



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

"Youth for Peaceful Europe - study session on cooperation towards sustainable culture of peace"

(19th – 24th March, 2018 European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary)

Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) in cooperation with the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, Youth Department, invites you to participate in the study session "Youth for Peaceful Europe", that will take place in European Youth Centre in **Budapest, Hungary 19th – 24th March 2018 (travel days excluded).**

About the study session

The Global Peace Index ranks Europe as the world's most peaceful region. But there are still lots of challenges in European fragile peace processes, such as post-conflict transitions, frozen conflicts in different communities, conflicts related to independence and autonomy. Threats of peace are not only the issue of conflict affected communities, as nationalism and a crisis of political legitimacy in Europe is undermining peaceful calving as well.

Bearing all those aspect in mind, we see the crucial role of young people in a new focus for peacebuilding efforts, especially with respect to social integration and violence reduction efforts. We would like to focus on intercultural dialogue and learning as a tool of conflict transformation and tool of conflict prevention. In order to do so, we see the need to empower young people experienced in peacebuilding to contribute to strengthen the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence.

The study session falls in the long-term strategic plan of the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network which focuses on youth empowerment, human rights, peace and dialogue and network development in upcoming 2 years. Combination of the experience in organizing peacebuilding activities, new perspectives of the peace builders out of the Council of Europe work.



Aim:

The study session aims to empower young people involved in peacebuilding to contribute to the strengthening of the culture of peace in Europe through wide cooperation based on activities promoting conflict transformation and non-violence.

Objectives:

- To map conflict risks in the communities of participants and at the pan-European level and respond to them with innovative human rights education approaches that youth can apply in peace-building.
- To create a common space for participants to share their experiences, challenges, achievements and practices of peacebuilding initiatives on local level.
- To equip peacebuilders with tools related to conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning including the Council of Europe's relevant work and tools.
- To explore and build non-violent tools and methodologies to achieve democracy and human rights, including civil resistance.
- To equip participants with advocacy and project management skills and encourage them to plan common activities promoting culture of peace at the European, regional and local level.
- To establish sustainable cooperation between Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and Youth Peace Camp Alumni as well as peacebuilders with experience outside of the Council of Europe youth field.

Methodology:

The program of the six-day study session will be divided into three main phases, which are responding to the objectives of the activity.

The first phase - common language for peace

This phase give participants space to create common space, understand the background of the others, identities and personal motivations, as well as experiences and challenges. We will make sure we all speak the same language as for the peacebuilding notions (culture of peace, conflict transformation, and non-violence). The participants will also explore conflict risks in their communities which will lead us to decide on main issues we would like to focus on our actions after the activity.

The second phase - tools responding to the threats for peace

The second part of the study session will focus on equipping peace builders in tools responding to the threats for peace. We envision this part as a co-working space of the participants which will share their practices, achievements and challenges, and experts which will bring the new perspectives. The participants will explore practices in conflict transformation, with a special focus on human rights



education, intercultural learning, but also activism tools, such as non-violent civil resistance. We see it as a crucial point to create also space to understand that intercultural dialogue can be a tool of conflict transformation, thus we will ensure space to visibility of successful stories of dialogue preventing and transforming conflict.

The third phase - building innovative tools to achieve culture of peace

Those tools would be later on developed and embedded in the collaboration strategy among YPAN, YPC and other peace builders. Participants will plan future actions in working groups taking into consideration the risks discussed and also their learning needs (for example for advocacy and project management skills). We will strongly encourage to plan actions with the Pan-European as well as local dimension.

About Youth Peace Ambassadors Network:

The Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (YPAN) is an informal network of young peace builders across Europe who works with and in conflict affected communities. The YPAN was developed from the '**Youth Peace Ambassadors**' project. The project itself was proposed by the Advisory Council on Youth and endorsed by the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe in 2010 and lasted from April 2011 until December 2013. The mission of YPAN is to develop a culture of peace by empowering young people, promoting human rights, dignity, equality and respect of diversity through education, advocacy and other non-violent actions. The YPAN brings together 57 young people from 26 countries of the Council of Europe. Members of the Network are involved in work with and for young people within different structures: organizations, institutions, informal groups. Therefore, in the peace-building activities, the Network has a big support from youth organizations all over Europe.

The YPA project was not a pioneer project of the Council of Europe in peacebuilding field, as in 2003 the **Youth Peace Camp (YPC)** was initiated, which every year since 2003 allows young people and youth organizations from conflict stricken regions to engage in dialogue and conflict transformation activities based on human rights education and intercultural learning, through which young people are able to gain positive experiences in living together. Considering both projects YPA and YPC, both of them promotes and supports the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to live together in dignity and dialogue.



Profile of Participants:

The study session will bring together groups of young people from the following countries and communities:

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots), France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo¹, Republic of Moldova, The Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, the South Caucasus region, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, Ukraine (in particular the Luhansk and Donetsk regions), United Kingdom and Turkey.

Maximum number of participants: **39**.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Young peacebuilders including Youth Peace Ambassadors Network members and Youth Peace Camp alumni.
2. Age of participants: 18-30 (however some of the participants may be over the age of 30);
3. Having good command of English.
4. Being motivated to cooperate with the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network or other represented individuals.
5. Being motivated to act as multipliers and implement local, regional or international activities in their communities.
6. Having practical experience in youth work and activism.
7. Being able to attend the whole period of the study session.

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.



Technical Details:

a. Dates and Place

- The study session will take place in March 19th to 24th of 2018 in the [European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Budapest](#), Hungary.
- Participants are expected to arrive on 18th and depart on 25th March 2018.

b. Travel and accommodation

- Travel expenses are arranged and reimbursed by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, in accordance with its financial provisions.
- Board and lodging are covered and provided by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.
- Reimbursement of travel costs of participants is normally made at the end of the session.
- Participants need to be present for the whole duration of the study session in order to receive reimbursement.

c. Enrolment Fee

The enrolment fee for study sessions is € 50 per participant. The fee is deducted from the refund of travel expenses. All persons attending the study session must complete a travel reimbursement form even when there are no travel expenses and pay the enrolment fee due to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe before the end of the meeting.

d. Daily Program of the Study Session and Approaches:

Participants will receive detailed daily program of the meeting and all other relevant documents prior to the event. The sessions will be organized referring educational settings of non-formal education. Essentially during the whole flow of the event, participants will have opportunity to identify, clarify and express their own beliefs and values and to confront them with others in a safe working environment considering local needs, freedom of thought/expression and the respect for others' opinions. Based on Compass, approaches of "About, Through and For Human Rights", we will try to bring together cooperative learning, participation and learning through experience in activities, ensued with discussion and follow-up activities, to create a process that: encourages parties to participate and to contribute to discussions and to learn from each other as much as possible; increases motivation of young peacebuilders to become multipliers and peer educators in their local communities. The participants will work together for elaborating individual and common ideas of applying received knowledge and skills in their practices and setting cooperation for future.



e. Language:

Official language of the study session is English.

Deadline

Candidates should complete the online application and submit it no later than **9th of February 2018** at 11:00 PM (CET).

Link to the application form <https://goo.gl/2oCwLN>

Selected candidates will be contacted 3 days after the deadline.

For further information and/or support please feel free to contact us on youthpeaceambassadors@gmail.com