
ERASMUS+ TRAINING COURSE
ZAPORIZHZHIA, UKRAINE

PEACE AT WAR

LITHUANIA

SWEDEN

CYPRUS

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

UKRAINE

GEORGIA



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PROJECT SUMMARY

Conflicts shatter lives and stunts development. And at the heart of many violent conflicts lie issues of inequality, injustice and exclusion. Conflicts have multiple drivers, operate as systems, are often local and do not stop at state borders. Responses require the influence, resources and commitment of different people and institutions, at different times. And young people, as members of a dynamic group in society, play a crucial role in positively transforming conflict situations and in building the foundations of democratic and peaceful societies. Without recognizing youths as agents of positive change, their trajectories in peacebuilding would likely be ignored, wasted and at best, under-utilized.

Peacebuilding activities address the root causes or potential causes of violence and stabilize society politically and socioeconomically. Thus, successfully create an environment supportive of self-sustaining, durable peace; reconcile opponents; prevent conflict from restarting; integrate civil society, and address underlying structural and societal issues. That is why partner organisations are putting their voices together to start youth worker and youth exchange mobilities that combined will aim to:

1. Build the capacity of youth workers in a training course in Zaporizhia, Ukraine leading to the creation of more skilled youth workers who are able to play a stronger role in transforming conflict situations and in building the foundations of democratic and peaceful societies.
2. Improve young people's creativity and equip them with innovative ideas and methods they can put to use in their quest of becoming an active agent of positive change in their own communities.

The **goal of the project** is for young participants to learn how to coexist peacefully and build the foundations of democratic and peaceful societies by:

1. Building young people's understanding of peace and the need to be vocal actors in peacebuilding processes;
2. Promoting coexistence, human rights and social justice in dynamic societies across Europe;
3. Teaching skills and values contributing to peace among the young generation growing up in conflict and post-conflict environments;
4. Giving young people space and support to collectively reflect on and explore solutions that can help them discover their own agency;
5. Enabling young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe (also, a current thematic priority for Structured Dialogue with youth, one of the pillars of the EU Youth Strategy)

ACTIVITIES

The project "Peace at War" will consist of **two mobilities, Training Course in Zaporizhia, Ukraine and Youth Exchanges in Kaunas, Lithuania**. Participants will be informed on key skills necessary to effectively respond to conflict escalations and building cultures of peace. The following objectives for youth workers and youth exchange mobilities have been established after reviewing completed surveys from potential participants to identify their interests and needs:

Youth workers mobility:

1. Training on principles of Peacebuilding (holism, values, dialogue and critical empowerment),
2. Training on conflict transformation and open dialogues to overcome violence, prejudice and discrimination,
3. Building youth workers' coping mechanisms to ensure they can become part of the solution.

A number of themes will be covered: 1) introduction to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, 2) culture of peace vs culture of violence, 3) gender in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, 4) the notions of discrimination, vulnerability and empowerment, and 5) responding to conflict: non-verbal communication/active-listening / negotiation/mediation.

Youth exchange mobility:

1. Build bridges between participating countries and promote values and behaviours of understanding and coexisting necessary to re-establish a culture of peace,
2. Facilitate theatre and role-play activities as well as mediation sessions to help participants find ways to prevent conflict and accept differences,
3. Facilitate conversations about peace and integration,
4. Provide young people with the opportunity to engage in constructive, peace-building activities.

A number of themes will be covered: 1) civil society, 2) reconciliation, transformation and peace-building processes, 3) trauma, mental health & psycho-social well-being, 4) rule of law, security and public order, and 5) empowerment of under-represented groups.

PARTICIPANTS

Youth workers mobility: the project will involve **4 youth workers from each participating country** (24 in total), minimum 18 years old with no age limit, and priority will be given to those with fewer opportunities coming from conflict-affected/refugee/ internally displaced groups.

Youth exchange mobility: **6 participants from each participating country** will be selected (18-30 years old). All the participants have to be 1) interested to familiarize themselves with the concepts of peace-building and conflict prevention, and 2) motivated to communicate and share their experience with others. Youth having fewer opportunities will be given a priority. Team leaders will have to have experience in youth work and there will be no age limit for them (minimum 18 years old).