Youth Peace Week

Roundtable discussion about the role of the Council of Europe in conflict-stricken areas and institutional support for peacebuilding actions with staff members:

North-South Centre of the Council of Europe supporting youth and peacebuilding

Graziano Tullio

→ Contributes to the Council of Europe's neighbourhood policy.
→ Member states from outside Council of Europe
   (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Cape Verde) *"voice of the South in the CoE"*

Objective: civil society, in particular **youth and women,** is empowered **to play an active role** for sustainable development and global citizenship.

Youth cooperation

Women empowerment

Global education

Youth Cooperation Programme

Networking and partnership
Interregional cooperation, share of good practices, common agenda, synergies and advocacy to advance the global youth agenda

Confidence building
Structured dialogue between young people, policy makers and institutional represenatives

Capacity building
To identify and address challenges related to youth participation, global education, democratic processes, peace and intercultural dialogue.
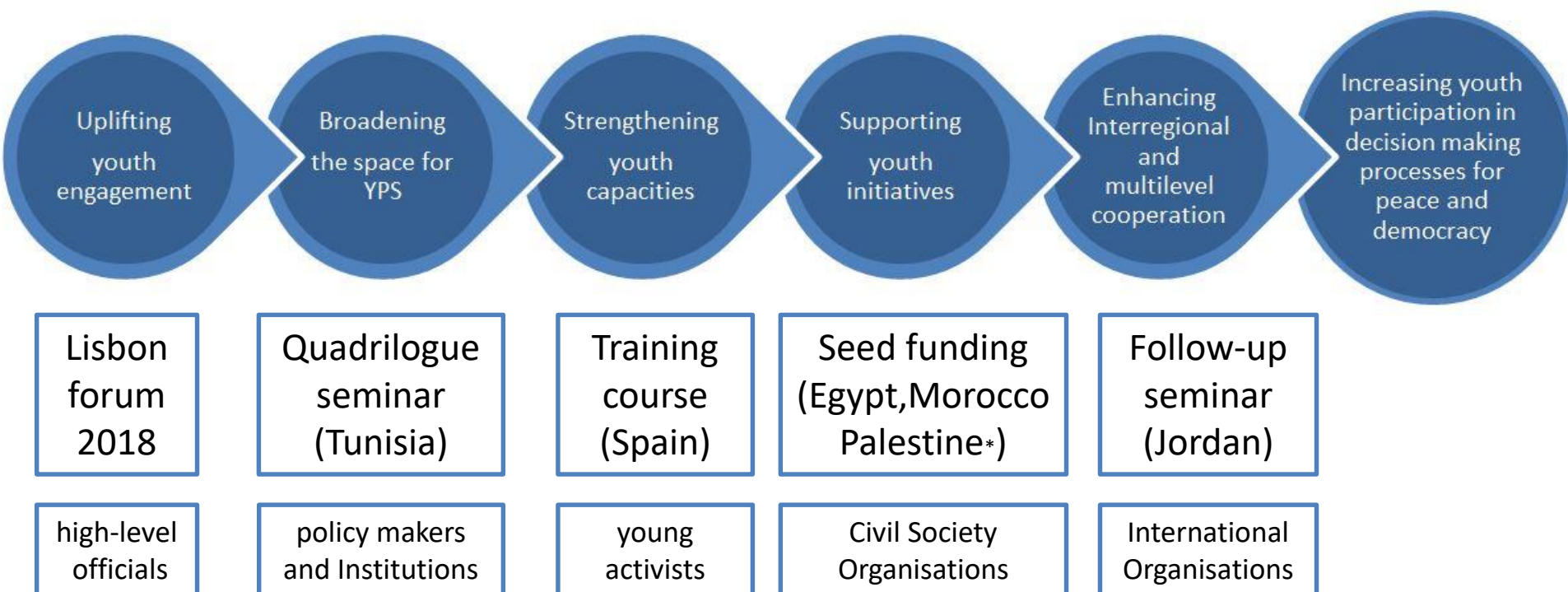
Youth Cooperation Programme

Youth Peace and Security

Council of Europe's youth priority "peaceful and inclusive societies"

Focus on the pillar of <u>participation</u> of the UNSCR 2250:
the need to ensure to young people "meaningful political inclusion".

Uplifting youth engagement	Broadening the space for YPS	Strengthening youth capacities	Supporting youth initiatives	Enhancing Interregional and multilevel cooperation	Increasing youth participation in decision making processes for peace and democracy
Lisbon forum 2018	Quadrilogue seminar (Tunisia)	Training course (Spain)	Seed funding (Egypt,Morocco Palestine∗)	Follow-up seminar (Jordan)	
high-level officials	policy makers and Institutions	young activists	Civil Society Organisations	International Organisations	

* 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.

Our Approach :

Adressing structural and cultural violence
Transform unfair structures, target prejudice, build relationships.
A complementary agenda for the achievement of the SDGs.

Process oriented
YPS agenda as "tool" for dialogue between youth and decision makers.
Synchronize the top-down and the bottom-up approaches.

NSC as facilitator
Provide a platform where different youth stakeholders interact,
learn, cooperate and coordinate their actions and initiatives

Fostering participation and inclusion

What we learn:

1) Besides open conflicts, to address the violence of exclusion (structured violence): poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunities are drivers for conflict.

2) YPS is not a youth agenda: it is a peace agenda where young people have to be included.
The subsequent Resolution 2419 calls States to engage young people in mediation and implementation of peace agreements.

What we learn:

3) Discussion focused only on bringing young people "in the room" while there are tremendous opportunities for youth to play an **important role also "outside the room"** (informal and alternative initiatives and approaches).

4) Increase the focus on the lack of **protection of young activists.** Many young people are being threatened, harassed and attacked (also on social media). Issue that contributes to the shrinking space for civil society.

What we learn:

5) "Youth" is not an homogenous group (often youth invited to speak in events only because of their being young). Involve young people in light of their diverse profiles, contexts, experiences and needs.

6) YPS as transformative agendas: requires a change of attitudes and behaviours. All stakeholders should embark in a trust building exercise where time is a key element: improving the levels of trust between actors requires time.

7) What else should we learn today from you?

THANK YOU!

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