



Youth Peace Camp

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

29 June-6 July 2020

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PRELIMINARY PROJECT INFORMATION

Background

The Youth Peace Camps were initiated by the Council of Europe in 2003 to bring together young people from conflict regions and to support them in initiating dialogue and cooperation.

In the past years the peace camp project brought together young people from Southeast and Eastern Europe and from the Middle East. During the camp the participants follow an experiential learning process and acquire competences in the fields of intercultural learning, dialogue and conflict transformation, within a human rights framework.

Since 2010, the Youth Peace Camp is held at the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg. It is nowadays is one of the main activities of the Youth for Democracy programme for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. In 2020 the camp will take place in Strasbourg and the work with the participants is expected to continue throughout 2021 as support to their role as promoters of peace and intercultural dialogue in their communities.

Rationale for the Youth Peace Camp

Young people growing up in regions affected by armed conflicts, being exposed to and/or enduring the consequences of physical and structural violence, are often confronted with dramatic life forming experiences, emotions and challenges. Such experiences may strongly influence their views and behaviour towards their own and other communities, their relation to conflict and peace and to their identity. Many young people choose to engage in constructive initiatives and dialogue instead of becoming themselves multipliers of hatred, violence and discrimination. When supported and recognised in their role, these young people may become peer leaders and educators and, in turn, raise awareness of and involve other young people in dialogue, mediation, conflict transformation and peace work projects.

In their role as peer leaders and in learning about conflict and peace, it is important for them to be able to relate to and to be confronted with, the life stories, experiences and aspirations of other young people from other conflict regions. The Youth Peace Camp unique approach has been the possibility for young people to better understand conflicts and their transformation by listening to and living together with young people affected by other conflicts elsewhere.

Intercultural learning and human rights education play a central role in all these projects. Intercultural learning in youth work practice has been especially developed through long-term training courses in European youth work – for which projects it was both an objective and a quality criterion. It soon became understood as representing the essence of the Youth Department's educational approach: recognising and addressing prejudice, combating aggressive and exclusive forms of nationalism, identifying the competences necessary for youth workers active in inter/multi-cultural environments. Intercultural learning is understood to be a natural part of the educational approach towards intercultural dialogue and, together with human rights education, may provide answers to some of the dilemmas resulting from violent, structural and cultural conflicts. The Council of Europe the White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue¹ upholds the political relevance of these approaches, adding to their proven educational suitability.

The Youth Peace Camp builds on these experiences and applies it to its participants. It provides a safe space for the young people from different conflict-stricken regions to learn together about conflict,

¹ http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/source/white%20paper_final_revised_en.pdf

to share their experiences in approaching them with other young people and to build their capacity to engage and/or develop future conflict transformation projects and initiatives.

The Youth Peace Camp also enables the youth sector of the Council of Europe to identify and document challenges faced by young people in conflict regions and to improve its ability to support youth projects in those regions. The project promotes and supports the role of young people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue and bring in the perspective that youth work and youth policy can bring to peace-building processes in Europe, especially through its preventive and educational nature.

In 2020, the activity is organised in cooperation with Directorate of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe in the framework of its Confidence Building Measures that constitute a practical tool to consolidate stability and facilitate political dialogue in post- or frozen-conflict areas.

Aim

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

Objectives

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

- To develop awareness and basic competences (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of participants in human rights education, conflict transformation, intercultural learning and dialogue, including a critical understanding of personal and collective identities and their role in conflicts
- To enable participants to share personal experiences of conflict and violence and coping strategies in a positive and safe atmosphere of living and learning together
- To motivate and support participants in their role as multipliers and peer leaders in peace-building activities with young people
- To prepare projects or follow-up activities by participants and their organisations focusing on confidence-building, dialogue and human rights education
- To promote and share existing youth work practices and experiences of young people working on dialogue and conflict transformation in their home communities
- To strengthen the role of the Council of Europe, in particular through its Youth for Democracy programme, in its efforts towards strengthening youth work in the field of conflict transformation, social cohesion and intercultural dialogue and in the implementation of the approaches of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security.

Methodology

The programme of the Youth Peace Camp will give young people, coming from regions affected by armed conflicts, the opportunity to share, explore, and reflect upon their work in the field of dialogue, conflict transformation and peace work. Central to the concept of the Youth Peace Camp is

the motivation and the possibility for living, learning and discussing together with other young people with whom otherwise it may be very difficult to have contacts or cooperation.

The programme will be based on mutual learning situations among participants, making use of a variety of working methods which support dialogical and experiential learning. The participants will be able to share personal experiences with conflict and violence and share the coping strategies they developed. The programme will also allow time for participants to explore the relation between identity and the conflict in their region for young people and themselves. Personal reflections and sharing within community groups will be alternated with sharing, learning and reflecting between youth from the different conflict regions.

A team of experienced trainers and facilitators (one per each community or region from where the camp participants come) will prepare and facilitate the programme with the support of Council of Europe educational staff.

The programme will be based on the human rights education approach outlined in [COMPASS: Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People](#). It will rely on other publications of the Council of Europe, such as the T-Kits [Youth transforming conflict](#), [Mosaic](#) and [Intercultural Learning and on other instruments, including the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 \(2015\) on Youth, Peace and Security](#).

Towards the end of the camp, participants are expected to develop initiatives as peer leaders and multipliers with other young people in the field of dialogue and conflict transformation, in their home communities. The Council of Europe is committed to motivate and encourage such initiatives and would also offer institutional, educational and, where possible, financial support for the follow up initiatives of participants after the camp in 2020-2021. Therefore the preparation of meaningful and realistic follow up plans by the participants has utmost importance this year.

The Youth Peace Camp started as a *camp* with participants living in tents and doing also outdoor activities. Nowadays the activity is mostly held indoors at the European Youth Centre, where the participants are also accommodated. The spirit of a camp remains present in the activity though the extensive usage of non-formal education methods, the experience of living and learning together and, to the extent of the possible, the usage of outdoor activities.

Working language

The working language of the programme will be English. Participants must have sufficient understanding of English in order to comprehend and complete the application form without assistance from another person and to fully and actively take part in the programme.

Educational team

The educational team consists of a group of facilitators and trainers, including an educational advisor of the European Youth Centre. Altogether, trainers and facilitators are experienced in running similar activities, have direct experience of the regions from where participants come and will be able to communicate with participants in their mother tongue.

Participants' Profile

The 2020 Youth Peace Camp will bring together 60 to 70 young people from the following communities:

- Cyprus (Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots)²
- Kosovo,* participants coming from Albanian, Serbian and other communities
- From both banks of the river Nistru/Dniestr
- South Caucasus, in particular from conflict affected regions and ethnic minorities.

All participants must:

- be aged between 18 and 25 years (exceptions are possible if duly justified);
- be able to work in English;
- be available and fully committed to take part in the Youth Peace Camp;
- be curious, open-minded, appreciate diversity and learn about each other's realities.
- be motivated to learn and to apply the values and approaches of the Youth Peace Camp, notably human rights, democracy and intercultural dialogue;
- be involved in youth or community projects in their community and be motivated to implement youth initiatives for peace-building following the camp;
- possess a sense of responsibility for one's own actions, a commitment to personal and community development and continue the engagement with other participants;
- preferably be involved in an organisation or network, institution, formal and/or informal group that is ready to support them throughout the project duration and afterwards when implementing youth initiatives for peace building.

A specific priority will be given to applicants who are or have been displaced as a result of armed conflict (refugees, internally displaced people, migrants, asylum-seekers...).

The group of participants should be balanced in relation to sex and reflect the diversity of their communities. The expected total number of participants and facilitators will be 60 to 70, with an average of 4 to 6 persons from each community present.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Applications must be submitted by **Friday, 3 April 2020, 1 p.m. CET (midday)**

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

² *With the financial support of the Youth Board of Cyprus*

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Dates: Participants are expected to arrive on 28 June at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (France) and to depart on 7 July 2020.

Please note: in view of restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 (corona) virus and depending on how the situation evolves on the European level, changes may occur in the programme of activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. For the moment it is not expected that the Youth Peace Camp will be affected. However, the Secretariat of the Youth Department is closely following the situation and will inform all applicants in due time if needed.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses will be reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who will attend for the entire duration of the camp may be reimbursed. The payment will be made in cash (in euros) during the Camp or optionally by bank transfer after the meeting. Specific travel-related risks will be covered by a CHARTIS insurance policy about which more information will be provided for selected participants.

Visa expenses

The Council of Europe will issue invitation letter for the purpose of obtaining visas to all participants. Costs related to the application for visas will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe, upon presentation of the relevant receipt and after being previously approved.

Accommodation

Full board and lodging at the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

Deadline for applications

All candidates must apply by completing the online application form by **Friday, 3 April 2020, 1 p.m. CET (midday)**.

Link to the application form: <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

Further information

For more information about the Youth Peace Camp, the application procedure and financial and practical conditions of participants please email: eyc.programme@coe.int

With practical questions related to the Youth Peace Camp contact Claudia Montevocchi: Claudia.MONTEVECCHI@coe.int, and with questions about problems with the online application get in touch with Gabriella Tisza: Gabriella.TISZA@coe.int.

Other training courses of the Youth Department

If you are interested in a training course in international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond to the requirements of this activity, please note that the Youth Department of the Council of Europe also organises other study sessions, seminars and training courses with and for young people. For details please consult our webpage www.coe.int/youth or contact one of the European Youth Centres.