



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

“Peace advocacy – strengthening the role of youth in advocacy for peace and peace-building process from the grassroots level”

19 - 24 October 2020

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France

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 “Peace Advocacy”, that will take place in European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from **19th – 24th October 2020 (travel days: 18th - 25th October).**

About the study session: background

This study session falls within the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network long-term strategic priorities to support young people with knowledge, skills, time, resources and space to become agents of change and peacebuilders with tools for peace advocacy. Cooperation and work toward mutual values of peace and stability will pave the way for long-term change, in which the participation of young people is crucial. Advocacy, understood as an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions is an essential part of active citizenship and a democratic society. Being able to formulate a desired change, knowing who to approach and how to go about it are some key elements to successful advocacy efforts.

Peace is one of the vital factors of human life, a peaceful environment plays a significant role for the development of an individual, of the society and the country, since it affects all aspects of economic and social development in a country. According to the Global Peace Index, Europe is the most peaceful part of the world, but there are still lots of challenges in European fragile peace processes, such as post-conflict transitions (Balkans; Turkey and Kurdish population), frozen conflicts (Cyprus, Moldova and Transnistria, Cyprus and Northern Cyprus, Nagorno Karabakh, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia), conflicts related to independence and autonomy and the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

YPAN recognises the need for an effective system that could improve building dialogue and living in welcoming and inclusive societies, with the absence of human rights violations. Therefore, this study session, supported by the Council of Europe, will bring together 40 participants from Council of Europe member states for 6 days to explore their role in creating and maintaining peace in their communities and in Europe as a whole.



Aim:

The aim of the study session is to empower young people, from Europe and beyond, to take an active role in peace-building by equipping them with skills and competences in advocacy and conflict transformation.

Objectives:

- Equip participants with skills and competences in non-violent methods and tools to foster peace process and transform conflicts nonviolently (based on the Council of Europe approach);
- Explore advocacy as a tool for change and as a result gain new advocacy skills.
- Increase knowledge of young people on human rights mechanisms that can be used in transforming conflict by raising awareness about legal instruments such as UNSCR 2250;
- Create a common and safe space to share experiences, challenges and initiatives on local level;
- Explore the role of youth in peace-building and possibilities of contribution from the grassroots level;
- Establish the cooperation between young peacebuilders in Europe and beyond, and encourage them to advocate and plan common activities promoting a culture of peace at the Pan European, European, regional and local level.

Methodology:

Non-formal learning and participant-oriented approaches will be used, and in accordance with the environment friendly policy. The program flow will reflect interactive and participatory methods among which will be: discussions, work in pairs, small or big groups, interactive lectures, experts' talks, interactive role-playing games, energizers, icebreakers, team-building, simulation games, case studies, field studies, brainstorming, world café, open space, daily evaluations, practical digital bootcamps, intercultural and other parties. Through interactive activities participants will have the chance to practice gained information and knowledge that will strengthen the process of learning, impact and use of represented methods, tools, skills, knowledge and information on their future local projects.

The methodology of the study session will be based on the approaches of human rights education that is "About, Through and For Human Rights". The tools of the Council of Europe such as "Compass", "We Can", "Youth Transforming Conflict" T-Kit, UN SC Resolution 2250 are some of the tools, which will be used for promoting cooperative learning, participation and learning through experience in activities. The created learning process will be focused at encouraging participation, contribution, and desire to work together to elaborate individual and common ideas of applying received knowledge and skills and enabling future cooperation.



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 83 young people from different countries all over the world. 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.

Profile of Participants:

- Participants living in Council of Europe countries, parties to the European Cultural Convention (Belarus, the Holy See and Kazakhstan) and Kosovo*;
- Youth workers, youth leaders, peacebuilders, actively involved in the development of culture of peace, youth empowerment, capacity building activities;
- Participants with practical experience in advocacy, promoting human rights, peace-building and activism;
- Participants who work to ensure integration and social inclusion – directly or indirectly of marginalized groups;
- Representatives of grassroot organisations working on this topic.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Young peacebuilders including Youth Peace Ambassadors Network members and alumni;
2. Age of participants: not younger than 18;
3. Able to communicate and work in English;
4. Be motivated to cooperate with the Youth Peace Ambassadors Network and/or other participants;
5. Be motivated to act as multiplier and implement local, regional or international activities in their communities;
6. Have practical experience in work relevant to the topic;
7. Be able to attend the entire study session.



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Details:

Dates and Place

- The study session will take place from 18th to 25th October 2020 at the [European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France.](#)
- Participants are expected to arrive on 18th and depart on 25th October 2020.
- Working days of the study session will be 19-24 October 2020.

Travel

- Travel expenses are reimbursed by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, in accordance with its financial rules.
- Reimbursement to participants is normally made at the end of the session.
- Participants need to be present at least 80% of the sessions in order to receive reimbursement.

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.

Daily Program of the Study Session and Approaches

Participants will receive a detailed daily program of the meeting and all other relevant documents prior to the event. The sessions will be organized referring to educational settings of non-formal education. Essentially during the whole flow of the event, participants will have the 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 peace builders 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.

Language

Official language of the study session is **English**.



Note

Beware that we are constantly checking the situation around **Covid-19** in different countries and especially in France. Further information, recommendations and preventive measures regarding this topic will be provided in the info-pack of this study session.

Deadline

Candidates should complete the [online application](#) and submit it no later than 16th of August 2020.

Selected candidates will be contacted 10 days after the deadline!

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

THANK YOU!

* 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.