

# ID TALKS!

*ID Talks 2024 spring edition will take you on a journey through faith, belief, and how to build projects to encompass different perspectives in your youth & community projects.*



## ID Talks:

- UNDERSTANDING INTERFAITH DIALOGUE
- INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND IDENTITY
- INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND COMMUNITY
- INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION
- INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND PEACE

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## ABOUT SALTO

...‘Support and **A**dvanced **L**earning and **T**raining **O**pportunities within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes’. The European Commission has created a network of seven SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres to enhance the implementation of the EU Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, which provide young people with valuable non-formal learning experiences.

SALTO’s aim is to support the implementation of the European Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes with regard to priorities such as Social Inclusion, Diversity, Participation, and Solidarity. SALTO also supports co-operation with regions such as EuroMed, South-East Europe, or Eastern Europe and The Caucasus and coordinates all training and co-operation activities, as well as information tools for National Agencies.

In these European priority areas, SALTO-YOUTH provides resources, information, and training for National Agencies and European youth workers. Most of these resources are offered and disseminated at [www.SALTO-YOUTH.net](http://www.SALTO-YOUTH.net). Find online the [European Training Calendar](#), the [Toolbox for Training and Youth Work](#), the database of youth field trainers active at the European level ([Trainers Online for Youth or TOY](#)), links to online resources, and much more.

SALTO-YOUTH actively co-operates with other actors in the European youth field, among them the National Agencies of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, European youth workers and trainers, and training organisers.

### **THE SALTO-YOUTH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY RESOURCE CENTRE [WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/](http://WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/)**

The SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre (based in Belgium Flanders) works together with the European Commission to support the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Through that, it works to contribute to social cohesion in society at large. SALTO Inclusion and Diversity also supports the National Agencies and youth workers in their inclusion work by providing training, developing youth work methods, disseminating information via the newsletter, etc. By offering opportunities for training, exchange, and reflection on inclusion practice and diversity management, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity works towards the visibility, accessibility, and transparency of its inclusion & diversity work and resources, and towards making ‘inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities’ and ‘positive diversity management’ a widely supported priority.

For more information and resources, have a look at the Inclusion & Diversity pages at [www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/](http://www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/)



## DISCLAIMER

This magazine contains pictures as a result of the Graphic Recording which is an integral part of all the ID Talks events. There are four types of styles throughout the whole magazine.

- **General Cover Picture.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events. It is displayed as a cover picture of each ID Talks version.
- **Portrait of Speaker.** It depicts each speaker and a few graphic recording elements such as written parts of their "speech" and/or any other graphics according to the style of each ID Talks version. It is displayed on top of the speaker's description page.
- **Main Graphic Recording Card.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events, including the specific name of the event, the portrait of the speaker, written quotes of their "speech" and/or any other graphics. It is displayed on top of the first page of each article.
- **Graphic Recording Elements.** Throughout each article, the graphic recording elements complement the text with essential parts of each speaker's "talk".

# I & D Talks

## “Interfaith Dialogue for Community and Peace Building”

### What is it all about?

ID Talks are a series of 5 online workshops on 5 major topics to form a general understanding of interfaith dialogue and its link to community building and quality youth work. They feature youth workers, professionals, and volunteers from all over the world to share insights, research findings, food for thought, good practices, or inspirational stories. They will guide participants through the pressing matters and challenges affecting interfaith dialogue and inspire them to make their programmes and organisations more inclusive, embrace human differences, look ahead and picture how the future of youth work and Inclusion and Diversity might be.

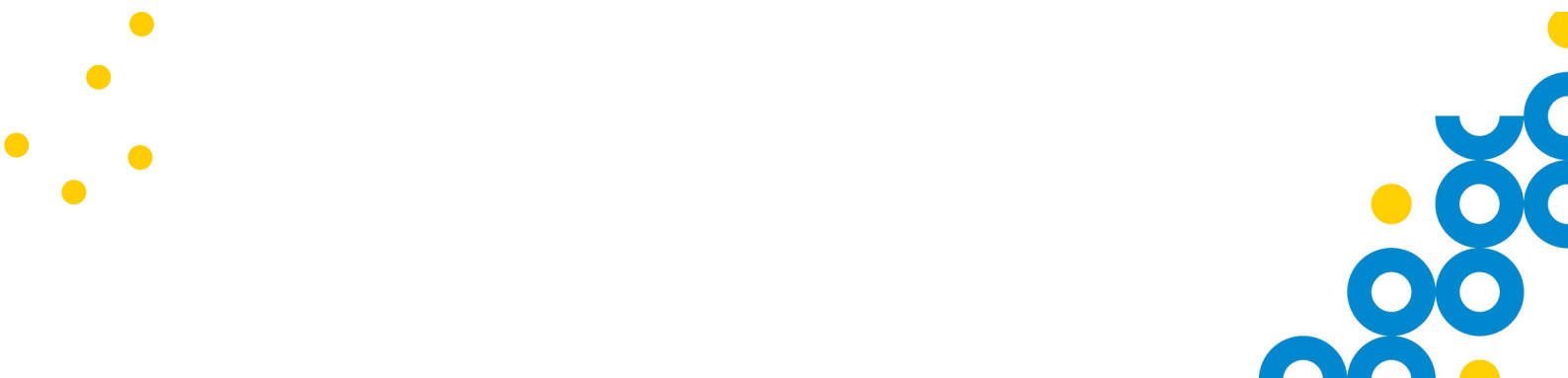
Each workshop begins with an input from a guest speaker. Afterwards, participants have the opportunity to engage in the discussion, ask questions, and share their realities and experiences.

### For whom?

Youth workers, youth leaders, professionals, and volunteers involved in ID in the EU youth programmes, as well as all those interested in youth work and Inclusion & Diversity topics.

### Main objectives:

- To provide food for thought and learn from inspirational ID stories;
- To provide an opportunity to learn about ID topics from the youth work sector and beyond;
- To get information, inspiration, and methods to help the youth sector address ID;
- To inform about and contribute to quality (international) youth work;
- To identify and learn how to tackle existing and future challenges within ID;

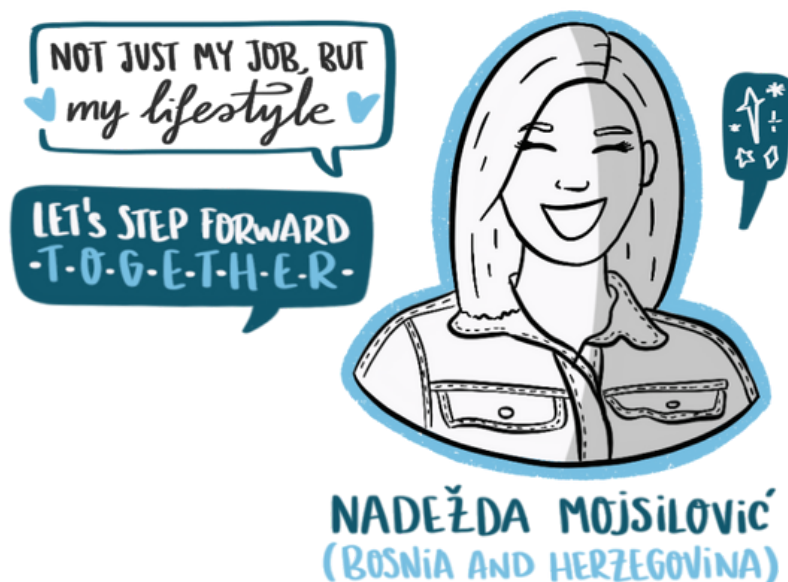


**Event Dates:**

- 14 February (13h CET) > **ID Talks Understanding Interfaith Dialogue** - Are you wondering what is interfaith dialogue and what we can learn from it? Why it is important and what is its value and relevance today? Let's discover together the various concepts (such as inter-conviction dialogue, religion, faith, spirituality...) and differences between those, and have a closer look at the basic elements of interfaith dialogue, its potential and limits. Guest speaker: **Meg Villanueva, Philippines**
- 13 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Community** - It is undoubtedly important to foster dialogue and exchange between people and communities living side by side. But what does it really entail and how do you conduct it? What makes "good" interfaith dialogue, what conditions enable it and who should be involved? Let's analyse how the complexity of diversity affects interfaith dialogue and community building, and discover the role the city and the EU youth programmes can have in this process. Guest speaker: **Fien Ingelbrecht, Belgium**
- 27 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Reconciliation** - How can we create bridges between people? This session zooms in on reconciliation and the role of interfaith dialogue in this process. As religion and faith can be forces of cohesion instead of division in the society, let's find out about possibilities to bring together different religious communities in post-conflict areas and the role of the youth work and youth programmes like Erasmus+ in reconciliation processes. Guest speaker: **Nadežda Mojsilović, Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- 10 April (13 CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Peace** - Peace and conflict are very often addressed in non-formal learning and youth work. But what sets interreligious conflicts apart from other types of conflict? Let's see what is the role of interfaith dialogue in conflict prevention, conflict transformation and peace building, and how youth work and youth programmes like Erasmus+ support the work on intercultural learning and peace building. Guest speaker: **Mamoun Khreisat, Jordan**
- 24 April (13h CET) > **ID Talks Interfaith Dialogue and Identity** - Ready for some introspection? In this session you'll discover what is identity and the role religion and faith play in its creation. How do the religious identities of an individual and a community interrelate? Knowing that our religious and cultural narratives are as important to us as theirs to different other communities, is the clash of narratives inevitable? Guest speaker: **Nyanchama Okemwa, Belgium**

# ID Talks: Interfaith Dialogue and Reconciliation

*How can we create bridges between people?*



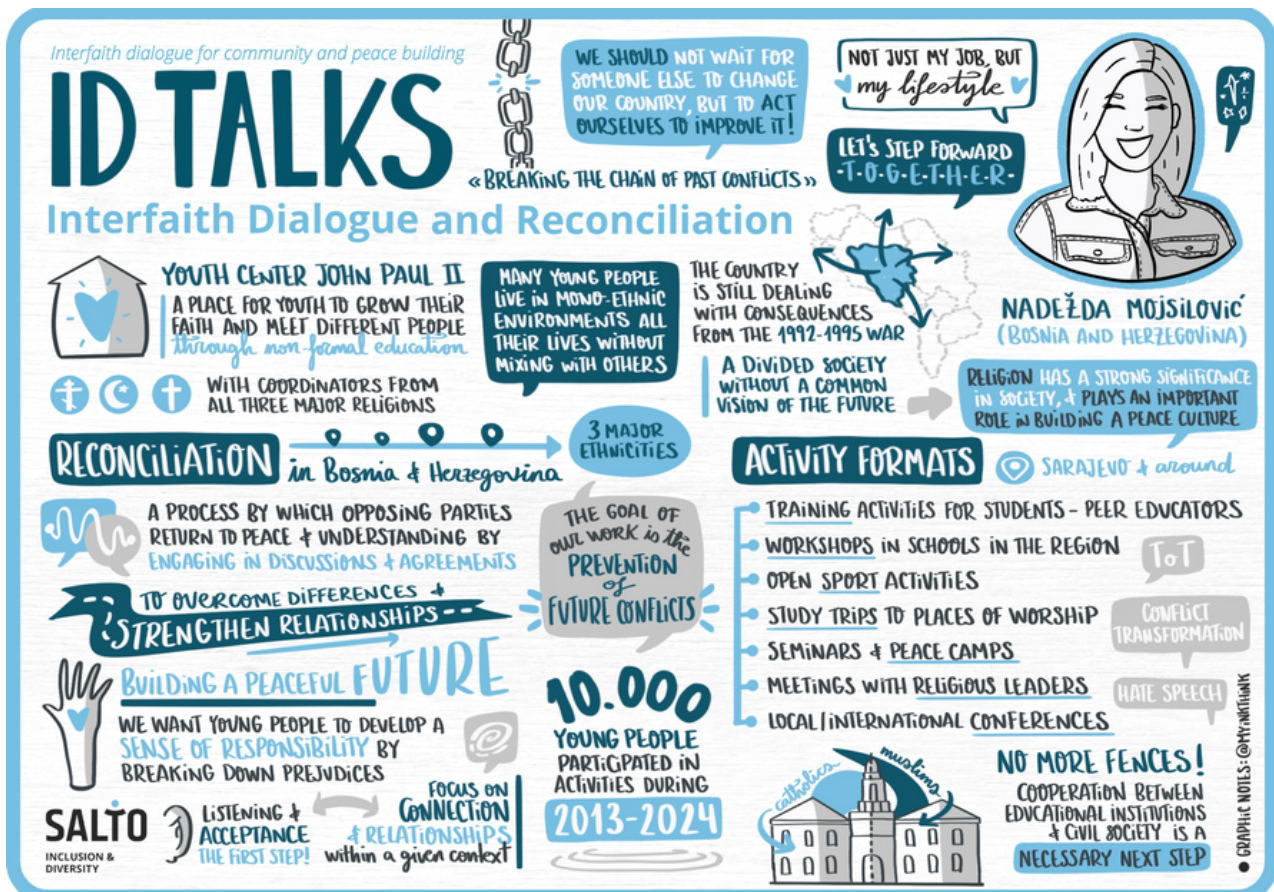
## GUEST SPEAKER: NADEŽDA MOJSILOVIĆ

Nadežda Mojsilović, youth worker, peace activist, and project manager at The Youth Centre „John Paul II“ in Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). I have been working for 10 years on topics of interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding. For me working with young people and for young people is a huge motivation in my daily work. Currently enrolled in a master's program in Interreligious studies and peacebuilding at the University of Sarajevo and also has a master's degree in Conflict management and humanitarian action from the University of Siena. The three most important values in my life are faith, peace, and love. In my private life, I like to travel and it is my biggest inspiration.



# Article

Nadežda Mojsilović



Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country in Southeast Europe.

It consists of two Entities: Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska and the Brcko District. Neighboring countries are Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. In the period from 1991 to 1995, Bosnia and Herzegovina was marked by a war as a result of the collapse of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, whose consequences can still be noticed today. The causes of the war, which began with the breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, date back far into the past, even before the formation of the Yugoslav states.

THE COUNTRY IS STILL DEALING WITH CONSEQUENCES FROM THE 1992-1995 WAR

A DIVIDED SOCIETY WITHOUT A COMMON VISION OF THE FUTURE



Three ethnic groups of people participated in the conflict Croats (Catholics), Serbs (Orthodox), and Bosniaks (Muslims) are three major ethnicities among them there is a lot of tension, untrust and all that influences the process of reconciliation. Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to face a very poor economic situation, where the main representatives of government are oriented towards the state but not towards the individuals.

Although the war has been physically completed, tensions are still silent in other forms and levels, such as political and ethnic conflicts - young people who did not participate in the war but who are often manipulated to keep conflicts that reduce the quality of their lives and chances of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.



MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN MONO-ETHNIC ENVIRONMENTS ALL THEIR LIVES WITHOUT MIXING WITH OTHERS

In a traditional society like BiH, religion has great significance for most of the population. Therefore, religious communities have a very important role today in the life of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path of reconciliation, and will certainly have in the future.

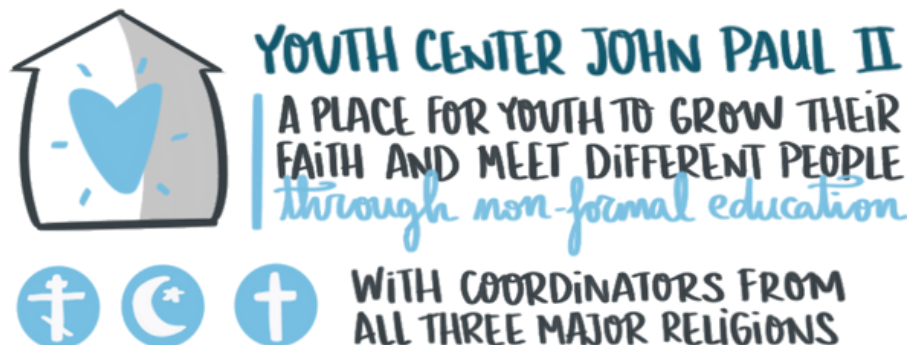
RELIGION HAS A STRONG SIGNIFICANCE IN SOCIETY, & PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN BUILDING A PEACE CULTURE



Reconciliation refers to the process through which two or more opposing parties return to peace and understanding with each other. This can involve discussions, agreements, apologies, and other measures to overcome differences and strengthen relationships between parties. According to one of the most common definitions, reconciliation is a long-term process of overcoming hostilities and mistrust between divided peoples. John Paul Lederach suggests that when discussing reconciliation in a society, it is necessary to consider the context in which it exists, and that initially, the most important aspect is to start from the relationships, the contacts, which form the basis of every conflict and its resolution. So the focus is on the connections, relationships within a given context.



There are many peace initiatives in BiH and one of the organizations that are working in the field of interreligious dialogue is The Youth Centre „John Paul II“. Activities involve young people with different faith backgrounds and they have been implemented through the project „Let's step forward together“ since 2013.



The Youth Centre John Paul II is a faith-based organisation, it is a place where youngsters have an opportunity to grow in their faith and to meet someone different, and engage in non-formal education. The main missions of the Center are spirituality, meetings, and education.

The role of youth in one such program is of crucial importance because young people learn about culture and tradition, from their peers of other religions, and additionally have the opportunity to meet and break prejudices.

Creating opportunities through peace projects, meeting young people, and discussing and meeting each other is an experience that young people coming from mono-ethnic environments in BiH do not have. Youth have lost trust in political institutions and quality living in the present. At the same time, today's Bosnia and Herzegovina has been described as a divided society without a common vision of the future and progress. This is the main reason for the development of the project "Let's step forward together" which has succeeded in gathering the youth of the three main ethnic groups.



The aim of the project is to encourage young people of three major religions (Catholics, Christian Orthodox, Muslims) in Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop a sense of responsibility towards their own country and to discover the richness of diversity within it by breaking up prejudices and mutual acquaintance, together to contribute to building a culture of peace and a better future.

The project is led by 3 project coordinators, believers, and members of the Catholic Church, Serbian Orthodox Church, and Islamic community. They are all educated and gained knowledge through different trainings in peacebuilding and interreligious dialogue which make them professionals in their work. All activities are mentored by a Catholic priest, the director of the Youth Centre. Why is important that in the team we have representatives of 3 religious communities? In this way, we will ensure that when organizing various events and activities, different customs are respected and valued.



To achieve the mentioned goal the Youth Centre implements different activities during the one academic year:

Gathering of young people - peer educators through training for trainers, they are participating in team building activities, where they have the opportunity to get to know each other better, to improve mutual communication, and to build trust so that their own example of teamwork could be an example for other young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Peer educators visited schools, and they implemented workshops on different topics about religious customs, prejudice and stereotypes, and hate speech. Moreover, one of the important activities is sports activities. In order to introduce young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the cultural and natural resources of our country, every year The Youth Centre organizes study trips for high school students to various places. During the year, young people can be part of different seminars, winter and summer camps, where they can meet with religious leaders, and also they are participating in intercultural gatherings, and volunteer actions.



Cooperation with other institutions is very important. Every year Youth Centre gathers all partners through one conference in order to hear from them but also to share results on the project. Some of the partners are Catholic Schools Centers in BiH, Faculty of Islamic sciences, the Faculty of Catholic studies, and parishes within Catholic Church and Serbian Orthodox Church in BiH, sport clubs, non - governmental organizations and many more.



**NO MORE FENCES!**  
 COOPERATION BETWEEN  
 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
 & CIVIL SOCIETY IS A  
 NECESSARY NEXT STEP

**10.000**  
**YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**PARTICIPATED IN**  
**ACTIVITIES DURING**  
**2013-2024**

From the beginning of the project 2013 until today in 2023, around 10 000 young people were direct participants of different activities.

This project has become a model of coexistence for other young people too, and has proven that it is possible to love your own traditions and your faith while respecting others and cooperating with others.

What is our greatest responsibility, to churches and young people? Build peace on earth and in our country. As we can see it is a process that still lasts. And to achieve this we need to have a common view, regardless of all our differences. Looking for what is common to us and building a brighter future. Shared values can only be discovered if we meet others and open up to others. There are also young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina on that path.

Religious communities and their organizations have an important role in conflict transformation and interreligious dialogue. Their work is crucial in the post-conflict countries and religious clerks need help from other institutions of the country and only with joint efforts can be expected that something can be changed in the future. Also as we can see young people had a key role in the process of peacebuilding. If religious leaders recognize their full potential, young people can help religious clerks in organizing different activities within communities. Ultimately, the role of each individual is important and needs to awaken the passivity of the people they are sinking into more and more. Young people can not wait for someone else to make a brighter future, they need to be the change they want to see.

 A PROCESS BY WHICH OPPOSING PARTIES  
 RETURN TO PEACE & UNDERSTANDING BY  
 ENGAGING IN DISCUSSIONS & AGREEMENTS  
 TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES &  
 STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS

## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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***On behalf of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity!***

