

Building Partnership for Youth, Peace and Security

Project Goal

This Project aims to develop a structured coalition of local CSOs, academia, regional & international partners, in an effort to coordinate our advocacy for the introduction of youth-friendly processes, within the governing structures of the Albanian foreign policy, regional cooperation, and civic education domains - paving the way towards the drafting of a National Strategy on Youth, Peace and Security.



Project Description

Guided by the vision of the **UNSC/Res/2250** on Youth, Peace and Security, its' proposed actions, as well as, the perceived lack of an all-stakeholders coordinated approach towards its' on-ground implementation in Albania, we - as a group of young people committed to the indispensable role of youth in preventing, resolving and transforming conflict patterns - aim to initiate a nationwide effort of coordinating action, pooling resources, and collectively strategizing interventions onwards the effective inclusion of young Albanians into the Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation processes.

As a first step, in the framework of **Albania's non-Permanent Membership at the UN Security Council** (2022-2023 Mandate), we aim at advocating for the introduction of a Youth mainstreaming component, within its' Plan of Action. To that end, our initiative is set to develop as a co-design process, including grassroots youth actors, regional initiatives, and international stakeholders - that will collectively frame and incept a **National Network on Youth, Peace, and Security**.

Such a bottom-up process is planned to be supported by accurate data from a nationwide Survey and local workshops, which in parallel, will feed into the design and content of a "**Peace Week 2022**", which we envision to transform into a yearly high-point of Peace talks and activities. It is set to shape the framework under which an array of initiatives and interventions from stakeholders, will get the stage and gain momentum. Each approaching peace and societal cohesion from diverse angles, they all strive to advance an all-inclusive effort to empower youth and upscale their role in building sustainable communities, at both local and global levels.

In a nutshell, the overarching idea of this initiative is the co-development of a YPS Network, which will facilitate strategic dialogue, better coordinated - and ultimately - more effective interventions towards the advancement of the role and space for youth participation in the peacebuilding efforts. Our efforts will be as strong - as each of its' members!



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Project's Activities



1

Introductory meeting with interested YPS stakeholders

Through desk research, networking, and professional recommendations, potential partners will be identified. Such stakeholders will be reached, introduced to the idea, and further engaged through providing their niche expertise on the process of establishing the **National YPS network**.

2

Youth Survey on Peace at local and regional realms

The Survey will be co-created by the future Network Members, with the purpose of gaining youth insights on: their perceptions on peace and security at local and regional realms; their barriers for further engaging in peace talks and initiatives; the YPS Network priorities throughout its inception year; and the youngsters' input on the piloting of **Peace Week 2022**. The Survey data will further contribute to the concept & structure of the YPS Network, through better tailoring it to the needs of the Albanian youth community. Moreover, through its nationwide nature, the Survey will also contribute to mirroring and valuing the YPS Network partners' work with the youth, thus prioritizing the areas of improvement.

4

National Network on Youth, Peace and Security": Two co-design workshops

The two workshops will form part of the collective process of establishing the **National YPS Network**. Through bringing together all the identified stakeholders (selected based on their shown interest, proven track record, diversity of their approach on peace and peace-building, and their shown contribution throughout the introductory phase), the two workshops will follow a step-by-step approach: starting with the concept-structure of the Network; its' legal designation and Rules of Functioning and Organization; its' working priorities throughout the inception year; as well as, the "**Peace Week 2022**" piloting plan.

3

Open Forum: Pivot on Youth - Albania's Membership to UNSC 2022-2023 Programme

The Forum will represent the first open-public activity organized under the Project's framework. It is sought to serve as an outreach event, whilst simultaneously advancing the advocacy component of the Project. As such, this activity - which is planned to cross-cut (and exchange) with the **Albanian Youth Delegates to the United Nations 2021** (a programme ran by UNA Albania) - will focus on further developing the dialogue with the relevant institutions (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports) on the need of a **National Strategy for Youth, Peace, and Security**. In light of Albania's upcoming non-permanent Membership (2022-2023) at the UN Security Council, this activity will additionally advocate on the opportunity, as well as, the necessity of mainstreaming youth, within the country's Programme for this UNSC Mandate.



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5

Online platform on YPS Agenda

The youth-friendly platform (in the form of a website) will be developed by the Project Team, with the technical assistance of an IT Expert, with the purpose of establishing a centralized hub for information on **Youth Peace and Security Agenda**, relevant international experiences, list of resources and activities. It will form a central part of the Projects' communication plan, by augmenting the potential for outreach to a broader audience. Through being utilized as a tool of communication for all the Network members, the platform has the potential for transforming into a one-click window of information on **Youth & Peacebuilding** at the local and national levels. Moreover, the planned Youth Survey on Peace will run through the platform, thus diversifying its utility and the diversity of people reached.



8

Peace Week 2022 piloting a bottom-up approach

It will constitute the high point of Project impact and community engagement. Conceptualized as a week of activities organized under the theme of "Peace", it is sought to provide for an intensive alternation of initiatives that will tackle the concept and practice of peace, from diverse angles, and layers (local, national, and regional). It will combine grassroots activities designed by the youth themselves; activities organized by the rest of YPS Network Members/stakeholders; and potentially, through an open-call for incorporated activities, organized by other community organizations, informal youth groups, and individuals. This pilot initiative aspires to grow into a yearly display of peacebuilding and multilateralism talks, education initiatives, and community endeavors.

6

5 Local workshops on Peace: co-designing youth driven concept-ideas for the "Peace Week 2022"

The local workshops will form part of the overall "**Peace Week 2022**" framework, as their main purpose is on youth-designing grassroots ideas for activities, to be organized throughout "Peace Week 2022". Through the engagement of a Youth Trainer, as the key actor, this Project aims to run a peer-to-peer learning methodology. Through utilizing a set of non-formal education techniques, the Youth Trainer is sought to first contribute to the well-informing of the young participants of the local workshops; enable an open and deliberative environment; as well as, induce a safe space for teamwork on developing and pitching concept-ideas for "Peace Week 2022" activities. By the end, a set of innovative and impactful proposals will be selected to be supported and implemented along with the Peace Week programme.

7

Launching conference on the formal establishment of the "National Network on YPS"

Following a year-long process of the introductory meeting, consultations, co-design workshops, legal counseling, and exchange of best practices, the Memorandum of Understanding on the formal establishment of the "**National Network on Youth, Peace, and Security**" is sought to be endorsed by all the founding Members, in April 2022. This activity will precede the piloting of the first-ever "Peace Week" in the second half of April 2022 and will constitute the beginning of the YPS Network operations, based on the legal commonly agreed Rules of Functioning and Organization, and its Work Plan.



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