacts. These virtual spaces would allow participants and the general public to explore and learn about the cultural heritage, histories, and stories associated with the artifacts.

5. **Artifact Recovery Support:** The project would provide support and assistance to individuals who are seeking to recover their personal belongings or artifacts. This may involve connecting them with relevant resources, providing guidance on legal and logistical aspects, and facilitating communication between individuals for artifact reunification.
6. **Evaluation and Impact Assessment:** Regular evaluation and impact assessment would be conducted to measure the effectiveness of the project activities and to gather feedback from participants. This feedback would help improve the project and ensure its alignment with the intended goals.

«**Climate Change and Peace building**» (Giorgi Mamulashvili, Georgia)

Project is about connection of Peace Building and Environmental protection. The goal of the project is to rise the awareness of young people. The project will support cooperation between youth organisations and students.

Objectives of the project:

- to inform young people about Importance of Peace building importance;
- to strengthen communication process;
- to raise awareness about Climate Change.

The project includes trainings, workshops, discussions and online meeting with the students of the Black Sea Region.

«**Human Rights School 4 Peace Building Education**» (Mariam Ketsbaia, Georgia)

The project itself **aims** to raise awareness about the importance of human rights education in peace building process. How it effects and the process of making and afterwards maintaining peace in our societies.

Objectives of the project:

- to promote peace building activities and processes among young people;
- to raise awareness about peace building activities being implemented by the council of Europe;
- to showcase the connection between the human rights, human rights education and creating peaceful societies;
- to give opportunity to the participants to share their opinions and perspectives, knowledge and experience.

The project includes the following **activities** with students, representatives of IDP community in Georgia:

- trainings and experience sharing sessions,
- working in groups and defining the problems present in our society, its roots and implications;
- coming up with possible solutions to the problems;
- giving presentation in form of speeches to wider audience at the end of the project.

«I am, We are» (Lasha Svanishvili, Georgia)

The **goal** of the "I am, We are" project is to contribute to intercommunal confidence building. This will be achieved through conducting trainings that aim to foster understanding, empathy, and cooperation among participants from different communities.

Objectives of the project:

- to foster mutual understanding and empathy between individuals from different communities;
- to promote cooperation and collaboration among participants;
- to encourage dialogue and open communication;
- to build trust and reduce prejudices and stereotypes;
- to Create a sense of shared identity and belonging.

The target group for the project includes individuals from different communities, especially young people who may have experienced conflict or tensions in the past. Participants will be selected from diverse backgrounds and will represent a range of age groups, genders, and ethnicities.

The project includes the following activities:

1. Workshops: conduct interactive workshops that promote understanding, dialogue, and cooperation. These workshops may include activities such as icebreakers, team-building exercises, and facilitated discussions.
2. Cultural exchange events: organise events where participants can share and celebrate their cultural traditions, thereby fostering appreciation and respect for diverse identities.
3. Collaborative projects: engage participants in collaborative projects that require them to work together, fostering cooperation and trust.

All Together (Nicolae Rotaru, Laura-Călina Scutelnic, Anastasia Popa, Olga Trandafilova, Dumitrica Paladuta – Moldova)

«All Together» is an umbrella project to cover different aspects of the same problem.

The **actives** of the project includes:

1. Creation of the social media page
2. Conducting mini-peace camp
3. Conducting informational sessions in schools on peace education
4. Conducting English language courses
5. Conducting hikes to discover the hidden gems of Moldova and Transnistria
6. To develop and submit petition to the Ministry of Education of Moldova to teach NVC

The target group of the project:

- young children (11-12);
- teenagers (15-19);
- youth (18-30).
-

«AA Harmony: Sharing and Lightening Stories» (Bakhtiyar Mammadov, Emilia Avilova, Javid Akhmedov, Margo Sargsyan, Marianna Urfalyan, Sargis Harutyunyan, Sayyad Yusufli, Serly Chohmalian, Tatevik Sahakyan, Zulfiyya Rzayeva – Armenia and Azerbaijan)

The overall idea of the project is to create a platform where Azerbaijanis and Armenians will share their stories both in online and offline formats. Intercommunal confidence building is a vital aim in the implementation of this project, serving as a catalyst for peacebuilding and social cohesion. By fostering trust, understanding, and collaboration among two communities, AAH will contribute to a more inclusive empathetic and harmonious society. Embracing effective strategies and monitoring

progress ensures that intercommunal confidence building efforts yield positive and lasting outcomes, paving the way for a brighter future. The aims and objectives are:

- a) **Conflict Prevention and Resolution:** Intercommunal tensions can escalate into conflicts that have devastating consequences. Confidence-building measures help prevent conflicts by addressing underlying grievances, fostering dialogue, and promoting peaceful coexistence.
- b) **Sustainable Development:** By building confidence among different groups, this project can enhance social cohesion, encourage collaboration, and create an enabling environment for inclusive growth.
- c) **Reconciliation and Healing:** In post-conflict or post-crisis contexts, offering an alternative discourse of possible coexistence based on similarities in contrast to the existing antagonistic narratives plays crucial role in fostering reconciliation and healing.
- d) **Strengthening social fabric:** Building trust between two communities strengthens the social fabric by reducing prejudice, discrimination, and stereotypes. This leads to increased social cohesion and improved social integration.

APPENDIX 6: SUMMARY OF THE PARTICIPANT'S EVALUATION FORMS

The overall satisfaction of the camp evaluated positively by the participants. For the majority of the participants the activity was «Positive» (32.26%) and «Very positive» (67.74%).

The participants considered that the objectives of the Youth Peace Camp were met to a great extent, especially the ones related to relationship building among the participants as a foundation for peacebuilding and dialogue, sharing practices of a youth work on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities and empowerment on becoming the multipliers and peer leaders in peacebuilding activities with young people.

(1 = not achieved at all, 5 = fully achieved)	Average
To develop awareness and basic competences of participants in HRE, peacebuilding and intercultural learning to enable them to engage in dialogue and confidence-building initiatives with other young people affected by conflict	4.7
To support mutual learning from experiences of conflict and coping strategies	4.5
To foster relationship building as a foundation for peacebuilding and dialogue	4.8
To introduce and share existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities	4.8
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	4.8

The expectations of the camp were 80% met for 16.13% of the participants, 90% for 35.48 % of the participants and 100% for 48.39 % of the participants. Some of **the comments** provided by the participants:

- It is one of the most informative and beneficial camp which not only helped us but also developed our motivation for peace building
- I really like the methods facilitators were using, but more than that I liked how they presented it. In so many activities we find so many things important for human interaction and understanding, and without them we can't build peace.
- 1000%, exceed my expectations way more than I can express.

The programme and methods were assessed by 64.52 % of participants as «Fully» appropriate to facilitate learning, by 29.03 % as «Mostly» appropriate and by 6.45 % as «On average».

61.29 % of the participants considered that «Fully» gained confidence and competences to continue working on the themes of the Camp and 38.71 % assessed their confidence as «Mostly».

The participants considered that **this Youth Peace Camp was a positive experience in:**

	On average	Mostly	Fully
Participation	3.23%	22.58 %	74.19 %
Intercultural learning	3.23%	22.58 %	74.19 %
Human rights education	19.35 %	25.81 %	54.84 %
Dialogue	3.23%	29.03 %	67.74 %

Some of the comments provided by the participants:

- As someone coming from a conflict country, it was a rare and perfect experience to talk to the other side and listen to their experiences. When I learned that we share the same values, I realised that the bond between us is actually very strong.
- The workshops weren't boring, they were so practical and interactive.
- This camp 100% should be annual. It changes your view on a lot of things completely gives you a unique opportunity to see the things clearly from different perspectives.
- I know a bit on those subjects already, while, it is not bad to renew some knowledge.
- Even though we had activities all day long, they were very interesting, especially the parts when we were all giving the answers. We had a chance to see how people from all the world think, how are they raised, usually after activity we used to talk to anything what was unusual to us. We learned a lot, what are our rights, and whom we can ask if they are violated. More important we learned about respecting and understanding others. The dialogue day, was truly hard for all of us, but most of us finally had a chance to ask, to see that things were basically same for those who suffer. Stories from the war, although with little difference had one in common – pain. Nothing could bring us more joy than a part when we were understood by the others, not judged, without questioning the truth. To be accepted and understand, by someone whom we thought hate us, we finally find that.

The participants mentioned that after the Camp they **understand better the role of the Council of Europe:** «on average level» – 3.23 %; «Mostly» – 22.58 %; «Fully» – 74.19 %.

Assessment of the **learning environment** by the participants:

	Not at all	Partly	On average	Mostly	Fully
Everybody had the opportunity to actively engage in the process				38.71 %	61.29 %
Everybody's opinions were respected			3.23 %	25.81 %	70.97 %
The overall atmosphere was positive and constructive.				19.35 %	80.65 %
Conflicts or disagreements were addressed constructively			3.23 %	25.81 %	70.97 %
The Dialogue day was well facilitated and successful				19.35 %	80.65 %

Some of the **comments** provided by the participants:

- Everyone had chance to express themselves, even the shy ones, us me. Facilitators were encouraging to everyone and patient. Disagreement were only constructive, and everyone tried to express their opinion in the way it won't hurt other one.
- It was fully safe and comfortable environment.
- It was very pleasant environment for learning.

The facilities of the European Youth Centre were positively evaluated by the participants. They highlighted in their comments the willingness of the staff of the youth centre to help and go above and beyond with every single request. As a negative aspect which was pointed out the absence of the conditioning in the rooms which made them very hot.

The participants wrote in the evaluation forms that they **take home from this Youth Peace Camp**:

- Inspiring ideas for possible future cooperation.
- Love, empathy, understanding, friends, memories and motivation and inspiration for future;
- clear plan for implementing follow-up initiative after the Camp;
- A better understanding of different perspectives and perceptions existing in own country. Knowledge about other conflicts as well.
- Non-violent communication.
- Motivation to try to make a change and curiosity.
- New built connection with people all over Europe and most probably a few Albanian words.
- inner peace as well! and to know that not everyone can like me and to have peace with this idea as well.
- Excitement to invest myself on peace building.
- The importance of human rights education and peace-building on conflict.
- Human rights, peace, dialogue, and non-informal education.
- Importance of the respect to sensitivity.
- Courage to start something new.

- Unforgettable memories and experience on the topics of conflict transformation, dialogue and peace-building which I will take home and try to implement in my community.
- Peacemaking activities and practices.
- A love to humanity.
-

The participants mentioned that they **missed in this Youth Peace Camp** the following:

- more theoretical inputs and information about the conflicts in different communities from the historical perspective;
- formal education setting;
- more free time;
- visits to the Council of Europe and EU parliament
- the group from Tiraspol.



YOUTH PEACE CAMP 2023



European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, 4-11 July

www.coe.int/youth

