



OFAJ
DFJW

Messages for Peace

International Youth Meeting

“Youth for Peace – Global Tools, Local Actions”

Paris, 6 – 10 / 11 / 2019

Youth

FOR



Global Tools - Local Actions



Contents

1. Welcoming Remarks	1
2. Youth Promoting Peace Education and Intercultural Dialogue	3
3. Peace Messages in the Making – The Paris Process	4
4. Looking Ahead	5
5. Mini Statistics & Feedback	6
6. Team members	7

Welcoming Remarks

Young people provide a solid foundation on which to build. Their talents are diverse, they yearn to engage and even those who live in difficult circumstances are generally optimistic. According to the UN demographic data, in 2020, there are 1.85 billion young women and men 10 to 24 years of age in the world, 90 per cent of whom live in developing countries. One in four young people is affected by violence or armed conflict. Young people around the world are striving for [peace, justice, inclusion, gender equality and human rights](#). Their aspirations, opinions and demands need to be heard. Their potential must be fulfilled and their participation must be inclusive and celebrated.

Young people face significant challenges stemming from globalization, violence, demographic shifts, inequalities, new technologies, forced displacement, shrinking civic space, pandemics and climate change. Despite the wide array of challenges, the majority of young people are resilient and peaceful. Young people represent [a vast source of innovation, ideas and solutions](#). Connected to one other like never before, they are driving social progress, renewing environmental activism and inspiring positive change.

For this purpose, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) supports young people in fulfilling their potential as a positive force for [building peaceful and just societies in and around Europe](#). The FGYO provides space and tools for peace education, memory work, and intercultural learning to young people who participate in FGYO-led projects and programmes.

One of the projects of this kind is the international youth meeting "[Youth for Peace – 100 Years After World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace](#)" implemented by the FGYO under the patronage of the German Federal Foreign Office and the *Mission du Centenaire de la Première Guerre mondiale (MdC)*. The objective of the youth meeting is to reflect on concepts and events related to peace and conflict through intercultural learning approach. With a particular focus on "[the Transition from War to Peace](#)" and "[Peace in Europe](#)" as well as the future of the European continent and the future relationship with the societies in its eastern and southern neighbourhood, the participants have mentoring mechanisms and safe space to discuss innovative ideas for social change and implement them at local levels with the support of their community organisations.

Following the first global youth meeting of "[Youth for Peace – 100 Years After World War I, 100 Ideas for Peace](#)" uniting 500 participants from Germany, France, the European Union as well as accession countries and countries in its eastern and southern neighbourhood, the FGYO continues promoting youth active participation in peace – building and conflict transformation processes. The FGYO continues engaging with youth participants after the global meeting to promote peace messages and carry out local actions to bring positive changes and novel discourses their respective communities.

As a result of the first global youth meeting, the FGYO carries out a series of follow-up meetings and brings a small number of youth participants from the global meeting, who are

actively involved in local contexts in order to create peace messages while promoting peace education and intercultural dialogue.

Youth Promoting Peace Education and Intercultural Dialogue



In November 2018 a diverse, multicultural and multidisciplinary group of young people have come together from different corners of wider Europe to reflect and discuss innovative ideas for building peace across communities, countries or geographical regions. As a continuation of the global meeting "[Youth for Peace - 100 Years after World War I, 100 ideas for Peace](#)" [20 outstanding ideas](#) have been chosen for further implementation at the international, European or national levels.

Following the stimulating intercultural meeting with the use of creative non-formal educational approaches and tools and with a global outreach, the FGYO has decided to further support a small group of grassroots active young people by hosting a series of follow-up meetings.

One year after, an engaged and dynamic group of 32 former participants of the global meeting (8 from Germany, 3 from France, 21 from different countries within and around European Union) has been formed through an open call. The selected young people have enriching backgrounds and represent different country contexts. Their geographical outreach is in and around Europe stretching from Algerian sea-sides to Caucasian mountains. They come from conflict-stricken areas with fewer opportunities, or are exposed to shrinking civic space environment or deterioration of democratic principles and good governance. They all possess multiplying roles while being actively engaged in local communities and having access to local resources and peers.

In November, 2019 the Paris meeting gathered 32 participants to work collaboratively and create peace messages with the use of technology and digital tools. The messages were meant to focus on four key concepts (culture, histories, languages, conflicts) and evoke a new narrative that would promote peace, understanding, acceptance, and solidarity.

The participants were provided with space and support to use creativity and reflection to design messages with audio-visual materials, which would aim to:

- Promote self-reflection and curiosity on the questions related to peace and conflicts and would be entirely designed from a youth perspective,
- Encourage a wider public discourse,
- Invite local youth to engage in intercultural learning and exchange, and
- Showcase the importance of the role youth can play in the promotion of peace through the use of new technologies and innovative tools.

Peace Messages in the Making – The Paris Process

The follow-up meeting in Paris has been marked by an intense and dynamic process. The participants had the opportunity to engage in workshops about intercultural learning, create common behavioural rules to work in multicultural settings, discover various districts, monuments and remarkable architecture of Paris from peace and conflict perspective, and reflect on ideas and concepts linked to the understanding of peace education for the production of audio-visual materials.



The aim of the meeting was to reflect on four key concepts for the purpose of the creation of video materials: [languages](#), [conflicts](#), [histories](#), and [culture](#) – concepts, which have emerged and shaped at the first International “Youth for Peace” meeting in Berlin in 2018.

With the support of the intercultural educators and youth leaders, the participants had the chance to discover the following elements more in depth and reflect on the structure and materialisation of the fluid concepts into concrete outcomes.



With the continuous mentoring and feedback from the team of educators and administration, the participant could choose one of the concepts to work in small [constellations](#) composed of 3-4 people.

The meeting in Paris allowed the participants to reflect, brainstorm and identify co-working methods on videos. In addition, the team of educators and youth leaders has run a number of workshops on [language animation](#), [intercultural learning](#), [decoding Paris](#), has guided the teams throughout the video preparation and creation processes and has organised feedback sessions and evaluation to wrap up individual sessions and group works as well as plan for the next steps.

Looking Ahead

As a result of a 4-day long meeting, the eight working groups came up with draft ideas and had the opportunity to present in their initial forms in front of the group of the participants and receive feedback. The [concepts of culture, languages, conflicts, and histories](#) have been transformed into a wide range of configurations. All of the groups have chosen creative approaches to best represent their ideas. At the end of the meeting, [next steps](#) were identified to stay in contact via social media platforms, remain in contact with respective team members in order to advance with the final identification of ideas and frame out the desired messages to be delivered and disseminated to the wider audiences.

The follow-up meeting for the finalisation of audio-visual materials had been planned for May 2020 however some of the sessions will take place online due to the COVID-19 situation and

the teams will continue working on online platforms with the support of the educators and youth leaders. The intermediate online meeting are scheduled for 6th and 8th May, 2020.

A Number of voluntary videos with a message such as "World, I wish you..." were collected from the participants and the team to be published on 8th May, as a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The final meeting of the project is scheduled for November 2020 in Berlin with the aim to close up the project by launching the video materials and sharing with the wider audiences.

Mini Statistics & Feedback

- Logistics: For 88% of the participants, the meeting has met their expectations. Around 88% were satisfied by housing conditions, where around 80% were satisfied with meals and the working rooms.
- Programme: 88% were satisfied with the programme content and 84% with the schedule and management where 88% found enough occasions for informal occasions with 100% confirming a friendly atmosphere within the group.

"...The amount of knowledge I gained from getting to know all these people and sharing our experience is something I cannot explain and will carry with me forever. This meeting inspires me to work harder as a person and to be more active in my community and to further fight for peace every day. This program changed my life last year and is continuing to do so even today and it will do so in the future."

Feedback from a participant



Team members

FGYO:

Sandrine Debrosse-Lucht
Lucile Poulteau

Intercultural coordinators:

Garance Thauvin
Ludovic Fresse
Anna Kauert
Sarah Neis

Youth Leaders:

Isabella Cîrlănaru
Saad Fikiri
Rebecca Hovhannisyan
Ahmed Khallaf

Report done by: Rebecca Hovhannisyan and Ahmed Khallaf

Graphic illustrations: Ani Hovhannisyan