



Follow-up seminar of the North-South Centre's "Lisbon Forum 2018"

Enhancing interregional and multilevel cooperation to support local youth engagement in peace processes

5 - 6 December 2019

King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Center, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

REPORT



Ensuring Sustainable Democratic Governance and Human Rights in the Southern Mediterranean

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CONCEPT NOTE

Since the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), researches, investments and practices for a more youth-inclusive agenda in peace processes are increasing. Young people are now more than ever recognized as the “connecting tissue”¹ bridging the silos of development, human rights, humanitarian affairs, peace and security, from the local to the global level.

Interregional cooperation and multilevel global governance represent two fundamental elements for the implementation of the YPS agenda: on one hand, international and regional organisations are asked to reinforce their mutual collaboration and coordination efforts to ensure more inclusive mechanisms to sustain peace and democracy. On the other hand, youth-led organisations have the need to increase their advocacy and networking capacities in views of a more effective and structured dialogue with decision making bodies to channel their demands and achievements related to youth engagement in peace processes.

In this context, the Council of Europe plays an essential role in light of the universality of its values, its global outreach and its peculiar multi-stakeholder dimension where youth polices and youth participation are conceived as strategic priorities to achieve “democratic security”².

The North-South Centre, as instrument of the Council of Europe for regional and multilateral cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East countries, act as a facilitator for structured cooperation and confidence building between governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society organisations with a bottom-up participatory approach.

On November 2018, the North-South Centre organised the Lisbon Forum on the theme “Youth, Peace and Security: Uplifting youth engagement in peace and democratic processes in the Euro-Mediterranean Region”.

The key findings of the Lisbon Forum³ built upon the recommendations from the Amman Declaration⁴ and converge with the most recent policy papers on YPS⁵: the Lisbon Forum 2018 **calls upon international agencies, national governments and local authorities to urgently establish policy dialogue processes with young people on issues of peace and security.**

This seminar intends to follow-up the Lisbon Forum 2018 conclusions by focusing on **how interregional cooperation and international mechanisms already in place can support the development of national and local youth inclusive strategies in peacebuilding process.**

The two-day seminar will **identify the “take-ins” that interregional cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and good practices from different stakeholders could bring in defining a more youth-inclusive global agenda for peace.** In this process, the transformative potential of young people will be further enhanced as tool for Council of Europe and other international platforms to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law.

During the seminar, the active involvement of international organisations, governmental, parliamentary and local authorities’ representatives as well as of youth-led structures and researchers **will foster a greater cooperation between relevant actors in the Euro-Med region, increasing awareness about each other’s roles and relevance on issues related to youth, peace and democratic security.**

¹ [Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

² [Concept of Democratic Security: Council of Europe Contribution](#)

³ [Key findings and recommendations Lisbon Forum 2018](#)

⁴ [Amman Declaration adopted during the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security \(Jordan, 2015\)](#)

⁵ [Policy paper: We are here: An integrated approach to youth-inclusive peace processes](#)

AGENDA

Thursday 5 December 2019

Masters of ceremony

Mr Graziano Tullio – Youth Cooperation Programme, North South Centre of the Council of Europe
Mr Hussein Sarayreh – journalist and peace activist from the Jordan YPS national coalition

09.00 - 10.00 Institutional Opening

H.E. Dr. Fares Abdel Hafez Al Braizat

Minister of Youth, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

H.E. Ambassador Maria Hadjitheodosiou

EU Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (*on behalf of the EEAS*)

Ms Rocío Cervera

Deputy Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

10.00 - 10.45 Youth Participation in Peace Processes: a multi-stakeholder effort

Key-note speeches:

- [Inter-regional cooperation and institutional mechanisms supporting youth-focused peacebuilding work.](#)

Ms Emilia Hannuksela

Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

- [The contribution of youth-led organisations for the implementation of the UNSCR2250](#)

Ms Paloma Lainz

Researcher for United Network of Young Peacebuilders

- [Inter-regional cooperation and youth participation in the Arab counties to enhance the YPS agenda](#)

Ms Bothaina Qamr

UNFPA Regional Arab States office

- [National coalitions and national youth strategies: ensuring stability and democracy through youth policies](#)

Dr. Salem Al Hasanat

Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

10.45 - 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 - 12.30 From policies to practices: reflecting on the different layers of the YPS agenda

Panel and open debate building on the key-note speeches

- Mr Anouk Heili

UN Women - Regional Office for Arab States

- Ms Sihana Nebiu

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

- Mr Main Alshamayleh

Consultant at the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Jordan

- Ms Ola Abdulhak

Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peacebuilding, Yemen

Moderator: **Mr Saji PRELIS**

Co-Chair "Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security"

12.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 16.00 Multilateral cooperation: what is the current state-of-art of the dialogue between grassroots initiatives and institutional mechanisms?

Key-note speeches:

Ms Elin Lilijenbladh

Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

Mr Mohammed Arabiat

Generations for Peace, Jordan

Case studies' presentations

1) **Ms Dania Dirani**

UNESCO, Amman Office

"Preventing Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia"

2) **Mr Niklas Vaalgamaa**

2250 Network, Finland

"The world's first National Action Plan on UNSCR 2250"

3) **Ms Olla Al-Sakkaf**

Youth without borders organization for development, Yemen

"A path for Peace in Yemen: the "Civil Alliance of Peacebuilding", the work with local authorities in rural areas and the relation with UN representatives"

4) **Ms Amar El Moussawi**

Adyan - Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity and Human Dignity, Lebanon

"A youth network for inclusive citizenship through interfaith dialogue"

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 - 17.10 Building up new opportunities: bridging civil society initiatives to institutional processes

Four parallel breakout sessions to deepen the case studies presented, share similar experiences, take stock of the lessons learned and identify common challenges and opportunities.

17.10 - 18.00 Conclusions of the day

Sharing in plenary of the breakout sessions' outcomes and wrapping up the insights of the day.

Moderation and closure by:

Mr Matteo Pugliese

Italian Institute for International Political Studies

(former OSCE Special Representative on Youth & Security)

19.30 - 21.30 Buffet dinner with traditional Jordanian dance performance

9.30 - 11.00 Contributing for a more youth-inclusive global agenda for peace

Key-note speech:

Ms Romeral Ortiz Quintilla

Youth and Peacebuilding Expert, Advocate of the UNSCR 2250

World café:

- Identify takes-ins from interregional cooperation mechanisms
- Explore the transformative potential of young people in peace processes
- Exchange opportunities and good practices on YPS policies and practices
- Analyse the complementarities between YPS and SDG16 agenda to foster democracy and human rights through youth engagement.

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00 A multilevel governance approach for peace

Group dynamic on dialogue, cooperation and awareness about the role, the demands and the challenges of the main YPS stakeholders (international organisations, national entities, regional youth platforms and grassroots initiatives).

Facilitators:

- | | |
|--|--|
| - Mr Razan Masad
UNDP in the Arab States | - Ms Romeral Ortiz Quintilla
Youth and Peacebuilding Expert |
| - Mr Iyad O. Aljaber
I-Dare, Jordan | - Mr Khaled Emam
GPPAC Youth, Peace and Security Working Group |

13.00 - 13.30 Closing: a roadmap to ensure youth participation in peace processes

- Impressions by the general rapporteur

Ms Suha Ayyash

I-Dare Jordan

- Recommendation by and to the Global Coalition on YPS

Mr Saji Prelis

Co-Chair of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security

- Conclusions

Ms Rocio Cervera

Deputy Executive Director of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe

13.30 - 15.00 Lunch

Methodology

The seminar aims at gathering a small number of key-representatives involved in the YPS field (around 30) allowing the creation of collaborative learning process based on a blended approach between institutional panels and more dynamic sessions based on non-formal education.

Facilitated discussion, “world café” and group working will create a comfortable environment where everyone will be encouraged to contribute in identifying challenges and drafting recommendations to advance the YPS global agenda.

Institutional opening

Summary of Key Messages:

- Jordan remains broadly recognised as a champion country for the YPS agenda, continuously supporting peacebuilding initiatives and capacity building programmes strengthening youth resilience, promoting media literacy and preventing hate and violence.
- The European Union's efforts in building peace are channelled through different programs and entities. Programmes such as Erasmus+ foster the connection between young people and peace, while other initiatives are addressing climate change linking peace to environmental issues. The EU's objectives are meant to be achieved through cooperative efforts across countries and across generations.
- The role of the North South Centre (NSC) is to offer support and to synchronize the top-down and the bottom-up approaches to tackle the global youth agenda. The NSC's objective of increasing the space for youth participation in decision making processes is being achieved by bringing together different stakeholders in events like this one, promoting meaningful dialogue for peace and democracy in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

"We need more than listening; we need to learn from each other. You, young people need to tell us what you expect from us and then we will come up with solutions together"

***Ms Maria Hadjitheodosio - European Union Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
(on behalf of European Union External Action Service).***



The Youth, Peace and Security agenda

Summary of Key Messages:

- The UNSCR 2250 and 2419 are meant to increase young people’s representation and engagement through a multi-stakeholder approach, building bridges across various actors.
- The UNSCR 2250 is not an UN-initiated resolution: it came from a demand and a strategy led by youth movements.
- It is recommended to look at the UNCSR 2250 as a transformative agenda; to consider it as a tool, a guideline.
- The UNSCR 2250 should not be perceived as an achievement in itself: it is an instrument to advocate for youth inclusion in peace processes and to hold institutions accountable for that. The young people should use the 2250 resolution to push institutions to openly talk about the YPS agenda and implement it effectively. Decision makers must be held accountable for taking no action.
- Rather than organising capacity building initiatives promoting the resolution 2250, it is important to translate the UNCSR 2250 into concrete programs, building on existing human rights structures and cooperate with / human rights mechanisms (i.e.: OHCHR).
- The YPS agenda can be seen as a complementary agenda for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 “Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions” and of the SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goal”, besides being understood as a cross-cutting issue of the Agenda 2030.
- The YPS agenda should work not only towards open conflict, but also against structured violence in society. The YPS agenda has to address the violence of exclusion coming from poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities since they are drivers for conflict.
- YPS is not a youth agenda: it is a peace agenda where young people have to be included. Hence, it should not be secluded in the youth policy’s producing sphere where only youth stakeholders are involved. The subsequent Resolution 2419 in particular calls member States to create meaningful opportunities to engage young people in mediation efforts during the implementation of peace agreements.

“There is a lack of opportunities for young people to participate in national, regional and international systems. Overcoming this challenge requires cultivating young people’s political, financial, legal and social capacity, so that they can fully reach their potential to contribute to peace and security in their respective communities”.

Ms Emilia Hannuksela - Office of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

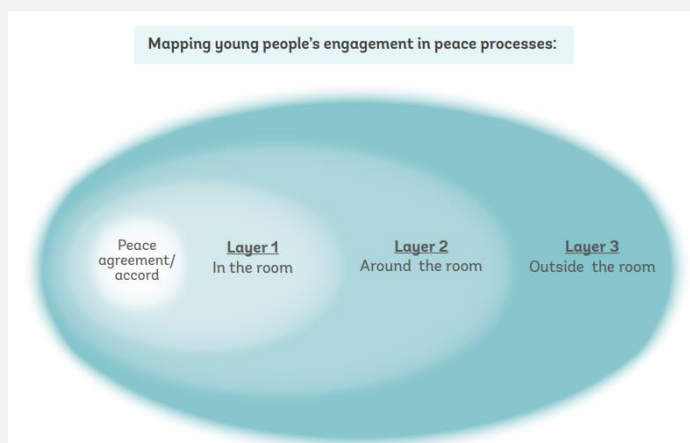


The traditional understanding of participation in peace processes has been linked to what happens inside the room and to “getting a seat at the table”. The first global policy paper on youth participation in peace processes “We are here: An integrated approach to youth inclusive peace processes” challenges this model.

The policy paper’s main argument is that power and influence does not correlate to the proximity of the negotiation table. It is important, instead, to look “beyond the table”, applying an integrated approach to include young people into peace negotiations.

The paper presents a three layers’ approach:

- **Layer 1 - In the room:** Young people included within the formal peace architecture and structures, taking a seat inside the room during negotiations and political dialogues.
- **Layer 2 - Around the room:** Young people not directly in the room, but close to the peace agreement and connected (able to get in the room) through formal or informal mechanisms.
- **Layer 3 - Outside the room:** Young people who engage and participate through informal and alternative approaches.



Key points of the new model:

1. The agenda of youth inclusion must be implemented from a conflict-sensitive and do no harm approach.
2. The inclusion of young people during all phases of peace processes likely increases the sustainability of the agreements.
3. Youth inclusion and participation in peace processes should not be considered a new agenda in competition with other inclusion agendas.
4. Young people’s proximity to the table matters because young people are distinctively impacted by the results of decisions made at the formal peace negotiation table.
5. Ensuring the representation of diverse youth constituencies’ matters in peace negotiations.
6. Enabling youth political participation during peace negotiations will contribute to more inclusive and representative governance structures that build the basis for more peaceful societies

“The quadrilogue approach applied in our activities shows the different paths young people can take to connect with policy makers, giving the possibility to understand where exactly the influence lies. Sometimes advocacy is more effective if it addresses the Parliaments or the teams behind minister, because those bodies are stronger than you might think.”

Ms Rocio Cervera - North-South Centre of the Council of Europe



- The power has shifted “outside the room”: often the discussion is focused about bringing young people to the room, while there are tremendous opportunities for youth to play an important role outside the room.
- Since youth participation happens at different levels, the effectiveness and the impact of youth initiatives should be measured also outside the room

Key issue to further address:

- Lack of protection of young activists.
 Many young people who are exercising their right of freedom to speak or assembly are being threatened, harassed and attacked.
 These threats go beyond physical threats, it includes also attacks on social media or the different issues related to the shrinking space for civil society.
 So far, very little has been done on this regards.
To consider:
 - A joint action plan has been developed by the UN, under the 5th pillar of the UN Youth Strategy “Youth 2030”, “Peace and Resilience Building.



Key recommendations:

Regional organisations and international institutions should:

- follow a cross-sectoral approach, allowing innovation, experimentation and sharing of good practices of inter sectorial initiatives;
- adopt a more inclusive approach when involving young people in projects and initiatives, guaranteeing the representation of youth from diverse communities;
- engage also with marginalised groups and limit the engagement of the so-called “professional participants”;
- foster a more collaborative approach based on intercultural dialogue and exchanges;
- fund and support long-term programs that are built and designed with the youth;
- consider education - and in particular global citizenship education - as the main pillar of peacebuilding;
- provide sustainable programs of youth capacity building with the final aim of increasing youth participation;
- put more pressure on governments to place the youth at the centre of national decisions’ making processes;
- enhance the dialogue among countries members of the same international organisation;
- look for innovative and interactive means of communication and engagement to fill the gap of communication and trust between youth and international organisations;
- encourage and support coalitions and network building efforts;
- support the sustainable engagement (also financially) of young people in initiatives promoted by international institutions, since young people are often volunteering for long period of time to serve institutional initiatives;
- provide frameworks for the sharing of good practices otherwise difficult to learn about.

“On one hand States are saying “we need young people to come and tell what they need”

On another hand fears that “when young people speak is a threat”

Ms Elin Lilijenblad - Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

Key issue to further address:

- Tokenisation of youth in decision making arenas.
Institutions are still labelling youth as a homogenous group and it is common to have youth representatives invited to speak in events only because of their being young.
It is urgent to involve young people in light of their diverse profiles, contexts, experiences and needs. It is important to consider also how young people are grouping themselves in their efforts related to YPS.
To consider:
 - Combining top-down and bottom-up approaches would ensure the representation of a wide range of voices.
 - Having an advisory council of youth within the institution would keep the dialogue open beyond the boundaries of specific project, generating activities that are truly youth empowering.

- Lack of coordination between institutions

Spaces, mechanisms and opportunities for dialogue and coordination among international organisations working in the same field are very limited. This often creates duplication of initiatives and limits the impact of the actions undertaken by each Institution.

A greater coordination and collaboration between those entities would ensure a greater coherence among their programme and more impactful results

To consider:

The NSC implements since several years an annual meeting of stakeholders active in the area of youth in the Euro-Mediterranean region. This initiative will further expand in the years to come.



Multilevel governance: from the interregional level...

Key message:

- Besides the inter-regional dimension, it is acknowledged that there are specific regional contexts that must be taken into consideration.
- There is a common will to strengthen strategic partnership at regional level as well as to develop regional strategic framework.
- It has to be considered that mechanisms, researches and recommendations coming from regional initiatives might have a greater impact at sub-regional and national level. This is not only because those initiatives are perceived as closer to the final beneficiaries, but also because they can create more ownership among national governments and parliaments due to the specific political and socio-economic ties existing among countries at regional level.

Examples:

Youth Forum in the Arab Region

Pan-Arab youth event promoted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

In the first edition (Morocco, December 2018) a specific panel was dedicated to the development of a strategic framework for the implementation of the YPS agenda in the Arab region.

From the second edition (Tunisia, August 2019) stemmed out regional projects designed by youth participants such as:

1. A youth-led digital platform that brings youth together to strengthen the development of the youth in the Arab region.
2. A Youth Charter: a reference document for youth programs, policies and strategies in the Arab Region.
3. A network of "Knowledge and Innovation Centres": spaces for youth empowerment to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through needs assessments, capacity building, responsive innovation, project implementation, and building enabling environments.

[Malaga youth declaration](#)

In the OSCE 2017 Youth Conference participants proposed ten recommendations for mainstreaming youth issues into the security agenda. The young participants presented their recommendations to delegates from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

[Mapping the progress of YPS in the EU](#)

UNOY's research reveals that, though numerous are the spaces for youth engagement within the EU institutions, meaningful youth participation in EU processes (including policy making and programming) is less evident.

A greater engagement of EU institutions with youth civil society can be achieved through increased consultation, coordination and collaboration with youth networks and civil society platforms. However, such engagement should not occur exclusively in the framework of specific programmes, but it has to be ensured that any type of EU engagement is youth-sensitive, considering UNOY's recommendations such as:

- youth focal points in headquarters and delegation;
- guidelines and training for meaningful youth engagement;
- youth-sensitive and youth-informed conflict analysis to advise programming and funding priorities;
- systematic inclusion of the youth in programs' implementation and evaluation acknowledging their diversity.

"Peace means providing opportunities, not absence of war.

We believe in the power of cooperation in order to see the change we would like to see happening through an inclusive approach towards all the voices"

Ms Sihana Nebiu - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

[....to the national level](#)

Key message:

- Efforts on national, regional and international level must go hand in hand.
- National networks should be connected with other regional and international coalitions to unify the messages and create effective advocacy and lobbying tools.
- National strategies have to be established with clear sets of objectives, values and principles aligned with international standards.

Example:

- [Jordan national youth strategy 2019-2025](#) aims at ensuring stability and democracy through youth policies. One of its strategic objectives – the N. 6 - concerns specifically the development of youth work environment able to tackle issue related to security and peace focusing on media literacy, interfaith dialogue, combating hate speech etc.



"Youth organizations building peace in Yemen have a different agenda from the INGOs and donors active in the same area: not all the youth in Yemen are in need for the rice being distributed by humanitarian organizations, we have needs related to strengthening our capacity to better serve our community."

Ms Ola Abdulhak - Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peacebuilding, Yemen

For the institutions:

1. It is important to ground YPS efforts on the people, not on the institution/organisation they represent as institutions can be heavy and disengaging. Making people feeling part of something bigger than their institutions limits the risk of creating an “us-against-them” narrative.
2. Remember to embrace who ultimately international institutions are serving: not the institutions themselves, but the final beneficiaries of their initiatives. This approach avoids the risk of limiting the impact getting stuck within organizational mandates and policies.
3. There is a need to recognise institutions’ bureaucracy. The challenge is about how to meet people’s needs while recognising bureaucracy as a challenging barrier.
4. International organisations should contribute in redefining the narrative of the peace sector.
For example:
 - use a positive language when labelling the projects, avoiding focusing only on violent extremism;
 - be attentive with the use of the term “radicalization”: not all the radical ideas are violent. The overuse of this word might undermine positive revolutionary ideas and project (“*Gandhi had radical ideas*”).

For grassroots youth initiatives

1. Accountability should be ensured both by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Institutions: CSOs should react whenever other CSOs are not applying the same level of accountability they demand to institutions.
2. Youth advocates should commit to a process of learning, strengthening particularly their soft skills. They should invest in self-criticism and self-resilience, showing empathy also towards interlocutors with whom they disagree, remaining “in the room” after having expressed their criticism, capable to interact out from their comfort zone.
3. Invest in creating, fostering and applying a movement mind-set, not a project mind-set.
4. Efforts must be built on the evidence-based approach.

For all stakeholders

1. Working at the different levels and with different stakeholders having inter-regional scope requires patience. Sometimes stagnation is just a perception resulting from a lack of patience in analysing the long-term changes. It is an important competence the capacity to wait and analyse how things evolves in the long-run.
2. All transformative agendas - like the YPS agenda - require a change of attitude and behaviour. All stakeholders should embark in a trust building exercise where time is a key element: improving the levels of trust between partners requires time.
3. All agenda need consistent projects to be implemented and pushed ahead; however, money can also corrupt and disrupt the processes.
4. Ensure that diversity is embraced and practiced: perspectives from both institutions and individuals coming from different background should always be voiced in all activities and events.

*“We need to “focus on people”: there are people behind institutions.
When building peace, we have to address peoples’ heart, not mind.”
Mr Saji Preli - Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security*

ANNEX 1

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Name	SURNAME	COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	POSITION
Ahmed	JAROSHA	Palestine*	Witness Center "Shahed"	Program Manager
Amar	AL MOUSSAWY	Lebanon	Adyan: Foundation for Diversity, Solidarity and Human Dignity	Senior member of the Adyan Youth Network
Anouk	HEILI	International	UN Women	Program Analyst on Women, Peace and Security
Bothaina	QAMAR	Arab States	UNFPA	Youth Program Analyst
Dania	DIRANI	Jordan	UNESCO Amman Office	Culture Unit
Elin	LILIJENBLADH	International	Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth	Council member
Emilia	HANNUKSELA	International	Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (UN)	Associate Expert
Haneen	THABET	Jordan	Al Qantara Center for Human Resources Development	Project coordinator
Hayet	BACCOUCHE	Tunisia	Model African Union	Active member
Hussein	SARAYREH	Jordan	Jordan YPS National Coalition	Journalist and Peace activist
Iyad	O. ALJABER	Jordan	I-Dare	General Manager / Founder
Jaouad	EL OUAFI	Morocco	The Mediterranean Forum for Youth (FOMEJE)	Co-founder
Khaled	EMAM	Egypt	GPPAC Youth, Peace and Security Working Group Justice Call Organization	Co-chair Director
Main	ALSHAMAYLEH	Jordan	Ministry of Political & Parliamentary Affairs	Consultant
Matteo	PUGLIESE	Italy	Institute of International Political Studies (ISPI) Program on Radicalization and International Terrorism.	Associate Research Fellow
Mohab	SABER	Egypt	EIMadina for Performing and Digital Arts	Executive Director
Mohanned	ARABIAT	Jordan	Generations For Peace	President
Monica	TAWDROS	Egypt	Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights	Project Manager

Murad	BAKZ	Jordan	UNESCO Amman Office	Culture Unit
Narod	HAROUTUNIAN	Lebanon	ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality	Public Affairs Coordinator
Niklas	VAALGAMAA	Finland	Finland 2250 Network	Founding member
Ola	ABDULHAK	Yemen	Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peacebuilding	Founder and CEO (youth representative of KARAMA network)
Olla	AL-SAKKAF	Yemen	Youth without borders organization for development	Projects coordinator
Osama	ALJABER	Arab States	UNDP in the Arab States	Political Engagement and Youth Participation Consultant
Paloma	LAINZ	International	UNOY Peacebuilder	Researcher
Rawan	ABABNEH	Iraq	UN Women Iraq and Yemen	Senior technical advisor
Razan	MASAD	Arab States	UNDP in the Arab States	Regional Electoral Analyst - Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster
Romeral	ORTIZ QUINTILLA	Spain	UNOY UNV	Trainer and consultant
Saji	PRELIS	International	Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security Search for common ground	Co-Chair Director, Children & Youth Programmes
Sihana	NEBIU	International	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	Senior Democratization Officer and Head of Civil Society and Gender Unit Youth Focal Point of the OSCE Presence in Albania
Soufiyan	SAAOUDI	Morocco	Youth Empowerment Society	Founder and President
Suha	AYYASH	Jordan	I-Dare	General Manager / Founder
Yara	THOUQAN	Palestine*	Witness Center "Shahed"	Public Relations and Media Coordinator

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe member States on this issue.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr Ahmad Jaroushi

Program Manager at Witness Center "Shahed", NGO based in Nablus that aims at enhancing the participation of young people from marginalized communities in decision and planning processes. Ahmad is running youth projects for 9 years, coordinating networks of civil society organisations and liaising with the regional and international institutions. He is currently in charge of developing a project in partnership with AICEM (Italy) funded by the seed funding scheme on Youth, Peace and Security promoted by the North South Centre through the South Programme III.

Mr Amar El Moussawi

Senior member of Adyan's Youth Network. Active within the organization involved in initiatives on interfaith dialogue and inclusive citizenship since the age of 15.

Amar has participated in many international forums and talked about the importance of interfaith work with a special emphasis on the importance of Adyan's role in Lebanon.

Ms Anouk Heili

Program Analyst on Women, Peace and Security at UN Women Regional Office for Arab States. Previously, Anouk worked with UN Women in Tunisia-Libya and Nigeria Country Offices and with UN Women West and Central Africa Regional Office, where she has been supporting the work on Women, Peace and Security and Governance, with a particular focus on the prevention of violent extremism.

Prior to joining the UN, Anouk engaged with and volunteered in several organizations, including WAVE, a Vienna-based NGO aiming to eradicate Violence Against Women in European countries.

Ms Bothaina Qamar

UNFPA Youth Program Analyst. Bothaina is a development practitioner with more than ten years of experience in managing and coordinating development projects in sexual and reproductive health and rights and youth development in the Middle East, collaborating with various organizations including UN Women, Care International and Right to Play. Bothaina works also as lecturer at the German Jordanian University for the Social Work professional diploma on migration and refugees.

Ms Dania Dirani

Youth advocate working at the Jordan UNESCO office, with a special focus on the youth and women empowerment projects.

Equipped with a higher education degree from Leicester University in England, Dania is currently responsible for 2 projects at UNESCO. The first being the "Networks for the Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth)" that strives to encourage young women and men to become the agents of change within their communities. Under Dania's guidance, the project aims to develop the Jordanian youth's competencies, understand and exercise their rights and duties, and engage as active citizens, particularly in decision-making relating to political, social, economic, educational and cultural policy and planning processes

The second project is dedicated at empowering rural women and increasing their resilience. The project focuses on empowering rural women in the Jordan Valley through the creation of income-generating opportunities.

Ms Elin Liljenblad

Member of the Advisory Council on Youth (AC) of the Council of Europe, working with the Youth, Peace and Security portfolio. In the AC, Elin is representing the Council on several occasions and championing the YPS agenda in international and national settings

Elin is a consulting expert on Youth Peace and Security for the European Youth Forum and has collaborated with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Department of Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs

Elin seats in the executive board of IGLYO - the international LGBTQI youth and student organisations and works as a program manager on youth, peace, security and defense for the Swedish civil society organization "Folk och Försvar".

Ms Emilia Hannuksela

Emilia Hannuksela works as an Associate Expert at the United Nations Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY). At OSGEY, Emilia is responsible for coordinating the Human Rights and the Youth, Peace and Security portfolios. With a background in human rights studies and public international law, Emilia has a wide range of experiences working in several youth, nongovernmental and UN organizations, including Amnesty International, the Finnish National Human Rights Institution and the UNRWA Jordan Field Office.

Mr Graziano Tullio

As programme officer of the Youth Cooperation Programme of the North-South Centre, Graziano Tullio coordinates capacity building activities on democratic participation and promotes confidence building initiatives between decision makers and youth organizations aiming at increasing youth involvement in policy-making processes for more peaceful and inclusive societies. Graziano coordinates the flagship North-South Centre's youth events called "Universities" and holds the Youth, Peace and Security portfolio of the North-South Centre.

He has more than 15 years' experience in the field of human rights and sustainable development, collaborating with various public entities, NGOs and Universities, having also extensively worked as a trainer and youth worker in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

Ms Hayet Baccouche

Hayet is an active member of the Model African Union NGO as well as of the Global Youth Network for Goal 16. Hayet is the Tunisian delegate of the "Pan African Leaders Movement" which aims at ensuring peace and security in Africa through youth efforts.

Hayet Baccouche is a Geographic Information Systems Engineer (GIS); she combines her engineering and scientific background with a strong civic engagement, serving her community to overcome social and environmental problems.

As an active member of the Model African Union NGO, Hayet organized and animated several trainings and workshops, taking also the role of President of the Peace and Security Council in the Simulation of the African Union's Summit "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth".

Ms Haneen Thabet

Hanneen is a Jordanian engineer who started working in development in Jordan as a volunteer for local projects with different NGOs. She is now project coordinator at Al Qantara Center for Human Resources Development, a CSO supporting the effective participation of young people from the southern region of Jordan.

Haneen was a radio show host and editor in the local community radio station "Sawt Al Janoub," and she involved in a UNESCO project as mentor for public school teachers to help them in establishing Media and information literacy clubs.

Mr Hussein Sarayreh

Hussein is a human rights and sustainable development activist, working on investigative journalism and advocacy campaigns.

Called as the youngest media-journalist as well as the youngest researcher and communications consultant in Jordan, Hussein worked with many governmental and non-governmental organizations on analyzing communities' needs to build and operate long-term social movements campaigns and national strategic plans.

Hussein has a master's of renewable energy and sustainable development and qualifications in strategic analyzing management and sustainable social change.

Mr Iyad Aljaber

Founder and general manager of "I Dare" and "The Daring Hub", two Jordan social enterprises that focus on positive community behavioral change, currently working on building community resilience particularly in preventing Hate Speech and Violent Extremism

Iyad is a youth worker, trainer & curricula developer on participatory and non-formal education methodologies. He is specialized in inter-religious/faith dialogue, alternative narratives countering hate speech and positive youth development. Since 2015, he is developing a project on preventing the engagement of Jordanian youth in violent extremism.

Mr Jaouad Elouafi

Co-founder of "The Mediterranean Forum for Youth" (Fomeje) a leading youth NGO in Morocco. Since 2005 Jaouad is responsible of many international youth projects focused on Human Rights. He worked as consultant for the Council of Europe having participated in the edition of the Arabic version of "Compass" - the Council of Europe Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People - and acted as trainer for the Euro-Arab Youth Forum in Morocco in 2017.

Jaouad is currently seating in the Committee in charge of establishing a national coalition for the UNSCR 2250.

Mr Khaled Emam

Lawyer and the director of “Justice Call Organization”, Egyptian member organization of the GPPAC. Co-chair of the GPPAC Youth, Peace and Security Working Group and global focal point at UN Major Group for Children and Youth on SDG16+. Throughout the years, Khaled has been involved in projects related to justice, peacebuilding, youth and security as trainer and lecturer in Lebanon, Tunisia, Georgia, USA, Singapore, the Netherlands among others. In 2019 Khaled was selected as a “guest educator” for the Peace Boat - a Japan-based NGO working on peace and human rights – giving lectures for more than 1,000 young people participating at the global sea trip.

Mr Ma'in Alshamayleh

Ph.D. Political Science and consultant at the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs. Previously worked as Director of Civil Society Affairs and Director of Political Parties. He served as a member of the steering committee of the Global Youth Forum on Peace and Security that took place in Amman in 2015. He also contributed in shaping the “Amman Declaration” on Youth Peace and Security. Ma'in helped in building the national coalition SCR 2250 and he is member of the national coalition SCR 1325 “Women, peace and security”.

Ma'in is mentor for Students Leaders Program and the Global Network Peace First; he is regional trainer with National Democratic Institute (NDI), and Trainer with UNOAC on Peace Building in MENA region. Ma'in is leading the initiative “Ambassadors for 2250” and is the author of many publications on SCR 2250 Youth, Peace & Security.

Mr Matteo Pugliese

Associate Research Fellow of the Institute of International Political Studies (ISPI) for the Program on Radicalization and International Terrorism. In 2017, he was appointed as a Special Representative of the OSCE Chairman on Youth & Security. In 2018, he was confirmed the same position by the Italian Chairmanship. Previously, he was a member of the National Youth Forum of Italy. In 2019, he was selected for the GLOBSEC Young Leaders Forum, the New Security Leaders program of the Warsaw Security Forum and the Emerging Leaders program of Atlantic Dialogues. Matteo holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Genova and a M.A. in Strategic Studies and International Security from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Matteo graduated from the Italian Naval Staff College in the General Staff Officers' Course.

Mr Mohab Saber

Executive director of “ElMadina for performing and Digital Arts”, a cultural institution based in Alexandria since 2000. Cultural manager with ten years of experience in the non-profit cultural sector in the Euro Mediterranean and MENA regions, Mohab worked in many organizations such as Ashoka (USA), and Calypso for Arts (Belgium) while currently at MitOst in Berlin. Mohab has contributed in many publications on art in public spaces and creative industries.

Dr. Mohammed Arabiat

President of the NGO “Generation for Peace” serving as a direct link to HRH Prince Feisal Al-Hussein and the Board. Advocate for human rights and passionate for social justice and community development, until recently Dr. Mohammed was Assistant Professor at Princess Sumaya University for Technology. His academic interests include leadership, change management and technology acceptance. He has a PhD in Computer and Information Science and a Masters in Information Systems from DePaul University in Chicago, as well as a Masters in Social Justice and Community Development from Loyola University, Chicago.

Ms Monica Tawdros

Projects Manager at “Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights” serving also as the head of the UN Special Procedures communication unit. Monica holds of a Bachelor degree in Political Science and has participated in several international youth programs on peacebuilding and countering hate speech.

At Matt, Monica is currently managing a project which benefit of the seed funding scheme on Youth, Peace and Security promoted by the North-South Centre through the South Programme III.

Mr Murad Bakz

Murad entered the humanitarian sector in 2014, when he joined the World Food Programme working in South Syria emergency operations, and now has nearly 6 years of experience working with different UN agencies.

Currently, Murad works for UNESCO in Amman in the Social and Human Sciences sector for the following the projects: "Prevention of Violence and Extremism through Youth Empowerment", which aims at creating an environment where young women and men are empowered, heard and engaged as change makers in their immediate communities to prevent violent extremism. Additionally, Murad follows a project focused on empowering rural women and increasing resilience in the Jordan Valley through the production and promotion of their handicrafts brand “Safi Crafts”.

Ms Narod Haroutunian

Narod is the Public Affairs Coordinator at ABAAD – Resource Center for Gender Equality, a UN ECOSOC-accredited organization in Lebanon that aims to achieve gender equality in the MENA region. Previously, she had worked as a Policy Assistant at Women Political Leaders in Brussels and undertaken internships at the European Commission and the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Narod holds a BA in Political Science and International Affairs from the Lebanese American University and a MA in European Studies from the European University of Flensburg in Germany.

Mr Niklas Vaalgamaa

Niklas is one of the founding members of the Finnish 2250-network which has pushed Finland to be the first country in the world to start the preparing for national action plan for Youth, Peace and Security.

He has years of experience working with different NGOs on a local, national and global level, always engaged in issues related to human rights, youth policy and peace building.

As a former member of the International Committee of the National Youth Council of Finland he has acted as a representative delegate in multiple EU and UN meetings related to Youth, Peace and Security, such as in the consultation on the UN progress study “The missing peace”.

Ms Ola Alaghbary

Co-founder and CEO of “Sheba Youth Foundation for Development and Peace Building”. Yemeni social entrepreneur working with a wide range of youth and women implementing innovative and quality programs to make positive changes in their communities, especially during conflicts. Ola was a fellow of the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program at the American University of Beirut while currently she is a Youth Advisory member for the No Lost Generation Tech Summit. Recently, she was selected by UNICEF as one of the leading social solution makers at the Evidence Symposium for Adolescents and Youth in the MENA region.

Ms Olla Al-Sakkaf

Program manager for “Youth Without Borders Organization for Development” (YWBOD). YWBOD undertakes capacity building activities to increase youth's engagement in peacebuilding and it promotes advocacy actions for the implementation of the UNSCR 2250 in Yemen.

Olla coordinates several peace-related projects such as "Amplifying a Path for Peace" in Yemen - a project supporting the efforts of the UN's Special Envoy to Yemen in the peace process - and “Enhancing the Contributions of Civil Society Organizations to Governance and Development Processes” which builds bridges between local authorities and youth in rural areas in order to improve community peacebuilding mechanisms.

Mr Osama Aljaber

Youth Political Participation Coordinator at UNDP. He has more than five years experience in human rights, governance, democracy and civic and political participation.

Osama established and led many youth regional and international networks and worked in different governmental and international organizations before joining the UN.

Osama is specialized in technology for development: he uses the technology as a bridge for dialogue and to improve the development projects.

He participated in several researches and events promoting democracy and political participation of youth and women in the Arab region as well as in Mexico, Spain and at the UN HQ in New York.

Ms Paloma Lainz

Peace activist and researcher. She author the report "Mapping the progress of Youth, Peace and Security in the EU" for UNOY Peacebuilders. She holds a degree in International Relations and Development Studies and has extensively researched on Peace education, education in emergencies and education and conflict.

Mr Saji Prelis

Saji has over twenty years' experience working with youth movements and youth focused organizations in conflict and transition environments in over 35 countries. In 2010 he co-founded and has been co-chairing the first UN-CSO-Donor working group (Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security) that successfully advocate for the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (in 2015) and the subsequent (Res 2419) in June 2018.

Mr. Prelis is also the director of children & youth programs at Search for Common Ground (SFCG), an international conflict transformation organization. Mr. Prelis was the founding director of the Peacebuilding & Development Institute at American University in Washington, DC. Mr. Prelis received the distinguished Luxembourg Peace Prize for his Outstanding Achievements in Peace Support.

Mr Razan Masad

Policy Analyst for the UNDP Regional Electoral Support Project in the Middle East and North Africa.

Her work involves a regional analysis of elections and democratic institutions and programming for the inclusion of women and youth in peacebuilding and political processes. Razan has a master's degree in Public Policy and Global Affairs from the University of Ottawa (Canada) where she specialized in UN Peace Operations and researched the role of institutional development in peacebuilding and violence in elections. Razan is also involved in a research project with the University of Ottawa and the Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS) on the role of women in peacekeeping operations and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Ms Romeral Ortiz Quintilla

Youth and peace advocate and peacebuilder practitioner for more than 10 years, she has been working in numerous programs related to youth and peacebuilding from youth-led organizations to international institutions (UN, EU and Council of Europe).

She was part of UNOY Peacebuilders Youth Advocacy Team advocating for the adoption of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Romeral is a senior trainer and has delivered and facilitated trainings and consultations based on non-formal learning methodologies on youth and peace and on localizing UNSCR 2250 in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and Asia.

Romeral is the main author of UNOY Youth4Peace Training Toolkit.

Ms Sihana Nebiu

Head of Civil Society and Gender Unit in the OSCE Presence in Albania. With more than 18 years of professional experience in international organizations in the Western Balkan region, Sihana is a strong advocate of civic activism, youth engagement, gender equality and women's empowerment.

Sihana contributed to the Youth, Peace and Security agenda of Albania and wider region by institutionalizing the integration of youth perspectives in the everyday work of OSCE Presence in Albania, establishing a Youth Advisory Group and leading the regional flagship activity "#YouthTrail: Promoting OSCE Values among Youth in Western Balkans". Sihana holds a MA in Democracy and Human Rights from the University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna.

Mr Soufiyan Saaoudi

Founder of the Youth Empowerment Society (YES) in Tiflet (Morocco), an independent youth initiative which spreads the culture of dialogue. YES gathers young people to enable them and to exchange expertise and skills in the domain of debates.

Following the principles of democratic participation and gender equality, YES is currently working also on women empowerment in connection with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda with the project "GET HEARD +" funded by the seed funding scheme on Youth, Peace and Security promoted by the North-South Centre through the South Programme III.

Ms Suha Ayyash Ismail

Co-founder of I Dare for Sustainable Development (IDare) based in Amman. Suha has 15 years' experience in the development and youth work, designing and managing projects on national level in Jordan and in the EuroMed region. Acting as Project Manager since 2014 for IDare, Suha is leading projects related to strengthening community resilience and prevention of hate speech and violent extremism.

Suha's holds an MSc in commercial Marketing and a solid experience in positive community change behaviour (Social Marketing) for development sector. She is a manager in the creative and cultural sector leading the "C-Hub innovation in creation" in Amman and "Comicipate" a project and comic magazine on youth participation through comics.

Ms Yara A. Y. Thouqan

Yara works for three years as Public Relations and Media Coordinator in Witness Center "Shahed" in Neblus. She also acts as Project Assistant in the project "From the camp".

For more information about the "Youth, Peace and Security" agenda of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, please, visit [this webpage](#)

For more info: NSC.youthcooperation@coe.int
[Global youth facebook page](#)

[Here is the photo album of the seminar](#)